EXPLORING PATTERNS OF DUI FATALITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

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Introduction

In 2009, around 10,000 people died in an alcohol-impaired crash (NHTSA 2011). When the driver is involved in a crash with blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher, it is considered to be alcohol-impaired accident. In 2009, drunk driving fatalities accounted for 32% of all traffic deaths in the United States. DUI in America is a very harmful thing that is happening now in America. Three out of ten people will be involved in an alcohol-related car crash during their life time. The data that has been collected shows areas in the United States where DUI fatalities have occurred.

Models

It is self-explanatory that the most populated states have the most DUI fatalities (Map 1). However, Map 2 looks at percent of Highways Fatalities that are alcohol related. With the major highways (interstates) involve, Map 3 shows the number of DUI deaths that occur around a highway (interstates) per 100,000 people. Map 4 shows the death rate (alcohol-related highway deaths per 100,000 people). It is apparent that drinking and driving deaths have a higher prevalence rate in the Northwest United States, as well as the Deep South. The State of South Carolina appears to be an outlier in the Deep South, with higher alcohol-related deaths. The graph associated with Map 1 (graph 1) shows the decrease of throughout the past years of DUI fatalities in the Deep South except for South Carolina as it stayed. As shown in graph 4, states that have a higher population per square mile typically have a low DUI rate. In addition, states that have are less populated per square mile would have a higher DUI rate. These states included New York, California, and New Jersey.

Conclusion

A person who has blood alcohol content (BAC) greater than .08 has a greater chance of causing a highway fatality. Highway fatalities mostly occur in open space areas with low population. These maps show us that people living in a heavily populated area with larger cities are less likely to be involved in a highway accident. People in these areas are most likely to use other forms of transportation such as buses and taxes to prevent them from drinking and driving. In addition, roads in areas that are more densely populated have better lighting, traffic enforcements, and less opportunity for speeding and reckless driving. However, there are probably other issues also affecting DUI morality besides just population density. Individuals who live around less populated entrainment areas are still drinking and driving, which shows that one does not have to be in a high entertaining area to be at risk of a fatalities due to drunk driving. The goal of this poster should inform people of the younger and older generation where DUI incidents occur in the United States. They need to know that...