

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **December the 3D Month Drugged & Drunk Driving Prevention**

This holiday season and throughout the coming year the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency would like to remind you to support your local law enforcement in their efforts to keep citizens safe against impaired drivers. December has been designated **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month** (3D month) by Presidential Proclamation.

- In Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties in 2002 there were 955 arrests and 11 people killed due to drunk or drugged driving
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that in 2002 there were 17,448 fatalities and 258,000 persons injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present-an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes.
- The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2002 report says that almost 11 million persons aged 12 or older drove under the influence of illegal drugs in the past year.
- Impaired driving will affect one in three Americans during their lifetime according to NHTSA.

To further decrease alcohol-related fatal crashes and injuries on September 30, 2003, Michigan has adopted the .08% BAC (Basic Alcohol Content) Law.

Fines & Fees (for a first time offense)

- Up to 93 days in jail
- Up to a \$500 fine
- Up to 360 hours of community service
- Up to 6 points on a driver's license
- Up to 180 days' license suspension

Remember this holiday season that if you drink more than the legal limit please have a designated driver or just don't drive because when **You Drink You Drive You Lose and**