

# IMPAIRED DRIVING

Costs us all.



Alcohol-impaired driving is a deadly crime that is still prevalent throughout the United States and is especially common among males 21 to 34 years old.

Each year more than 12,000 people die from injuries sustained in crashes related to impaired driving. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics, there is an average of one fatality every 48 minutes from crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider with an illegal BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.

Alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes is four times higher at night than during the day. About one-third of drivers involved in fatal crashes on weekends are alcohol-impaired, compared with 16 percent on weekdays.

Impaired driving is not an accident — it's an epidemic of careless disregard for human life.

**To report an impaired driver,  
call 1-800-GRAB-DUI or \*DUI.**

# What is Blood Alcohol Concentration?

Blood alcohol concentration, or BAC, is a measure of the amount of alcohol in the body. BAC is measured by testing the breath, urine or saliva. In Ohio, you are considered impaired if you test .08 percent BAC. This means there is 8/10 of a drop of alcohol for every 1,000 drops of blood. If you are under the age of 21 and you test at least .02, or if you are a commercial driver and test at least .04, you are considered impaired.

Several factors affect a person's absorption of alcohol, including weight, gender, amount of food in the digestive tract and time spent drinking. The public most commonly associates BAC with drunk driving, but alcohol-impaired driving is more accurate because one does not have to be drunk (intoxicated) to be demonstrably impaired. Driving skills, especially judgment, are impaired in most people long before they exhibit visible signs of drunkenness.

## BAC and Areas of Impairment

- .03 — divided attention, choice reaction time, visual function, tracking and steering, standing steadiness, emergency responses
- .05 — information processing, judgment, coordination
- .08 — concentrated attention, speed control

## Tips for Detecting an Impaired Driver

- Movements are slow and inaccurate or fast and reckless
- Makes wide turns
- Stops in roadway without cause
- Sits through cycle of a traffic light without moving
- Straddles center or edge lines
- Signals one way and turns the other
- Drives without headlights at night
- Makes abrupt or incremented movements during turns
- Drives a path which is not on the designated roadway (or swerves off the road)



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