

- Drunk driving accounts for about **17,000** fatal car accidents in the U.S. every year. This translates to a U.S. death every **31** minutes. Alcohol was a factor in **39%** of all fatal accidents and **7%** of all crashes in 2004. Additionally about **248,000** people are injured in accidents where people reported that alcohol was present, thus one person is injured in a drunken driving accident in the U.S. every **2** minutes. These incredible statistics reveal why drunk driving is a major public policy issue. If you live in the Mark community. In Arlington, Virginia, the police department reported the number one killer of teenagers is drunk driving – more than **3500** teenagers are killed and another **85,000** are injured each year in car crashes involving alcohol. Not all have been drinking ...some are passengers ... innocent targets of people who drink and drive. Someone in the U.S. is killed in an alcohol related traffic accident every **23** minutes. A can of beer or glass of wine or a wine cooler is just as intoxicating as a shot of strong liquor. Most state laws define “drunk” as having a blood level concentration of **0.10%**. Because people react to alcohol differently depending on how recently they have eaten, their metabolism, the medication they take, their emotional state, weight, etc. Because of these differences, no one can predict a safe number of drinks. The bottom line is that alcohol is a depressant and even small amounts of drinks of liquor can slow your physical reactions and thought process. Combining alcohol and other drugs, even over the counter ones, multiplies the dangerous effect of both. Of course, our Bible warns us in Proverbs 23:32,” that liquor **BITES** like a serpent and **STINGS** like a viper!” **Tara Conner, Miss USA**, in a recent interview with the Lexington Herald said, “**I’m always going to be an alcoholic addict, that’s never going to change. That’s something I’m going to have to live with for the rest of my life. I’m going to have to take actions every day to keep a good, healthy recovery.**” For Heaven’s sake ... isn’t that enough reason alone, to keep liquor out of our communities and demand more to be done on keeping our highways safer?