



For Immediate Release

Captain Monica Alexander
Government and Media Relations

August 7, 2018

Contact: Trooper Chelsea A. Hodgson

Phone: (360) 265-1332

Email: Chelsea.Hodgson@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @wspd8pio

WSP sees increase of DUI's with minors in the vehicle throughout District 8

Bremerton – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is seeing an increase in the arrest of drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs whose passengers are children under the age of 16 throughout District 8, which includes Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties.

District 8 has averaged 30 DUI arrests with minors annually between 2007 and 2017. The district is only two arrests away from that average so far this year. WSP troopers arrested 28 DUI drivers with minors in the vehicle from January to July 2018, 11 of which occurred within the month of July.

In addition to a DUI charge, those caught driving with a minor in the vehicle could face additional charges of reckless endangerment for each minor passenger in the vehicle. WSP also contacts Child Protective Services, no matter the relation between driver and minor passenger.

The WSP is asking for your help in finding DUI drivers. Those who observe vehicles exhibiting signs of a possible driver under the influence of alcohol or drugs are asked to call 9-1-1 so law enforcement can respond. Calls to 9-1-1 to report emergencies are exempt under the new cell phone driving laws.

Examples of driving behaviors that could be indicators the driver is possibly under the influence include:

- Lane travel
- Shoulder driving
- Erratic braking
- Erratic lane changes
- Stopping short or beyond stop lines
- No headlights activated after dark
- Excessive speed
- Impeding traffic / inconsistent speeds

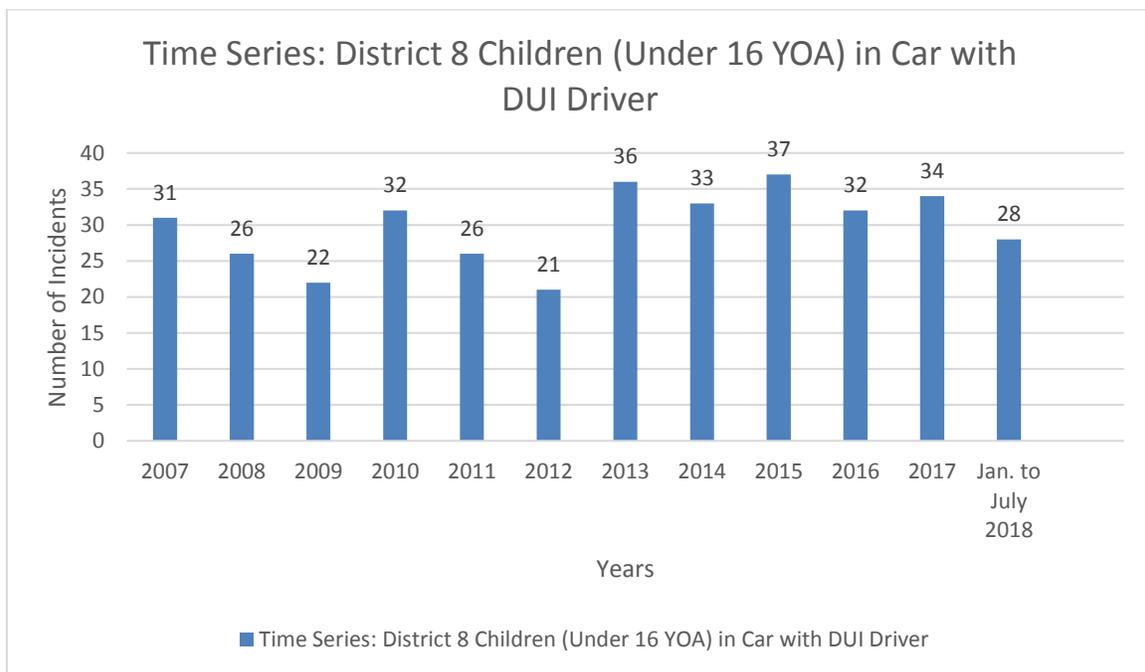
Do not attempt to contact a driver you feel is under the influence. Call and report the vehicle to 9-1-1 and follow the prompts provided by dispatchers. When calling, provide dispatchers with the license plate, make, model and color of the vehicle, as well as your location and any descriptions of the driver.

In some situations, when deemed safe, dispatchers will ask for updates on the vehicle's location and driving behavior. If the dispatcher deems the situation unsafe to have the caller continue following the vehicle, they will ask for that caller to stop. The WSP requests callers adhere to the suggestions provided by dispatchers.

Those who report a DUI driver may be asked to provide a written statement. Be sure to provide your name, phone number and email to dispatchers so investigating troopers can contact you.

In July, 2018, Washington State Patrol District 8 troopers investigated the following cases of DUI with minors in the vehicle:

Date	County	Location	Incident type	Children
July 4, 2018	Mason County	SR 106, MP 17 (South of Belfair)	One car-blocking collision	8-year-old
July 4, 2018	Pacific County	Oregon Avenue North and 13 th Street Northeast, Long Beach	Traffic stop	Two 11-year-olds
July 5, 2018	Grays Harbor County	SR 12 MP 15 (West of Elma)	Traffic stop	2-year-old
July 9, 2018	Kitsap County	SR 3 at SR 303 (Silverdale)	Traffic stop	10-year-old and 4-year-old
July 15, 2018	Kitsap County	SR 3 at SR 308 (North of Silverdale)	One-car, blocking, injury collision	9-year-old
July 21, 2018	Pacific County	SR 4 in Cathlamet	Traffic stop (called in as an erratic)	2-year-old
July 23, 2018	Clallam County	SR 112 and Front St. (Port Angeles)	One-car, injury collision	12-year-old
July 27, 2018	Mason County	Lake Nahwatzel	Traffic stop (called in as an erratic)	3-year-old
July 28, 2018	Kitsap County	SR 16 at Sedgwick (Port Orchard)	Traffic stop	9-year-old
July 28, 2018	Kitsap County	4200 Block Kitsap Way (Bremerton)	Traffic stop	15-year-old
July 29, 2018	Grays Harbor County	SR 8, MP 10 (McCleary)	Traffic stop (called in as an erratic)	10-year-old



###