

## Emphasis Area



# IMPAIRED DRIVING

### Overview

Impaired Driving is defined as driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, and/or prescription medications. Alcohol impairment is measured by blood alcohol concentration (BAC). As the BAC level goes up in the human body, it produces effects such as loss of judgment, altered mood, decline in visual functions, and deteriorating reaction times. In Kentucky, the statutory level of per se BAC impairment is 0.08, although functional impairment can occur at a much lower BAC level.

Kentucky has been tremendously impacted by overprescribed prescription drugs and is in the throes of an opioid crisis. Moreover, the use of marijuana and methamphetamines, among other illicit drugs, has continued to plague the Commonwealth. Despite increased training, law enforcement struggles with detection of drug and polysubstance-impaired drivers.

From 2014 to 2018, impaired driving was involved in 723 fatalities on highways in Kentucky, accounting for 19 percent of all traffic fatalities. These impaired driving numbers are likely underreported in the data due to difficulties and inconsistencies in drug usage detection.



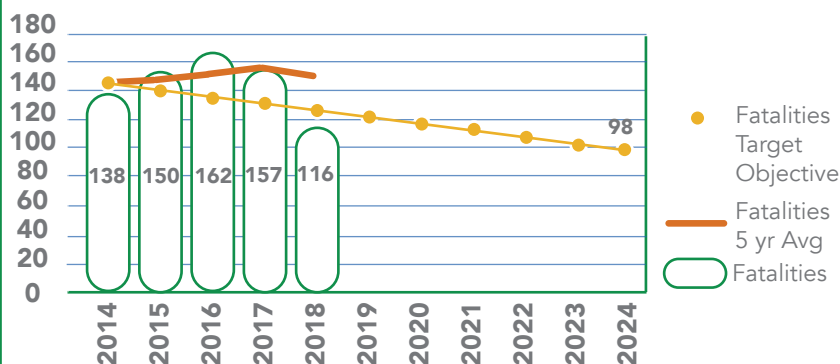
### Opportunities

Impaired Driving is 100 percent preventable. This SHSP includes multiple strategies for preventing impaired driving in Kentucky, including:

- Publicizing victim impacts in partnerships with victim advocacy organizations and survivor advocates.
- Performing targeted impaired driving enforcement campaigns, e.g., KSP's "Nighthawk."
- Continuing programs to train and certify Drug Recognition Experts (DREs), and providing Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) courses.
- Initiating and continuing programs, such as Lethal Weapon training and the Cops in Court program, that educate and train DUI focused prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth.



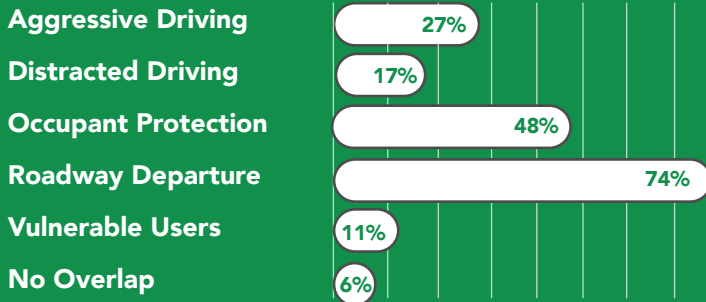
### IMPAIRED DRIVING Goal & Objective



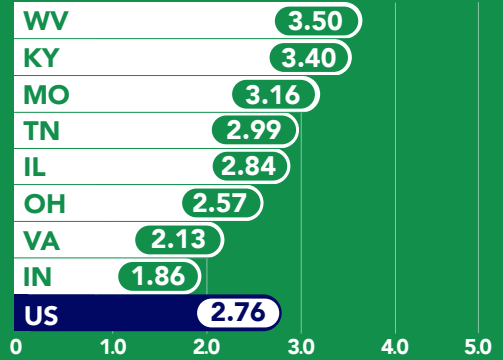
Kentucky has identified Impaired Driving as an emphasis area due to the severity of the problem and opportunity for improvement. A goal of this SHSP is to identify and implement strategies that prevent future impaired driving-related fatalities and serious injuries.

To measure progress toward this goal, an objective has been set to prevent future impaired driving-related fatalities such that the annual total will fall at or below 98 by December 31, 2024.

## IMPAIRED DRIVING: Overlap with other Areas (% Fatalities + Serious Injuries 2014-2018)



## Driver with Positive BAC Crashes Fatality Rate for KY & Bordering States 2013-17



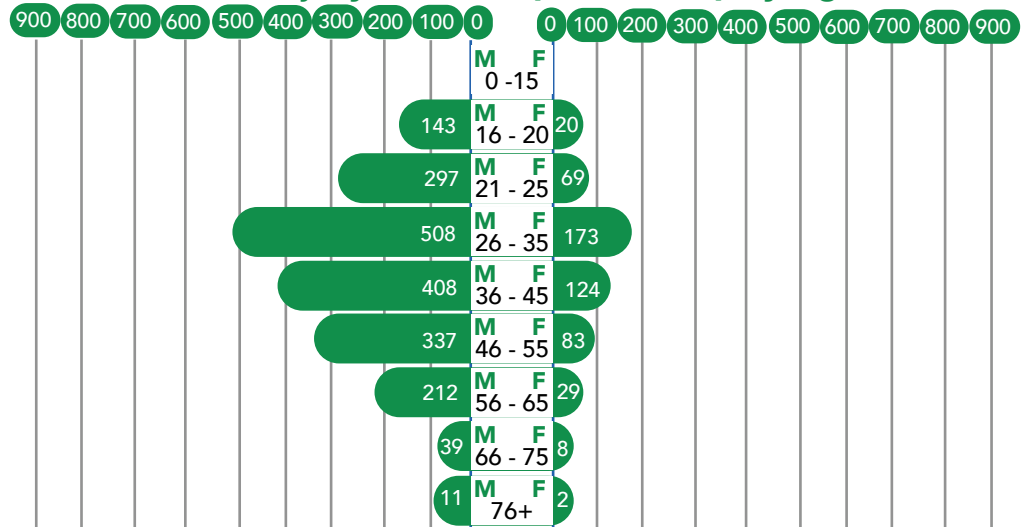
**74%**

of Impaired Driving fatalities & serious injuries occurred in crashes where Roadway Departure was also a factor.

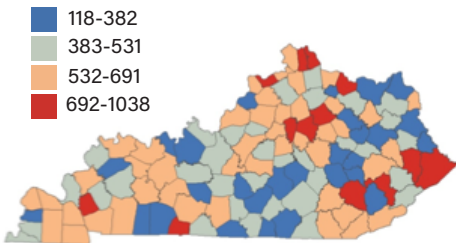
The Driver was Male in  
**79%**

of Fatal & Serious injury crashes involving Impaired Driving.

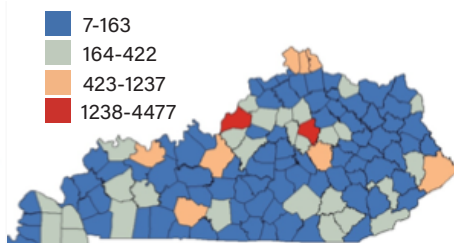
## Impaired Driving: Fatal & Serious Injury Crashes (2014-2018) By Age & Gender



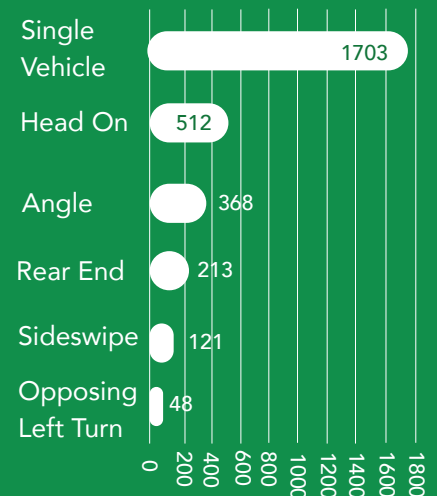
Impaired Driving Crashes per 100K Population 2014-2018



Total Impaired Driving Crashes by County 2014-2018



## Impaired Driving: Fatalities & Serious Injuries by Crash Type



Impaired Driving is  
**100%**  
Preventable