

University of Iowa Police Crime Prevention News

Alcohol Awareness



Alcohol and the University of Iowa.

Over the past year (2007) the University of Iowa Police made 443 Public Intoxication arrests. In the same time period there were 64 possession of alcohol under legal age citations that were issued. These statistics are just from the University of Iowa Police and in no way reflect the totals of these charges by other law enforcement agencies. The University of Iowa takes issues with alcohol seriously. The effect of bad decisions with alcohol not only impacts a student's life, but the entire University community. This is why it is important to be informed about alcohol, its effects, and the law.

All one has to do to see for themselves the impact of being extremely intoxicated is to read the headlines within the newspapers. "Passed-out student loses fingers, toes" (Press Citizen 02/14/08) "Homicide suspect was kicked out of Jakes" (The Daily Iowan 02/14/08). The decisions that were made on these fateful nights will follow these young people for the rest of their lives.

Educated choices on alcohol consumption:

- Know the law. Page 2 of this publication has information on some of Iowa's alcohol related charges.
- Wait until you are the legal age to consume alcohol which is twenty-one.
- Don't over consume alcohol. Know your limits and stay within them.
- Call a cab. Don't drink and drive.
- Respect other people and their property.
- Remember the choices that you make while under the influence of alcohol could impact you for the rest of your life. Criminal histories are often researched by potential future employers.
- Never think "that could never happen to me".
- Watch out for each other, make sure everyone gets home safely. If someone is passing out from alcohol or is extremely intoxicated, dial 911. Their life may depend on it!

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Operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Driving under the Influence (O.W.I.): Serious Misdemeanor; first offense fine is \$1250.00 and two days in jail. A person is arrested and taken to jail for the night and their driver's license could be suspended from six months to one year. Refusing the breath test generally disqualifies the person for a deferred judgment. The legal limit in Iowa is .08.

Avoiding the charge: Never drink and drive, even if you think you are OK to do so.



Public Intoxication.

Public Intoxication (123.46): Simple Misdemeanor; Fine is \$150.00-\$200.00 on the average, but can be up to \$500.00 and taken to jail for the night. Legal description: Consumption/Intoxication – was intoxicated or did simulate intoxication in a public place.

Avoiding the charge: Drink responsibly. Charges such as Criminal Mischief and Assault often accompany a Public Intoxication charge. Realize that drinking games and doing shots can escalate your blood alcohol level greatly.



Misuse of ID to acquire alcohol.

Misuse of DL/ ID: (if used to purchase alcohol): Simple Misdemeanor; Total fine is \$182.00, the person with the ID and the person it belongs to can lose their driver's license for six months in Iowa and one year in Illinois.

Avoiding the charge: Shred that fake ID! Realize that police officers may search you during an arrest and if a fake is found on your person you may be charged.



Possession of Alcohol Under the Legal Age (P.A.U.L.A.).

Possession of Alcohol under the Legal Age: The legal age to possess alcohol in the State of Iowa is 21. Possession of alcohol under the legal age is a Simple Misdemeanor for the first offense and has a total fine of \$314.00. Second offense is a Simple Misdemeanor with a fine of \$710.00, required to attend substance abuse treatment or suspension of driver's license for up to one year.

Avoiding the charge: Don't possess alcohol under the age of 21. Don't even carry it for someone. The law is simple; possession of alcohol under the age of 21= a citation.

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Alcohol Related motor crashes.

An alcohol-related motor vehicle crash kills someone every 31 minutes and injures someone every 2 minutes. Each year, an estimated 120 million episodes of alcohol-impaired driving occur in the United States (Dellinger, Bolen, and Sacks 1999; Liu et al. 1997). In 2003 alone, 17,013 people died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, representing 40% of the year's total traffic deaths (NHTSA 2004). More than 1.4 million drivers were arrested in 2002 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics (NHTSA 2004). Alcohol-related crashes in the United States cost about \$51 billion each year (Blincoe et al. 2002). (From the CDC web site)



What's new at the University of Iowa Police



Rescheduled from June:

R.A.D. Basic Women's Self Defense

Sept. 24th 6:00pm until 10:00pm

Oct. 1st. 6:00pm until 10:00pm

Oct. 8th. 6:00pm until 10:00pm

Location: Department of Public Safety

808 University Capitol Centre

Contact Officer Brad Allison for Registration.

brad-allison@uiowa.edu

This class is **FREE** to all U of I affiliated women. You must attend all three sessions.