



# DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!

Please  
Don't  
Drink &  
Drive  
This  
Holiday  
Season



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## GOTTEN THE MESSAGE YET? I HAVE.

The holiday season is upon us and, in keeping with the tragic tradition of years past, some people will be dying in accidents caused by drunk drivers.

It baffles me no end that drinking and driving is still such a problem. What can be said about it that has not already been said one hundred times before? For people my age (18), the message of 'Don't drink and drive,' has been drilled into our heads relentlessly. The sad thing is that many of us just have not learned yet. What does it take to show people how stupid it is?

Life always carries risk: Certain risks are worth taking and others are not. Drinking and driving, quite simply, is not a risk worth taking. There is nothing to gain and so much to lose. It is like playing with a loaded gun.

I have discovered that drinking definitely doesn't match the build-up many young people give it. My experience was actually kind of scary. I lost control. I couldn't walk straight or speak properly and I couldn't think clearly or see right. Worst of all, I knew that I was behaving like a fool. It scares me to think what would have happened to me had I been in a dangerous situation, instead of a social one.

As much fun as people may think it is, drinking is risky. It puts you in a frame of mind that makes you vulnerable to making decisions you will regret. Getting behind the wheel of a car is one such decision.

Many of the lives lost in accidents caused by drinking and driving belonged to innocent victims. I am worried when I think that I might lose someone close to me in such a senseless way.

What is the cure for the drinking and driving problem? It seems that the awareness campaigns my generation has been exposed to all of our lives have made some sort of impact. Most of the people I know are very responsible when it comes drinking and driving.

The MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) program has done wonderful work in bringing about awareness through its red ribbon campaign during the holiday season. The police RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) initiative has also done much to prevent alcohol-related accidents.

However, it is still up to individuals to behave responsibly. Everyone should make the choice to stay sober if they are driving. We all must stop any friends from driving drunk, or even getting into a car when the driver has been drinking.

Better yet, we could all make the choice to stay sober, period. (That's wishful thinking, I know). No one wants to die or see their loved ones die this way over the holidays. Common sense can probably prevent it from happening. Use it.