

## Illinois Ranks 14th Nationally In Alcohol-Related Deaths

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CHICAGO (AP) -- A doctor-led safety group says Illinois is one of the 15 deadliest states in drunken-driving fatalities.

The group End Needless Death on Our Roadways says that in 2003, 44 percent of the state's traffic deaths were related to alcohol. That was enough for Illinois to rank 14th on the group's "Fatal Fifteen" list.

But the number of alcohol-related deaths -- 639 -- dropped more than two percent from the year before.

Rhode Island and Hawaii led the list, with 55 percent and 53 percent of traffic deaths due to alcohol. Utah was the best state, at 15 percent.

The list is based on data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### FATAL FIFTEEN

States with highest percentage of alcohol-related traffic deaths in 2003:

1. Rhode Island 55 percent
  2. Hawaii 53
  3. Nevada 50
  4. North Dakota 50
  5. South Carolina 50
  6. Montana 49
  7. South Dakota 48
  8. Texas 47
  9. Wisconsin 46
  10. Connecticut 45
  11. Louisiana 45
  12. Massachusetts 45
  13. New Mexico 45
  14. Illinois 44
  15. Kansas 44
- National average: 40

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; End Needless Death on Our Roadways

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