

TVLG Warns Arizona Residents of Summer DUI Spike: What Drivers Need to Know

Summer's not over and neither is the DUI crackdown. TVLG urges Arizona drivers to stay sharp as patrols and penalties ramp up statewide.

PHOENIX, AZ, UNITED STATES, July 22, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Valley Law Group is urging Arizona drivers to stay alert this summer, as DUI enforcement intensifies across the state. While the heat rises and more residents hit the road for seasonal activities, law enforcement agencies are stepping up efforts to crack down on impaired driving, leading to more arrests, checkpoints, and life-altering consequences for those caught off guard.

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Every summer, we see good people facing life-changing consequences from one poor decision. Planning ahead is the key to avoiding a DUI and protecting your future.”

Jon McCarty

“We see a noticeable uptick in DUI-related calls and cases during summer months,” said Attorney Jon McCarty, lead criminal defense attorney at The Valley Law Group. “Most people aren’t aware how quickly a fun day out can turn into a legal nightmare. Even one or two drinks, especially combined with heat or fatigue, can result in a DUI under Arizona’s strict zero-tolerance laws.”

WHY THE SPIKE?

More social drinking: Summer vacations, pool parties, and weekend events lead to increased alcohol and marijuana

use.

Extreme heat + alcohol: Dehydration intensifies impairment and worsens judgment.

More traffic on Arizona roads: Tourists and road-trippers unfamiliar with local laws are especially vulnerable to DUI arrests.

ARIZONA DUI TRENDS: THE DATA TELLS THE STORY

The Valley Law Group Warns Arizona Residents of Summer DUI Spike: What Drivers Need to Know



THE VALLEY LAW GROUP
FAMILY, CRIMINAL DEFENSE, PERSONAL INJURY

The Valley Law Group issues a seasonal warning about increased DUI enforcement across Arizona.

According to the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, 335 DUI arrests were made during the four-day Independence Day weekend in 2024, slightly down from 399 in 2023. Both numbers, however, remain significantly higher than average. Nationally, LexisNexis Risk Solutions reports that DUI arrests in July have risen nearly 45% over the past six summers. In 2023, 25.7% of Arizona's traffic fatalities involved alcohol.

A 2023 report from 12News also showed that extreme DUIs, cases involving BAC levels of 0.15% or higher, were on the rise in Arizona. These high-BAC cases often carry longer jail sentences, higher fines, and more severe long-term consequences.

Recent examples, such as the Lake Havasu Police Department's 2025 Memorial Day weekend data, which featured 19 DUI arrests and 3 aggravated DUIs, highlight that enforcement remains strong and consistent during the summer months.

INCREASED ENFORCEMENT AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Law enforcement agencies across Arizona are increasing pressure through:

Sobriety checkpoints in vacation hotspots like Lake Havasu

Enhanced patrols in high-traffic zones

Zero-tolerance enforcement, especially for underage drivers



Sobriety checkpoints in vacation destinations like Lake Havasu are part of Arizona's intensified summer DUI crackdown.

"We see a noticeable uptick in DUI-related calls and cases during summer months," said Attorney Jon McCarty, lead Criminal Defense Attorney at The Valley Law Group.



Attorney Jon McCarty warns of the legal risks and consequences of summer DUIs in Arizona.



Modern lobby of The Valley Law Group's Phoenix office, offering a welcoming and professional atmosphere for clients.

Aggressive prosecution and penalties, including jail time, license suspension, interlock devices, and steep fines

Even first-time DUI offenses in Arizona carry mandatory penalties. Getting caught while impaired can cost thousands of dollars, lead to job loss, and permanently stain your criminal record.

HOW TO AVOID A DUI IN ARIZONA

Make a plan to stay sober if you're driving—your safety and the safety of others depend on it.

If you're attending an event where alcohol will be served, arrange a safe ride ahead of time. Support friends and loved ones by encouraging them to drive sober and make safe choices. Avoid last-minute decisions—set a clear plan before you go out.

If you're in recovery or questioning your relationship with alcohol, consider seeking support before risky situations arise.

DUI risk reduction starts with wise, intentional choices. Before you head out, make a plan that protects your future and the lives of those around you.

10 COMMON DUI MYTHS IN ARIZONA

Myth: You must be over the legal limit to be charged with a DUI.

Fact: Arizona allows DUI charges even if your BAC is below 0.08%. Impairment is the key factor.

Myth: You can't get a DUI if you only used marijuana or prescription drugs.

Fact: Any substance that impairs your ability to drive, including legal or prescribed substances, can result in a DUI.

Myth: You can refuse a breathalyzer without consequence.

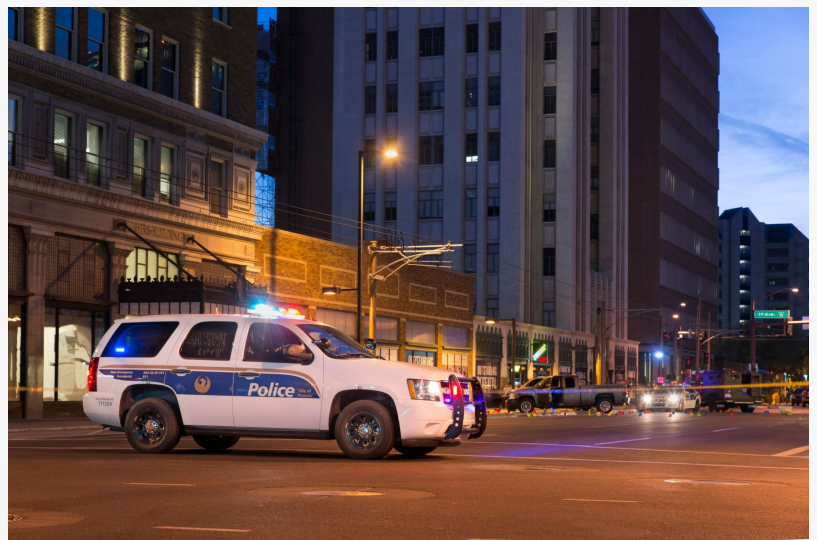
Fact: Refusal often leads to immediate license suspension and can be used against you in court.

Myth: You're safe from DUI charges if you're not driving.

Fact: You can be charged for "actual physical control" even if you're parked or asleep behind the wheel.

Myth: Breath mints or coffee will sober you up.

Fact: Only time reduces BAC. Tricks like mouthwash or gum don't fool breath tests or officers.



A Phoenix Police vehicle blocks a downtown intersection during a nighttime DUI operation.

Myth: DUI charges automatically fall off your record after a few years.

Fact: DUI convictions stay on your criminal record indefinitely in Arizona.

Myth: First-time offenders don't go to jail.

Fact: Even a first offense in Arizona carries mandatory jail time and fines.

Myth: DUI is only an issue on big holidays.

Fact: DUI arrests happen year-round. Summer weekends and vacations bring increased risk.

Myth: Impaired driving arrests don't happen during the day.

Fact: Law enforcement conducts DUI patrols at all hours—including morning commutes and lunchtime.

Myth: You don't need a lawyer for a DUI.

Fact: Arizona DUI laws are complex and harsh. Legal representation is crucial for protecting your rights.

SOURCES

Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety: (<https://gohs.az.gov/enforcement-reporting>)

LexisNexis Risk Solutions: (<https://risk.lexisnexis.com/government?intcmp=ushp.risk-decision-making.body.gov-main>)

KTAR News: (<https://ktar.com/arizona-news/arizona-dui-arrests-over-fourth-of-july-weekend-down-from-last-year/5140962/>)

12News: <https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/arizona/extreme-duis-on-the-rise-in-arizona/75-642af4cd-438a-4583-9162-047a27ca607d>

Lake Havasu PD Memorial Day 2025 DUI data

<https://www.lhcaz.gov/news/article/lhcpd-releases-memorial-weekend-2025-statistics>

About The Valley Law Group

The Valley Law Group is an Arizona-based law firm, with locations in Phoenix, Gilbert, Scottsdale, and Peoria, dedicated to defending the rights of Arizonans in criminal defense, DUI, family law, and personal injury matters. Known for client-focused representation and powerful courtroom advocacy, the firm delivers results through experience, strategy, and a relentless commitment to justice.

If you or a loved one is facing DUI charges in Arizona, don't wait. The legal consequences can be severe—but with experienced representation, your future doesn't have to be defined by one mistake. Contact The Valley Law Group today for a free consultation. Call 480-806-1574 or visit <https://thevalleylawgroup.com/contact> to speak with a dedicated attorney who will fight for your rights.

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