



**A common-sense proposal to diminish
drunk driving in the Great Lakes State**

.05 Saves Lives – Michigan Coalition

Who we are:

A coalition of private citizens and public policy professionals from across Michigan dedicated to ensuring our roads are safe, our communities strong and our businesses thriving.

The problem: Drunk driving is a public health disaster

It's no secret that drunk driving is a hazard, but the extent of easily preventable tragedy it causes remains shocking:

- **Drunk driving is the No. 1 cause of traffic deaths in Michigan¹**
 - In 2022, 322 people were killed in crashes in which the driver was impaired by alcohol.²
 - Alcohol-involved crashes are disproportionately deadly. They accounted for just 3.2% of collisions in 2022, but 28.7% of deaths.^{3 & 4}
- **Drunk driving is expensive**
 - The total cost of drunk driving includes medical and mental healthcare expenses, work loss, public services, legal fees, property damage and more.⁵
 - In 2021, the comprehensive cost associated with each alcohol-involved fatality in Michigan was \$11,509,95.
 - This equals \$3.867 billion for the year.
- **The problem isn't going away with current policy**
 - Year-over-year changes in alcohol-related traffic fatalities have been minor, ranging between 250-350 per year over the past decade.¹
 - This can't be simply the cost of doing business. Change is needed.



322
**FATALITIES
IN 2022**

\$3.8B
**ASSOC. COSTS
IN 2021**



The Simple, Cost-Free Solution: Lower the Limit

We don't accept drunk driving deaths! It's time to take effective action. Michigan should pass a law lowering the blood-alcohol content (BAC) threshold for impairment while driving from .08% to .05% immediately.

Lowering the legal impairment standard from .08% to .05% is a common-sense reform with a broad base of support.

- National public safety campaigns have emphasized that "buzzed driving is drunk driving." This measure gives the slogan added emphasis.
 - Individuals with a BAC of .05 already experience reduced coordination, ability to track moving objects, difficulty steering and reduced response times.⁶
 - People with a BAC of .05-.079% are 7-21x more likely to die in a single-car crash than unimpaired drivers.⁷



Join the cause

- A majority of countries enforce a BAC driving limit of .05% or lower.⁸
- Surveys have found that approximately 68% of the U.S. supports a BAC limit of .05%.⁹
- The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended states adopt a BAC limit of .05% since 2013.¹⁰
- The BAC limit for commercial drivers is already .04%.¹¹



Instant impact

A BAC limit of .05% brings immediate results.

- In 2018, Utah became the first U.S. state to adopt a .05% BAC limit. Since then:
 - The fatal crash rate dropped 19.8% the next year.¹²
 - 22.1% of Utah drinkers indicated they had changed their behaviors around drinking and driving.¹³



Not prohibition

A .05% BAC limit encourages personal responsibility, not teetotaling. There is no evidence of broad changes in total consumption or harm to business.

In Utah:

- Since the .05% BAC limit enactment Dec.30, 2018, alcohol sales continued to increase — up 22.9% through 2023.¹⁴
 - Sales tax revenues from restaurants, rental cars, hotels and resorts, air travel into the state, and state and national park visits followed suit.¹⁵
- It takes four drinks for the average (170-pound) male to exceed .05% BAC in two hours on an empty stomach and three drinks for the average (137-pound) female.¹⁶



Who's with us?

- Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM)
- National Road Safety Foundation
- National Safety Council (NSC)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- World Health Organization
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
- Governors Highway Safety Association
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)



For sources and more information, visit micap.org/issue-brief

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