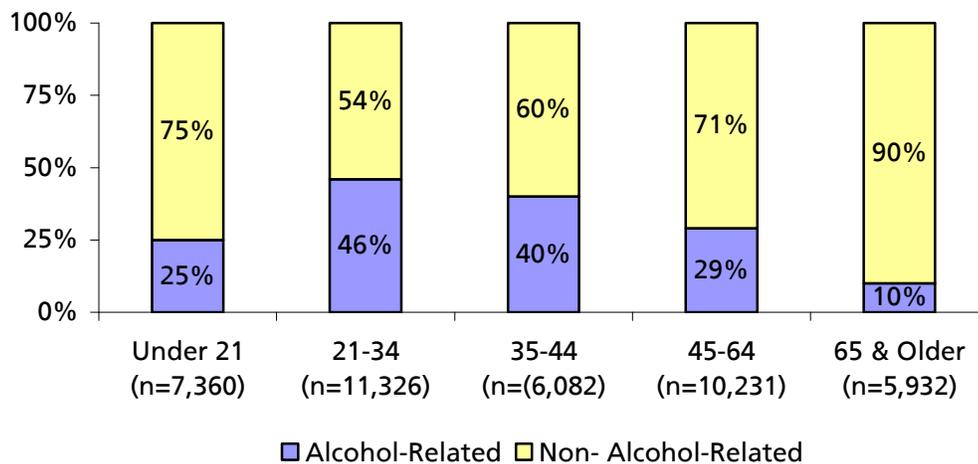


December Declared National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

In 2007, 12,998 individuals were killed on America's roads and highways as the result of drunk driving according to statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)¹. In addition, nationwide;

- only one-third (34%) of victims in alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities wore a seat belt or helmet at the time of the crash, compared to 62 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes;
- alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities represented almost one in three (31%) traffic fatalities occurring on weekends, compared to 15 percent on weekdays;
- almost one in ten (8%) drivers in alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities had a prior DWI (driving while intoxicated) conviction within the previous three years; and
- almost half (46%) of all traffic fatalities for individuals between 21 and 34 years of age were alcohol-involved, compared to only 10 percent for those 65 and older and 25 percent of those under 21.

Figure 1
ALCOHOL-RELATED AND NON-ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY AGE GROUP



SOURCE: NHTSA (August 2008). 2007 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment – Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities.

In San Diego County, there were a total of 16,879 adult and juvenile arrests for driving under the influence in 2007, which equates to approximately 46 on average, per day. In addition, according to the most recent local estimates available from the NHTSA, there was about one alcohol-related traffic fatality every three days in the region in 2006. With December declared National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) offers several tips for ensuring the safety of family and friends during the holiday season. These include designating a sober driver before celebrations begin, never serving alcohol to youth under 21, providing non-alcohol drink options the last hour of gatherings, and ensuring the safety of all guests who are returning to their homes.

¹ NHTSA (August 2008). 2007 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment – Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities. Available on-line at www.nhtsa.gov.