21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING

Impaired Driving Is an Important Public Health Problem

- In 2020, 11,654 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers, accounting for 30% of all traffic-related deaths in the United States. This was a 14.3% increase compared to the number of crash deaths involving alcohol-impaired drivers in 2019.

- 32 people in the United States are killed every day in crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver—this is one death every 45 minutes.

- The annual estimated cost of crash deaths involving alcohol-impaired drivers totaled about $123.3 billion in 2020. These costs include medical costs and cost estimates for lives lost.

Drug-impaired driving is also an important public health problem; however, less is known about the harmful effects of drug-impaired driving compared to alcohol-impaired driving because of data limitations.