**2021 Holiday DUI Campaign**

Key Messages and Facts

* 2020 was one of the deadliest years in Washington from DUI-related crashes, despite fewer drivers on the road.
* Preliminary data for 2021 also indicates an increase in deaths this year from driver impairment.
* As Washington prepares to celebrate the holiday season, let’s all do our part for sober driving. Be sober behind the wheel and prevent someone you care about from getting a DUI.
* We can reverse the alarming trend in deaths and injuries from DUIs if we all work together.
* Most people in Washington – 78% – never drink before driving. That’s a choice that’s easy to live with.
* We can help protect our friends and families too, by preventing someone from driving while impaired. Most Washingtonians – 81% – say they will step in to prevent someone from driving drunk or high.
* You’d reach out to stop a friend from falling or getting hurt from an unseen danger. We do the same when we stop people we love from driving drunk or high.

**Effective Ways to Stop Someone from Driving Drunk or High**

* If you encounter a situation where someone might drive impaired, you can:
	+ Arrange for or provide a ride
	+ Arrange for the person to stay where they are
	+ Offer your couch for the night
	+ Engage someone else to help, including calling 911
* Calling 911 to prevent a crash is better than calling to report one. Taking action to prevent a DUI-related crash is an emergency.
* When talking to 911 dispatchers, they will want to know the following (without putting yourself in danger):
	+ the make and model of the car
	+ license plate number
	+ route and direction being travelled
	+ a description of the driver

**Fewer Drivers but More DUIs, Crashes and Deaths**

* 2020 had the highest number of polydrug drivers in fatal crashes, ever (and highest number of impaired drivers by either alcohol or drugs).
* August 2021 was the deadliest month on Washington’s roads (77 deaths) since 1997 (91 deaths).
* Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in 2020 was down 15% compared with 2019, and at times as low as 60% less.
* At the same time, fatalities in DUI- involved crashes increased 12.4% and serious injuries increased 32.4% over 2019.
* Traffic fatalities and serious injuries continue to increase at alarming rates in 2021 as more Washingtonians return to the roads.

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