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Posted November 29, 2005

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State ranked high in alcohol-related crashes

'Fatal 15' list puts Wisconsin at 7th

Press-Gazette

For the second year in a row, Wisconsin has made a dubious list as one of the "Fatal 15" states for alcohol-related deaths.

On Monday the safety advocacy group End Needless Death on Our Roadways and the National Safety Council announced the list that includes Wisconsin, ranked seventh.

Last year 326 people were killed in alcohol-related accidents in the state.

Another 6,221 were injured, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

In Brown County, eight people were killed and another 320 injured in 2004 in alcohol-related accidents.

According to the organization, 17,000 motorists were killed nationwide last year in alcohol-related accidents. Almost 6,000 of those accidents happened in the states on the list.

More than 2,000 teens between the ages of 16 and 21 were killed last year in alcohol-related accidents, according to the organization.

"Statistics, however, do not begin to tell the story of the real pain and destruction caused by impaired drivers," according to Dr. Thomas Esposito, co-chairperson of End Needless Death and Director of Loyola University Medical Center's Injury Analysis and Prevention Program. "Let me tell you, nothing is as gut wrenching as telling a parent that their young son or daughter is never coming home."

States making the list are those where 41 percent or more of all traffic accident deaths are alcohol-related, according to the organization.

The Fatal 15

Percentage of alcohol-related accidents by state:

1. Rhode Island 50.6%
2. Puerto Rico 50.2%
3. Montana 46.29%
4. Texas 45.83%
5. Louisiana 45.8%
6. Hawaii 45.77%
7. Wisconsin 45.2%
8. Illinois 44.54%
9. Maryland 44.48%
10. South Carolina 44.36%
11. Washington 43.69%
12. South Dakota 43.65%
13. Connecticut 43.64%
14. Oregon 43.64%
15. Massachusetts 42.65%

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


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



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