



Jeb Bush  
Governor

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Secretary, Department of Health

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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), last year during one month – December – 1,201 people across the U.S. died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a BAC level of *.01 or higher*. In these crashes, 1,033 involved a driver with an illegal BAC level of *.08 or above*.

That's why the Pinellas County Health Department is joining with other national, state and local safety officials to remind all holiday partiers that **Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving** and to always remember to designate a sober driver *before* the festivities begin.

This weekend is a time when partiers will be out and about, so the health department offers these simple reminders:

- Plan ahead. If you plan on consuming alcohol, designate your sober driver *before* going out and give that person your keys before you go out.
- If you're impaired, then you're **drunk**. Call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
- Wearing your seat belt or using protective gear on your motorcycle is your best defense against an impaired driver;
- And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.
- Never get in a car that will be driven by someone who's been drinking. It's just not worth the risk.

Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime. Last, nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC of .08 or higher.

This holiday season, don't let your year end in an arrest – or even worse, death – yours or someone else. Make smart decisions. Designate your sober driver in advance. And remember, **Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving**.

Whether you've had *way too many* or *just one too many*, it's not worth the risk. Don't ever drive impaired."

For more information, please visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org) .

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*The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of our community through public and private partnerships in an environment that respects diversity. [www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com)*