



## Community Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

The Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends publicized sobriety checkpoints based on strong evidence of effectiveness in reducing alcohol-impaired driving.

### Facts about Publicized Sobriety Checkpoint Programs

**Publicized sobriety checkpoint programs** are a form of high visibility enforcement at which law enforcement officers select vehicles in a systematic manner to stop and assess the driver's degree of alcohol impairment. Media efforts to publicize the enforcement activity are an integral part of these programs. The program goal is to reduce alcohol-impaired driving by increasing the public's perceived risk of arrest while also arresting alcohol-impaired drivers identified at checkpoints.

There are two types of sobriety checkpoints:

1. Random Breath Testing (RBT) - all stopped drivers are given breath tests for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels. RBT is used in Australia and several European countries.
2. Selective Breath Testing (SBT) - police must have suspicion of impairment, based on observation, to request a breath test. SBT is used in the United States.

### Systematic Review Findings

- Fatal crashes thought to involve alcohol decreased by a median of 8.9% when publicized sobriety checkpoints were used.
- Publicized sobriety checkpoints produce substantial economic benefits that greatly exceed costs. Despite evidence of effectiveness twelve states do not allow publicized sobriety checkpoints and in states that allow checkpoints, only about one-third use them frequently.

### Facts about Alcohol-Impaired Driving

- Alcohol-impaired drivers were involved in 10,322 crash deaths in the U.S. in 2012.
- In the same year, alcohol-impaired crashes cost the U.S. an estimated \$123 billion.

### Learn More

**Summary of Evidence and Task Force Finding** <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/mvoi/AID/sobrietyckpts.html>

**CDC Fact Sheet: Impaired Driving** [http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/impaired\\_driving/impaired-driv\\_factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/impaired_driving/impaired-driv_factsheet.html)

**CDC Policy Impact: Impaired Driving** <http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/alcoholbrief/index.html>

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The Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) is an independent, nonfederal, unpaid body of public health and prevention experts. It is congressionally mandated to identify community preventive programs, services, and policies that save American lives and dollars, increase longevity, and improve quality of life. The Community Guide is a collection of all the evidence-based findings and recommendations of this Task Force. Find more information at [www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides administrative, research, and technical support for the Community Preventive Services Task Force.