

Imagine, a couple of high school friends go to a party, and decide to have a couple of drinks. They get into their car after a long night of partying, and decide that the least drunk friend, who is currently at a .08, is the designated driver for the night. He pulls out of the driveway and unconsciously speeds until he stops at a stop light, which just so happens to be in front of railroad tracks. He stops on the railroad tracks, fools around with his friends who are in the backseat, and doesn't notice the train coming his way. By the time he sees the train and is able to process what is happening, it is too late and the train has already demolished the car. Or, let's take another look at this situation, and say the guy and his friends still get into the car, however when he comes to the stop light, still speeding, he doesn't stop and ends up hitting and killing other people in another car. Either way, in both scenarios, someone got hurt because the person who was driving drunk wasn't paying attention. Drunk driving causes nearly forty percent of all car accidents, and even though the stress on how dangerous it can be to drive intoxicated is rather large, people still do it. The solution to this is to create harsher punishments for drunk drivers, and create programs that show just how dangerous drinking and driving is to adolescents.

Driving drunk has severe consequences, and not only for the driver, but for others around them as well. Programs should be made and taught in schools, so that they understand these consequences second hand, and not first hand. Most times when an intoxicated individual has hit and killed someone, they don't even realize that they have killed someone, and later on come to feel immense guilt for what they have done. The driver not only causes harm for that other person, but they bring a lot of emotional damage onto themselves as well when they've come to the realization of what they've done. And if, by chance, the drunk driver did survive the collision, he

and collide into theirs. This can either cause severe injuries to that driver, or kill them on impact. The families of both the drunk driver and the other driver are affected, as well as the families of the friends who were also in the car. In both scenarios described earlier, there is a clear example of how the "ripple effect" would have been caused. One accident can cause emotional pain for not just the driver's family, but the people in the back's families, the person in the car that was hits family, and the friends of all those involved. Emotional trauma can also occur during accidents that may occur while driving under the influence. For example, if a drunk driver hit another person with their car, it is likely that the victim could form some sort of phobia or ptsd. When you make the choice to drink and drive, be prepared to risk someone else's life, and potentially yours as well.

Less people would drink and drive if there were harsher punishment for drinking and driving. Although people do spend time in jail for driving while intoxicated, some are allowed time on parole, or are able to be released early on "good behavior" . This does not teach the driver any lesson, and shows that anyone can drink and drive and not have to face severe punishment for their actions. Therefore, there should be higher fines to pay for warnings or citations, and there should be more prison time, without probation access in order for the message to sink in, and let others know that it is not okay to drive while intoxicated.

Even though the person drinking will have to live their life knowing they made a fatal mistake, there needs to be a way to prevents things, such as drunk driving, before it happens even more. Thus stating, in order to help prevent further DUI's and help keep the roads safe from drunk drivers, there needs to be a stricter form of punishment, and youth organizations to help teach children to drink safely and not drive if they are wasted.