

## How Many Drinks It Takes

Virginia's new law stipulates that drivers caught with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.15 - nearly twice the legal limit of 0.08 - will be required to spend at least five days in jail, even if they are first-time offenders.

Approximate blood alcohol percentage

— Drivers with blood alcohol levels of 0.08 percent or higher are DUI.

— Drivers with blood alcohol levels of 0.15 percent or higher will be jailed.

WOMEN: BODY WEIGHT IN POUNDS										MEN: BODY WEIGHT IN POUNDS								
DRINKS	90	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	DRINKS	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240
0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	1	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
2	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	2	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03
3	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	3	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05
4	0.20	0.18	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.08	4	0.15	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.06
5	0.25	0.23	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.09	5	0.19	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.08
6	0.30	0.27	0.23	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.11	6	0.23	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.09
7	0.35	0.32	0.27	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.16	0.14	0.13	7	0.28	0.22	0.19	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.11
8	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.28	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.15	8	0.30	0.25	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.14	0.13
9	0.45	0.41	0.34	0.29	0.26	0.23	0.20	0.19	0.17	9	0.34	0.28	0.24	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.14
10	0.51	0.45	0.38	0.32	0.28	0.25	0.23	0.21	0.19	10	0.38	0.31	0.27	0.23	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.16

NOTE: Subtract 0.01 percent for each 40 minutes of drinking. One drink is 1.25 oz of 80 proof liquor, 5.2 oz of beer or 5 oz of table wine.

### Stages of alcohol intoxication

The degree to which the central nervous system's functioning is impaired is directly proportional to the concentration of alcohol in the blood. The clinical symptoms experienced at blood alcohol levels:

0.01 - 0.05	0.03 - 0.12	0.09 - 0.25	0.18 - 0.30	0.25 - 0.40	0.35 - 0.50	0.45 +
Behavior nearly normal by ordinary observation.	Mild euphoria; Increased self-confidence; Decreased inhibitions; Beginning of sensory-motor impairment.	Loss of critical judgment; Increased reaction time; Reduced visual acuity; Lack of sensory-motor coordination.	Disorientation; Dizziness; Increased pain threshold; slurred speech; apathy; lethargy.	Loss of motor functions; Decreased response to stimuli; Inability to stand or walk; Vomiting; Incontinence stupor.	Coma; Depressed or abolished reflexes; subnormal body temperature; incontinence; impairment of circulation and respiration; possible death.	Death from respiratory arrest.

SOURCES: Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board; Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control