



Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton

Media Release

THIS SUPER BOWL LV SEASON, HELP WCSO SAVE LIVES! FANS DON'T LET FANS DRIVE DRUNK

The National Football League's Super Bowl LV is on Sunday, February 7, 2021, and it's one of America's favorite annual celebrations. Although the way we view sporting events has changed for now, we still want to make sure everyone is safe on Super Bowl Sunday. Whether you are hosting a virtual watch party, attending a socially distanced small gathering, or heading to a restaurant or bar, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is teaming up to remind football fans everywhere that *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*.

Join the Team

You can help by not getting behind the wheel if you are under the influence and by helping friends and family find a safe way home. Here are a few tips to prevent drivers from getting behind the wheel while they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Prevent Driving Under the Influence:

- Have a safety plan before you leave home.
- Choose a non-drinking designated driver if you're consuming alcohol.
- Protect others by taking their keys if they attempt to drive while under the influence. They may be mad at you, but the alternative is much worse.
- Ask for a ride, call a taxi or a ride sharing service.
- If you're throwing the party offer plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks. Monitor your guests and set the tone that no one gets behind the wheel while under the influence.

Bonus Points for the Designated Drivers

If you're planning to be a designated driver, know that you're the night's MVP. No matter what, do not drink any alcohol — people are relying on you.

- If you are attending a socially distanced small gathering or at a bar, enjoy the food, the company, and the non-alcoholic drinks.



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- Encourage other designated drivers on social media using the hashtag #DesignatedDriver.
- If someone you know has been drinking and tries to drive, take their keys and help them get home safely. Even if they make a fuss in the moment, they'll thank you later.

Host Pointers for the Win

If you're hosting a small gathering for this year's Super Bowl, prepare plenty of snacks and non-alcoholic beverages for your guests and the designated drivers.

- Don't forget to include the hand sanitizer and some disposable masks!
- Ask those attending to designate their sober drivers in advance.
- Remind drinking guests that they have a long evening ahead of them, and encourage them to pace themselves, to eat food, and to drink plenty of water.
- Do not serve alcohol to minors. If an underage person drinks and drives, the person who provided the alcohol can be held liable for any damage, injury, or death caused by the underage driver. In fact, you could face jail time if you host a gathering where alcohol is served to people under the age of 21.

After the Game

Let's enjoy the game and make sure our loved ones make it home safely at the end of the night. Keep in mind that although you won't be under the influence when you're driving home it's possible that others will be. Here are a few signs associated with driving under the influence. Keep these in mind to help avoid a dangerous situation. If you identify a driver that is under the influence call 9-1-1.

Detecting Drunk Drivers:

- Making wide turns
- Weaving, swerving, drifting, or straddling the center line
- Almost striking an object or vehicle
- Driving on the wrong side of the road



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- Driving at a very slow speed
- Stopping without cause
- Braking erratically
- Responding slowly to traffic signals
- Turning abruptly or illegally
- Driving after dark with headlights off

Remember: Only one team wins, but if you drive drunk, you may lose money, your reputation, your car, and even your life. Everyone should know by now that it is illegal to drive impaired. Even still, thousands die each year in drunk-driving-related crashes. In 2019, there were 10,142 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. The costs can be financial, too: If you're caught drinking and driving, you can face jail time, lose your driver's license and your vehicle, and pay up to \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, higher insurance rates, and lost wages.

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