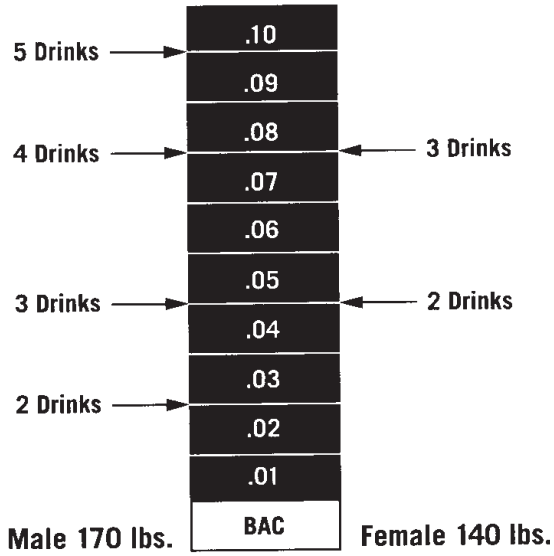
What is the .08% Standard for Driving While Intoxicated?

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is defined as the level of alcohol in the bloodstream. 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 drunk driving in New York – the same driver would be up to 240 times more likely to die in a drunk-driving crash. 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.

What .08% BAC Means To The Average Driver:



Always Be Aware of How Much You Drink!

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

Beer	Wine	Liquor	Wine Cooler
12oz. at 5%	5oz. at 12%	1 1/2oz. 80 proof	12oz. at 5%

Alcohol content between products will vary considerably depending on container size and percentage of alcohol.

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 drunk. 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.

.08
Don't blow it.

STOP DWI New York

The Cost of a Drunk Driving Conviction

First Time Offender

Towing		$ 50 plus
Car Storage (Fee Per Day)		$ 45 plus
Defense Attorney	$500 to	$1,500 plus
Bail Fee	0 to	$ 250 plus
DWI Fine	$300 to	$1,000
Court Surcharge for Crime Victims Assistance Fund		$ 20
Court Surcharge for Misdemeanor Level Crimes		$ 140
Alcohol Evaluation		$ 90 plus
DWI Victim Impact Panel Session		$ 25
Probation Supervision Fee	0 to	$ 250 plus
Conditional License		$ 75
Drinking Driver Program Fee		$ 175
DMV Civil Penalty		$ 125
DMV License Reinstatement Fee		$ 100
Auto Insurance (additional cost per year)	$2,000 to	$3,000
Total:	**$3,645 to**	**$6,845**

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.

A Message From County Executive Steve Levy

Amazing as it may seem, we still have to remind people from time to time about the dangers of drunk driving and its tragic consequences.

Nationwide, in just the past decade, nearly a quarter of a million people have had their lives cut short simply because someone attempted to drive drunk. It is an appalling statistic that causes family heartbreak from Suffolk County to San Francisco and nearly everywhere in between.

But in Suffolk, we are working hard to eliminate this plague of our roadways by treating it as the violent crime it is. Our police force has made tens of thousands of DWI arrests in just the past six years, and we have convicted more drunk drivers than ever before. By doing so, and by using better equipment and better methods of detection, we have cut the number of alcohol-related fatalities in half. And we are going to keep working to bring that number down.

If you care about eliminating drunk driving, you can do your part by reading this brochure and sharing it with those you care about. If you have any questions or require further information please call (631) 853-5715.

Sincerely,

Steve Levy

Steve Levy
County Executive

STOP DWI New York

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Facts About New York's .08 BAC Standard for Drunk Driving

.08
Don't blow it.

New York State
STOP-DWI Foundation