



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES *IMPAIRED DRIVING FACTS* REPORT**

*Report Provides DWI Arrests, Conviction Rates and Fatalities by County*

Alcohol  
and Gambling  
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ST. PAUL — A detailed summary of impaired driving in Minnesota shows alcohol-related traffic deaths cost the state more than \$310 million and 37,002 motorists were arrested for impaired driving. Persons ages 20–29 represented 44 percent of the arrests. The report, *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Impaired Driving Facts 2005*, is compiled annually by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety.

Nationally, alcohol-related deaths were almost unchanged from 2004 to 2005: 16,919 in 2004 and 16,885 in 2005. However, in Minnesota alcohol-related deaths increased by 11 percent from 177 in 2004 to 197 in 2005.

For the five-year period 2001–2005, Minnesota averaged 216 alcohol-related traffic deaths and 34,033 impaired driving arrests annually. In 2005, males accounted for 76 percent of all DWIs. Most violators were first-time offenders, yet almost 14,500 had two or more DWIs on record. The average alcohol concentration among first-time offenders was 0.157 (the current legal limit of 0.08 became effective Aug. 1, 2005). Second or subsequent violators averaged 0.166 in 2005.

In all, 462,425 — or one in eight Minnesotans — have a DWI on their record. OTS reports that about 40 percent of those who incur one violation will incur a second DWI; one in 20 Minnesotans with a driving record have two or more DWIs.

The report shows that 83 percent of impaired driving incidents on record included a criminal conviction for driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs. Nearly half of the DWI arrests were made on Saturdays and Sundays.

*Impaired Driving Facts* reports the Twin Cities' metro area and the 80-county greater Minnesota each accounted for about one-half of all 2005 DWI arrests. Yet two-thirds of alcohol-related traffic deaths occurred outside the Twin Cities' metro. In the seven-county metro in 2005, there were 164 traffic deaths and 49 (30 percent) were alcohol-related, whereas in 80-county greater Minnesota there were 395 total traffic deaths, of which 148 (37 percent) were impaired driving-related.

To view *Impaired Driving Facts* online, visit [www.dps.state.mn.us/ots](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/ots).

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