



 ≪ Traffic Safety ential Initiative For Making .08 BAC The National Legal Limit - A Progress Report

Traffic Safety Facts
Traffic Tech - Technology Transfer Service

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590

PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE FOR MAKING .08 BAC THE NATIONAL LEGAL LIMIT - A Progress Report

since the President gave the directive. The report documents activity in support of .08 BAC in five areas: executive leadership, legislation, research and evaluation, federal agencies, and private sector partners. Here are a few highlights from the progress report

n December 1998, President Clinton stressed the importance of lowering the national impaired driving standard to .08 percent blood alcohol content in his weekly radio address to the nation. The President commended the 16 states and the District of Columbia for adopting the stricter standard and piedged to make .08 the rule on federal property.

Legislative Activity

On June 9, 1998, President Clinton signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), TEA-21 provided \$500 million in incentive grants over six years to states that have enacted and are enforcing a .08 BAC per se law.

In the 1999 state legislative sessions, 23 states introduced .08 legislation. Texas and the District of Columbia were successful in passing .08 legislation. In 1999, 17 states and the District of Columbia received incentive grants totaling 557.4 million for legally lowering and actively enforcing the .08 BAC threshold for impaired driving

Research and Evaluation

Since 1991, there have been seven published studies reparding the effectiveness of .08 BAC laws in reducing alcohol-related fatal crashes. These studies have involved a number of research and funding organizations and they have examined the experiences of 14 of the states which have enacted .08 BAC laws. This

Federal Agency Activity

- Department of Differes Legislative Progrand for Final Year 2000 contained a provision to amend the Uniform Code of Military Judics, from 0.10 grains to 0.00 grains, the blood and brash alknowled blooks for the efficience of durintens operation of a vehicle, account to 0.00 grains, the blood and brash alknowled blooks for the difference of the provision of the

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Many private sector organizations have also joined the effort to make .08 BAC the national standard. Below is a sample of their activities:

NHTSA, will widely distribute this progress report to members of Congress and our partners at the national, state, and locals levels. For a copy of Presidential Initiative for Making, 08 BAC the National Legal Limit: A Progress Report (13 pages) write to the Media and Marketing Division, NHTSA, NTS-21, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 2050; or send fax to (202) 493-2062.

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