

Matthew Kato Memorial Scholarship
Michelle Williamson
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The dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs

People in today's society don't understand the dangers and tragedies that can occur while someone is driving under the influence of alcohol or a substance that can make you no longer aware of what you are doing. The first thing is judgment. People who have reached or have exceeded their BAC do not realize how irritable they are, that they are no longer capable of driving anymore. The next wrong doing toward causing a tragedy is actually getting into the car and driving. People who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol don't comprehend how fast or slow they are going or even where they are going. They also don't have very good reactions and reflexive. This can cause anyone else who is on the road at the time his or her life. Someone who is walking on that street or even someone who is watching T.V inside their own home could be affected greatly by your actions. If you were to kill someone because you made a terrible decision to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while driving, long-term effects are definite. Taking someone's life is serious. Both your family and his or her family would be devastated by the outcome. Drinking under the influence of drugs or alcohol has penalties of community services, house arrest, probation and being sentenced to serve time in jail. Is one night of fun worth someone's life?

However, many of these drivers who are impaired are going undetected. So how do we fix this big problem? Police Officers could expand their training programs to make officers more aware. New or modified procedures while testing people who have been stopped for driving while under the influence, additional equipment and new or modified laws to make it easier to catch and punish these criminals. These modifications will only make the process easier and in the long term much more suitable.