



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Transportation
Gary Hannig, Secretary

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Data Shows Alcohol-Involved Motor Vehicle Fatalities Have Declined in Illinois

Stronger Enforcement, Increased Safety Belt Usage Credited for the Reduction

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Division of Traffic Safety today released data showing a lower number of alcohol-involved, motor vehicle fatalities in Illinois. The reduction in alcohol-involved fatalities has occurred steadily since 2002 with the largest decline occurring between 2007 and 2008.

The announcement comes as the Illinois State Police join local law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois for the Labor Day, *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.* impaired driving crackdown. For the next two weeks, over 300 agencies will partner with the Illinois State Police in conducting nearly 200 roadside safety checks, impaired driving patrols and nighttime safety belt patrols. Motorists are being warned that impaired driving or failure to buckle up, especially during late-night hours, will result in arrests or safety belt citations.

“IDOT and its partners are committed to the fight against impaired driving in Illinois. We are very gratified that in recent years Illinois has seen reductions in the number of fatalities caused by impaired drivers,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig. “These reductions represent lives saved and are the result of the remarkable dedication shown by the Illinois State Police and local law enforcement agencies in every part of our state, along with more drivers and passengers buckling up. Combined with the educational efforts of the *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.* and *Click It or Ticket* campaigns along with increased law enforcement efforts, we are extremely pleased that fewer people are driving impaired and more people are wearing their safety belts.”

“It is inappropriate to drink and drive regardless of the time of day,” said Acting Illinois State Police Director Jonathon Monken. “Statistics tells us your chances of being involved in an alcohol related crash or fatal crash increases dramatically at night. Therefore, in addition to efforts put forth during the holiday travel period, the Illinois State Police will focus our efforts on DUI and seat belt enforcement during night time details throughout the Labor Day weekend.”

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According to data from IDOT and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of motor vehicle fatalities involving a drinking driver declined modestly but steadily from 2002 through 2008, culminating with a 16-percent decrease between 2007 and 2008. The number of fatalities involving a legally impaired driver (0.08 BAC and above) also declined from 2002 through 2008, and the total number of fatalities decreased by 77 between 2007 and 2008, a reduction of about 18 percent.

Another encouraging sign of improvement is the reduction in the Illinois' alcohol-related fatality rate, the ratio of alcohol-involved fatalities to total annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Illinois. This rate has been above 0.50 for several years in Illinois, but fell to 0.48 in 2007 and to a low of 0.41 in 2008.

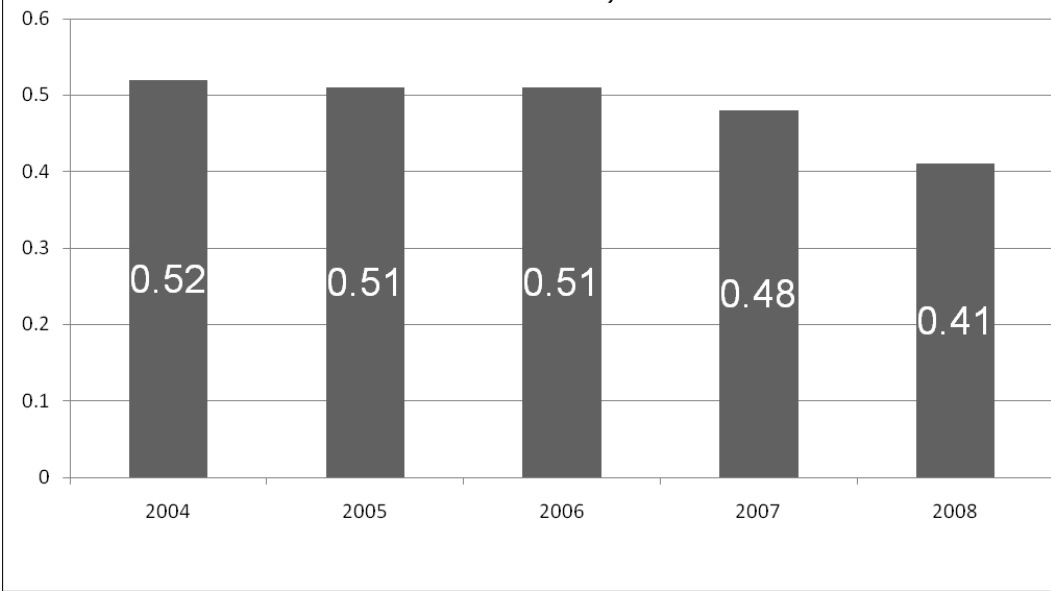
Now through Labor Day, law enforcement throughout Illinois will be conducting more patrols designed to enforce impaired driving and safety belt laws, especially during late-night hours. For more information about the impaired driving program in Illinois, please visit www.drivesoberillinois.org

Illinois Motor Vehicle Fatalities w/ Alcohol Involvement

Year	BAC = .00		BAC = .01--.07		BAC = .08+		Total Fatalities	Total Fatalities in Alcohol-Related Crashes	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1994	919	59	82	5	553	36	1554	634	41
1995	954	60	83	5	549	35	1586	632	40
1996	858	58	85	6	534	36	1477	618	42
1997	855	61	87	6	454	32	1397	540	39
1998	825	59	87	6	476	34	1393	562	40
1999	865	59	102	7	488	33	1456	590	41
2000	842	59	87	6	488	34	1418	575	41
2001	846	60	77	5	487	34	1414	564	40
2002	821	58	94	7	502	35	1420	596	42
2003	874	60	92	6	489	34	1454	580	40
2004	794	59	86	6	475	35	1355	561	41
2005	808	59	95	7	458	34	1363	553	41
2006	705	56	104	8	446	36	1254	549	44
2007	734	59	75	6	439	35	1248	514	41
2008	608	58	72	7	362	35	1043	434	42

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Illinois Alcohol-Related Fatality Rate (Alcohol-involved motor vehicle fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled)



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