

# ROADSIDE SAFETY CHECKS ARE KEY TO REDUCING IMPAIRED DRIVING

**10,142**

people killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes during 2019: 28 every day. In Illinois, 31% of all driving fatalities were impaired with a blood alcohol content (BAC) greater than .08. However, 21% of Illinois driving fatalities had a BAC greater than .15.

National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2020, October). Available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813021>

A Roadside Safety Check, commonly called a Roadside Sobriety Checkpoint, is a law enforcement tool to detect & deter impaired driving.

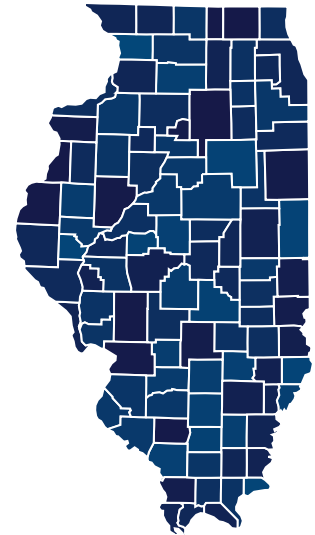
Checks should be highly visible and widely publicized. Public & officer safety are paramount.

## Types of Checks

- Large Scale - staffed by 10 or more
- Small Scale - staffed by 3-5
- Roving - multiple locations in one evening
- Flexible - set up but not fully staffed nor stopping vehicles

## Timing of Checks

- Nighttime - between 9:00 pm & 2:00 am
- Early evening - between 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- Holiday or Special Occasion



Coalition strategies to prevent underage drinking require key stakeholder commitment. Roadside Safety Checks should involve law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, media, and youth.

Roadside Safety checks work when paired with a strong awareness campaign. Campaigns can be conducted by law enforcement or in conjunction with a prevention coalition. Be sure to include why people going through the checkpoint are being stopped (data) in a flyer, brochure or card handed out at the stop. Press releases must go out before each check, alerting the public they will be happening and should go out following to share the results.

States with a sobriety checkpoint law had 18.2% lower drinking-driving compared with states without a law. States that conducted sobriety checks at least monthly (vs. no checks) had 40.6% lower drinking-driving.

Traffic Injury Prevention (2016), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15389588.2016.1161759>