

MEDIA RELEASE

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Celebrate the Coming Year with Friends, Not in a Jail Cell

(Oxnard, Calif.) – New Year's Eve is a time to celebrate, enjoy time with friends, and create new resolutions for the coming year. Start a resolution before the New Year: never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Celebrate the end of 2015 and promise that 2016 will be a year of sober driving. Every day of the year, local law enforcement agencies make arrests for driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. During the holidays, especially New Year's Eve, extra officers are on patrol looking for impaired drivers.

Ventura County Behavioral Health and our law enforcement partners are dedicated to preventing drivers from hurting themselves or others over the New Year's holiday. Join with Ventura County Behavioral Health and never drive while impaired.

"Our partners are have no flexibility when it comes to driving under the influence, remember each DUI arrest is a DUI crash prevented," stated Dan Hicks, Prevention Manager. "Bear in mind that a DUI is not just for alcohol. Even if you have a recommendation from your doctor for medical marijuana, it is illegal to drive while under its influence."

It can impair and be just as dangerous as driving after drinking alcohol. According to a recent study, 1,300 drivers stopped at checkpoints in California voluntarily submitted breath and saliva samples. The survey revealed that 7.3 percent of the drivers tested positive for alcohol, 7.4 percent tested positive for marijuana, and 14 percent tested positive for other drugs.

"We are supporting DUI checkpoints with information about drug and alcohol impaired driving. Our goal is zero DUI crashes, injuries, deaths, and arrests this New Year's Eve," said David Tovar, OTS Grant Coordinator. "Behavioral Health's resolution for the coming year is to change people minds about driving after drinking or doing drugs. It's a choice, make the correct one, the consequences are real."

For more information about the drug impaired driving and Ventura County Behavioral Health's goals, contact David Tovar at (805) 981-9115 or David.Tovar@Ventura.org. Funding for the message is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, go to www.venturacountylimits.org.

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