



**PARTNERS for PREVENTION**  
A partnership for the prevention of substance abuse among youth!

## **DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED [DWI]**

On the average 8 adolescents a day in the U.S. die in alcohol-related automobile crashes and 9 out of 10 teenage automobile accidents involve the use of alcohol. An estimated 38,000 high school seniors in the U.S. reported in 2001 that they had crashed while driving under the influence of marijuana. According to the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research, in 2002 there were 7 fatal crashes with 9 fatalities in Wyoming County. 4 out of the 7 crashes were alcohol-related. 6 out of the 9 deaths could have been prevented if people had chosen not to drink and drive.

What teens, parents, and adults need to know about driving while impaired

- Youths under 21 who drink and drive can lose their license for up to one year for small amounts of alcohol, and face jail time for larger amounts of alcohol found in their systems.
- Underage drinkers who drive will have their junior license or driving permits promptly suspended if they are charged with an alcohol-related traffic offense.
- The BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) for legal intoxication has been lowered from .10% to .08%, allowing for the suspension of a license pending prosecution if the BAC is 0.08% or more.

### **BAC Level Impairment**

- .01 - Attention time starts to decrease
- .02 - Reaction time slows
- .03 - Tracking and steering are affected
- .04 – Lose the ability to respond to emergencies
- .05 – Coordination decreases
- .06 – Judgment becomes impaired
- .08 – Hard to concentrate and hard to control speed

Research shows that smoking marijuana [weed] affects concentration, perception, coordination, and reaction time, many of the skills required for safe driving – and these effects can last up to 24 hours after using the drug.