



Impaired Driving

Impaired driving is recognized as driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any other narcotics. In Kentucky in 2005, a total of 5,408 alcohol related crashes were reported, resulting in 206 deaths and 3,227 injuries. These crashes resulted in more than \$311 million in economic costs and millions more in losses to the quality of life.

Top Five Kentucky Impaired Driving Laws

.08 BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration)

- The amount of alcohol in a person's body is measured by the weight of the alcohol in a certain volume of blood. This is the blood alcohol concentration, or BAC
- BAC can only be determined with accurate testing: Breath test, Urinalysis and Blood test

Zero Tolerance

- It is illegal for persons under 21 to drive with a BAC of .02% or higher
- 35 percent of all fatal crashes for underage drivers involve alcohol*

High BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration)

- Refers to a driver with a BAC of .15 or higher at the time of the arrest
- High-BAC offenders require additional sanctions and treatment that "normal" DUI sanctions cannot provide
- 58 percent of alcohol-related fatalities involve someone with a .15 BAC or higher*

Open Container

- It is illegal for passenger(s) to have an open container of alcohol in the vehicle
- Prevents a driver from passing the alcohol to a friend or putting it in the back seat when pulled over
- States see a 5.1% decrease in fatal crash rates after passing an open container law*

Repeat Offender

- Repeat offenders are those who have two or more impaired driving offences
- Creates enhanced penalties for subsequent offenders
- About one-third of all DUI arrests each year are of people who have been convicted previously of driving under the influence*

Get The Keys: How You Can Intervene

1. First try using a soft and calm approach. Suggest they've had too much to drink and it would be better if someone else drove or they took a cab. Joke about it. Make light of it.
2. If it's a stranger, speak to their friends so they may persuade them to hand over the keys.
3. Locate their keys while they are preoccupied and take them away.
4. Tell them if they insist on driving you are not going with them. Volunteer to call someone else or a cab. Make it sound like you are doing them a favor.
5. If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

*Source: MADD: Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Impaired Driving *(continued)*

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 1/2-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

Top Five Alcohol Myths and Facts

MYTH: Beer doesn't affect my driving as much as other alcoholic drinks.

FACT: A glass of beer contains the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine or average cocktail. Alcohol is alcohol—it's just packaged differently!

MYTH: Alcohol won't affect me much if I have something to eat.

FACT: Drinking on a full stomach may slow the progress of alcohol into the bloodstream, but overall is not much different than drinking on an empty stomach.

MYTH: A cold shower or cup of coffee will sober me up.

FACT: Only time reduces the effects of alcohol. It is a drug and must be metabolized or "burned off" in order to be eliminated from your body.

MYTH: Alcohol can't hurt me, except for giving me a huge hangover.

FACT: Large amounts of alcohol can do major damage to your digestive system. It can hurt your heart, liver, stomach, and other critical organs as well as taking years from your life. If you drink enough fast enough, you could die within a matter of hours.

MYTH: Drugs are a bigger problem than alcohol.

FACT: Alcohol and tobacco kill more than 50 times the number of people killed by cocaine, heroin, and every other illegal drug combined.

For more information:

- AAA Exchange: www.aaapublicaffairs.com
- Coalition To End Needless Death On Our Roadways: www.endneedlessdeath.org
- FACE Resources, Training and Action on Alcohol Issues: www.faceproject.org
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP): www.letssaveyounglives.org
- Keep It Real Campaign to Reduce Underage Drinking: www.keep-it-real.us
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD): www.madd.org
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA): www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- NHTSA Stop Impaired Driving Program: www.stopimpaireddriving.org
- STOP Underage Drinking: www.stopalcoholabuse.gov
- Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD): www.sadd.org
- Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center: www.udetc.org