

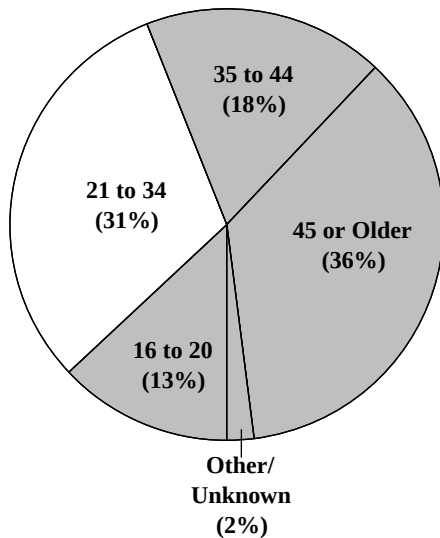
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

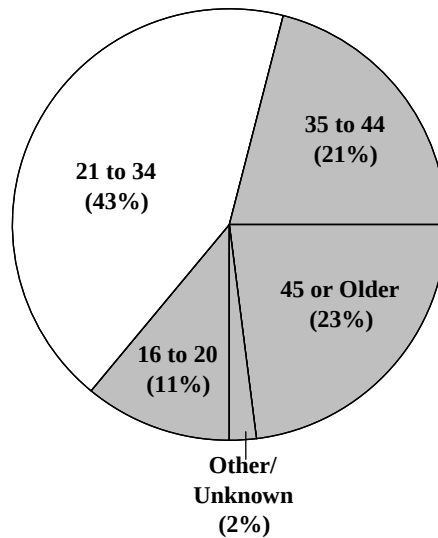
Drivers Ages 21 to 34 Disproportionately Involved in Drunk-Driving Fatal Crashes

Drivers ages 21 to 34 comprise a disproportionate share of fatal motor vehicle crashes in which at least one of the drivers was legally intoxicated (had a BAC of .08 or greater), according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Although drivers ages 21 to 34 were involved in 31% of all fatal crashes in 2006, they were involved in 43% of all fatal crashes in which at least one driver was intoxicated. On the other hand, drivers ages 45 or older were involved in 36% of all fatal crashes, but just 23% of drunk-driving fatal crashes (see figure below). These findings suggest that prevention efforts may be most effective if they focus on educating young adult drivers about the dangers of driving while intoxicated.

While Drivers Ages 21 to 34 Were Involved in 31% of the Fatal Crashes in 2006 . . .



. . . They Accounted for 43% of the Drunk-Driving Fatal Crashes



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), "2006 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment—Alcohol-Related Fatalities," *Traffic Safety Facts Research Note*, August 2007. Available online at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810821.pdf>.

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