

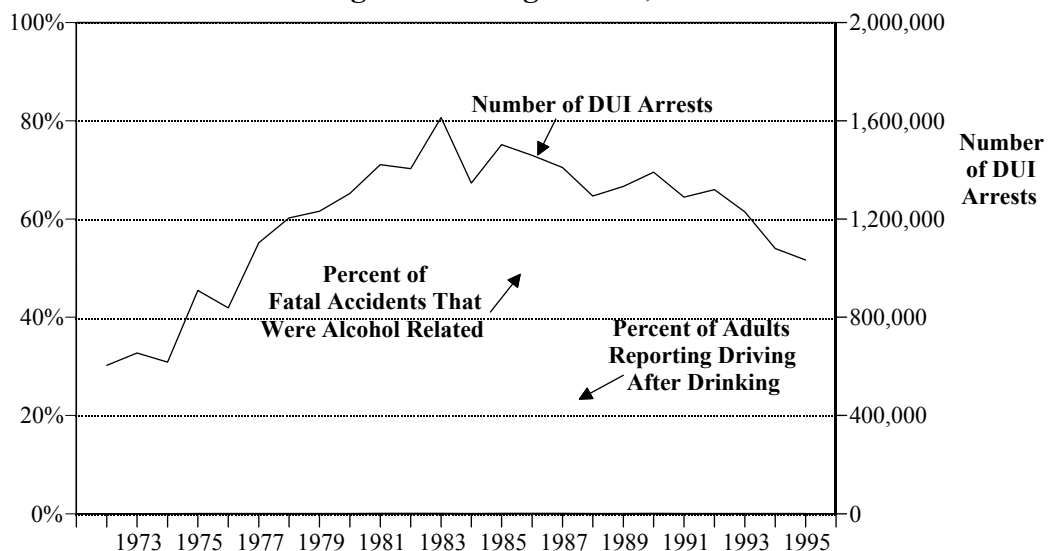
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

National Indicators Reveal a Decline in Drinking and Driving

According to several national indicators, the prevalence of drinking and driving in the United States has been declining since the early 1980s. Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system show that the number of arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) decreased from a peak of 1,613,000 in 1983 to 1,033,000 in 1995. Similarly, there has been a decrease in the percentage of fatal accidents that were alcohol-related (from 57% in 1982 to 41% in 1995), as well as in the percentage of adults reporting that they drive after drinking (from 30% in 1983 to 17% in 1995). Many factors have probably influenced this trend, including the emergence of grassroots efforts against drinking and driving, an increase in public awareness of the problem, and the enactment of stricter alcohol-impaired driving legislation.

National Drinking and Driving Trends, 1972-1995*



*Number of DUI arrests, 1972-1995; percentage of fatal motor vehicle crashes in which either a driver or a nonoccupant (i.e., pedestrian) had a measurable blood alcohol concentration of 0.01 or higher, 1982-1995; percentage of adult household drivers reporting driving after drinking alcohol "all the time" or "sometimes," 1983-1995.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online*, Tables 3.95 (Respondents reporting driving after drinking alcohol), 3.96 (Total fatalities and fatalities in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes), and 4.28 (Arrests for alcohol-related offenses and driving under the influence), WWW document; URL <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook> (accessed 11/17/97).

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