

Warren County Sheriff's Office  
**Press Release**

**Plan for a Sober Ride This Halloween: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving***

October 18, 2022

This Halloween, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with the Warren County Sheriff's Office to remind everyone that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Drivers should be extra cautious on Halloween, as more pedestrians are out at night on the hunt for candy. If your night involves drinking at a Halloween party, make sure you plan for a sober ride home. Remember: It's never safe to drink and drive.

Because of the parties, trick-or-treating, and other festivities, Halloween night can be especially dangerous on our nation's roads. Between 2016 and 2020, there were 129 drunk-driving fatalities on Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 – 5:59 a.m. November 1). Adults between the ages of 21 and 34 had the highest percentage (68%) of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2020. During that same night, 11 pedestrians were killed in drunk-driving crashes.

While you are planning your Halloween costume and making your party plans, you should also plan for a sober ride home. Even one drink can impair judgement. You should never put yourself, or others, at risk because you made the choice to drink and drive. Remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.

Tragically, about one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations at or above .08 grams per deciliter). In 2020, there were 11,654 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. Do not contribute to these senseless deaths by driving drunk this Halloween.

Drivers should also keep an eye out for pedestrians — whether they be children trick-or-treating or adults who have had too much to drink. Walking while intoxicated can also be deadly, as lack of attention to their surroundings could put pedestrians at risk of getting hit by a vehicle.

We want our community to have a fun night out on Halloween, but to also stay safe and make responsible choices. In today's world, there are many options available to drivers to help them get home safely if they've been drinking. We expect drivers to refrain from driving after drinking.

Nationally, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05 g/dL. And the costs can be financial, too: If you're caught drinking and driving, you could face jail time, lose your driver's license and your vehicle, and pay up to \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, car towing, higher insurance rates, and lost wages.

## Celebrate with a Plan

If you plan to head out for a night of Halloween partying, follow these simple tips for a safe and happy evening:

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver, call a taxi or a rideshare service to get home safely.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact the **Warren County Sheriff's Office at (518)743-2500 or 911**.
- See a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Always remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. For more information, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).