

# Reducing Alcohol-Impaired Driving: 0.08% Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Laws

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## Task Force Finding

### Intervention Definition

These laws establish the illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 g/dL for drivers aged 21 years and older (lower BAC levels are established for drivers 20 years old and younger).

### Task Force Finding (August 2000)\*

The 0.08% BAC laws are strongly recommended based on their effectiveness in reducing alcohol-related crash fatalities in the United States. No harms or other potential benefits were reported and no qualifying economic information was identified from the literature.

\*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants: increasing child safety seat use, increasing safety belt use, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):16–22.

### Publications

Shults RA, Elder RW, Sleet DA, et al. Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to reduce alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):66–88.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants: increasing child safety seat use, increasing safety belt use, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;21(4S):16–22.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. [Motor-vehicle occupant injury: strategies for increasing use of child safety seats, increasing use of safety belts, and reducing alcohol-impaired driving](#) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5007a1.htm]. *MMWR Recommendations and Reports* 2001;50(RR07):1-13.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Motor vehicle occupant injury. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:329-84 (Out of Print).

Mercer SL, Sleet DA, Elder RA, Cole KH, RA Shults, Nichols JL. Translating evidence into policy: lessons learned from the case of lowering the legal blood alcohol limit for drivers. *Annals of Epidemiology* 2010;20(6):412-20.

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### Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

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