

**STOP  
DWI** New  
York

Community  
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**Facts  
About  
New York's  
.08 Standard  
for Driving  
While  
Intoxicated**

## What is the .08% Standard for Driving While Intoxicated?

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is defined as the level of alcohol in the blood stream. As the number of alcoholic beverages consumed over a period of time increases, so does the BAC. At .08% BAC, virtually everyone, including habitual drinkers, experiences some degree of driving skill impairment affecting eye movement, judgment, coordination, concentration, and speed control.

In a study published in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol (May 2000), results showed that a driver with a .08% BAC can be up to 50 times more likely to die in a crash than if he was completely sober (.00% BAC). At .10% BAC – the former BAC limit for driving while intoxicated in New York State - the same driver would be up to 240 times more likely to die in a crash caused by drunk driving. The degree of impairment varies for each individual according to the amount of alcohol consumed, body weight, length of time spent drinking, and whether the person ate before or while drinking alcohol.

Nationally 3 out of 10 people will be in an alcohol related crash in their lifetime.

### Always Be Aware of How Much You Drink!

Each of the following drinks contains an equal amount of alcohol ...



Beer  
12 oz.  
at 5%



Wine  
5 oz.  
at 12%



Liquor  
1½ oz.  
80 proof



Wine  
Cooler  
12 oz.  
at 5%

# What the .08% BAC Means to the Average Driver:



## The Degree of Impairment Depends on Four Basic Factors:

- 1 The amount you drink.
- 2 Whether you've eaten before or while drinking (food slows absorption).
- 3 Your body weight.
- 4 The length of time spent drinking.

Coffee cannot make someone sober. The person may be more awake, but just as intoxicated. Only time can make someone sober. It takes at least an hour per drink for the alcohol to leave the body's system.

Drivers at .08% BAC are four times more likely to cause a crash than .00% drivers.

Drivers at .15% BAC are twenty-five times more likely to cause a crash than .00% drivers.

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# The Cost of a Drunk Driving Conviction

## First Time Offender

Towing	\$75 +
Car Storage (per day)	\$45 +
Defense Attorney	\$1,500 +
Bail Fee	\$0 - \$500 +
DWI Fine	\$350 - \$1,000
State Surcharges	\$245 - \$395
Ignition Interlock	\$75 - 100 +
Interlock fee (6 mo min)	\$420 - \$600 +
Alcohol Evaluation	\$100 +
Victim Impact Panel	\$10 - \$50
Probation Supervision	\$0 - \$250 +
Conditional License	\$75
Drinking Driver Prog.	\$175 - \$225
DMV Civil Penalty	\$125 - \$750
DWI license reinstate	\$100
DMV susp. termination	\$50
Assessment	\$250/year for 3 years
Auto Insurance (per yr)	\$2,000 - \$3,000 +
TOTAL:	\$5,595 - \$9,140 +

## How a DWI Conviction Affects Auto Insurance

### Little known facts!

An insurance company can deny no fault coverage (personal injury protection for medical, rehabilitation, and loss of wages) to the driver that causes a motor vehicle crash due to alcohol/drug involvement.

An insurance company can deny parents whose child resides with them the standard or preferred rate due to the alcohol related driving offense of their child.

In other words, the insurance rates for parents could increase simply because their child lives with them and has a DWI conviction.



[www.stopdwi.org](http://www.stopdwi.org)

Funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.