
0.08 Fact Sheet

In Minnesota, It's 0.08 — Don't Blow It.

On August 1, 2005, Minnesota law enforcement personnel will begin enforcing a new legal alcohol-concentration level of 0.08 *per se*. This change in the law means vehicle operators will be arrested for DWI at that level or above while driving — and below that level if law enforcement can prove alcohol caused the operator to make driving errors. The previous legal limit was 0.10.

What's the point of 0.08?

- § At 0.08, driver reaction time, visual function, information processing and judgment are seriously impaired.
- § The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) estimates a 0.08 law would have saved 70 lives and \$70 million over the last five-year period if the law had been in effect.
- § Since the law will be in effect on Aug. 1, 2005, the state will receive nearly \$20 million dollars that were being withheld by the federal government for not passing the 0.08 law before 2003. The money is for building and improving state and local roads.

What have the results of the 0.08 law been in neighboring states?

- § Wisconsin has seen a nearly 2 percent decrease in alcohol-related crashes and almost a 14 percent decrease in alcohol-related fatalities a year after implementing a 0.08 law. Those arrested for DWI also had lower alcohol-concentration levels — the median level decreased by 2.5 percent from the previous year.
- § In 2003, North Dakota began enforcing a 0.08 law. A year later, the number of alcohol-related fatal crashes decreased from 48 to 38 and the average alcohol-concentration level among those arrested for DWI decreased from 0.176 to 0.169.
- § Since South Dakota put 0.08 in effect in 2002, alcohol-related fatal and injury crashes have decreased by 2.1 percent from the average of the previous three years and DWI arrests increased by 3.5 percent in 2004 from the average of the previous three years.

Minnesota impaired driving facts

- § Alcohol-related crashes account for 36 percent to 40 percent of all traffic deaths each year.
- § In the last five years, 1,127 people have died in alcohol-related traffic crashes, costing the state nearly \$1.2 billion
- § In the last five years, 168,462 motorists have been arrested for DWI — 34,000 in 2004 alone.
- § One in nine Minnesotans with a driving record has a DWI.
- § It's a statewide problem — the Twin Cities metro area and the 80-county greater Minnesota region each account for half of all DWI arrests.