

# Drunk Driving

Driving under the influence (DUI) is illegal nationwide; however, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on average, one person is killed every 53 minutes in a drunken driving-related crash. In Kentucky, approximately 17 percent of overall highway fatalities are caused by a drunken driver.

## DUI laws

### .08 Alcohol Concentration

- Alcohol concentration means either grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.
- A person's alcohol concentration can be measured through a blood test (BAC) or through a breath test (BRAC). If the test measures .08 or above, the person is legally impaired.



### Zero Tolerance

- It is illegal for persons under 21 to drive with a BAC of .02 or higher.

### High BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration)

- High BAC refers to a driver with a BAC of .15 or higher at the time of the arrest.

### Open Container

- It is illegal for occupants to have an open container of alcohol in the vehicle, preventing a driver from passing the alcohol to a friend or putting it in the back seat when pulled over.

### Repeat Offender

- Enhanced penalties for repeat offenders (two or more impaired driving offenses).

### Brianna Taylor Act

- Expands the “look-back” period for previous DUI convictions to ten years. Previously, the “look-back” period was five years.
- Allows a jury to hear about prior DUI convictions and impose stiffer penalties.
- Signed into law April 9, 2016.

### Ignition Interlock

- Requires repeat DUI offenders to blow into an ignition interlock device to start the vehicle.
- The vehicle will not start if the person's blood-alcohol concentration exceeds a .02 level.
- First-time DUI offenders are not required to have the device installed unless there is an aggravating circumstance, such as speeding or driving drunk with a child in the car.



**Drunken driving crashes are 100 percent preventable. If you *plan* on drinking alcohol, *plan* for a designated driver. Alcohol not only dangerously impairs your driving skills—it impairs your judgment. Do not wait until you've been drinking to find a sober driver.**

## Definition of a drink

- A 12-ounce beer or wine cooler
  - A 5-ounce glass of wine
- A straight or mixed drink made with 1.5 ounces of 80-proof liquor
- A straight or mixed drink made with 1 ounce of 100-proof liquor
  - A shot of any straight liquor

## Definition of binge drinking

- Four or more drinks in a sitting for women
- Five or more drinks in a sitting for men



The metabolism of alcohol takes place in the liver. The body can burn approximately one-half ounce of alcohol in one hour. The liver eliminates approximately 90 percent of the alcohol from the body. The rest is eliminated through the lungs, perspiration, and urine. A cold shower or cup of coffee will not sober you up. The only thing that works is time!

## Did you know?

- **IMPAIRED:** Your ability to think clearly and react appropriately isn't fully functional.
- **DRUNK:** Visibly impaired, such as staggering or slurring your speech.
- **INTOXICATED:** A legal term, reflecting the amount of alcohol in a person's blood.
- You can be **IMPAIRED** by alcohol or drugs long before you become **INTOXICATED** or **DRUNK**.
- The American Medical Association says the ability to drive is **IMPAIRED** at .04 or .05 BAC. At low levels of **INTOXICATION** you can "feel" more competent to drive than you did before you started drinking. This is a false security.

## Tips to prevent drunken driving

- Plan a way to get home safely before you start drinking and leave your keys at home.
- Use a taxi, public transportation or ride-booking program, or call a sober friend or family member.
- If you see a drunken driver, safely pull off the road and call law enforcement.
- Before you start driving, program the Kentucky State Police Hotline into your cell phone (1-800-222-555)



### For additional information:

- **Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility:** [www.responsibility.org](http://www.responsibility.org)
- **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD):** [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)
- **NHTSA Stop Impaired Driving Program:** [www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober](http://www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober)

