NRSPP
NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM

Drink-driving

QUICK FACTS

Why is drink-driving a problem?

Alcohol impairs driving skills and increases crash risk. It is responsible for a high proportion of crashes globally and nationally. In Australia, drink driving is responsible for 18% - 30% percent of fatalities or over 200 deaths annually.

What is BAC?

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the amount of alcohol in the body. BAC is measured in grams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

Does everyone have the same BAC after consuming say, 1 standard drink?

No. The BAC level is dependant on factors such as:

Quantity of alcohol consumed

Duration over which the alcohol is consumed

Your body mass index, fitness level and health of organs

Did you know?

Approximately 1 in 5 drivers and riders killed have a BAC above the legal limit of 0.05

How does alcohol impair performance?

Alcohol affects each individual in a different way and to a different extent each day so it's not possible to identify a 'safe' amount of alcohol to consume.
Alcohol intake affects:

BAC level and its affects:

0.02 to 0.05 BAC - Below the legal limit.
Reduced:

- Ability to see moving lights correctly
- Ability to respond to several stimuli
- Ability to judge distances

Increased:

- Tendency to take risks

0.05 to 0.08 BAC - Drivers are five times more likely to have a road incident than before they started drinking.
Reduced:

- Ability to judge distances
- Sensitivity to red lights
- Reaction time
- Concentration span

0.08 to 0.12 BAC - Drivers are up to 10 times more likely to have a road incident than before they started drinking.
Reduced:

- Peripheral vision (resulting in accidents due to hitting vehicles in passing)
- Perception of obstacles

Increased:

- Euphoria
- Overestimation of one's abilities leads to reckless driving