

All Australian states and territories have a limited tolerance for people driving under the influence of alcohol. The threshold is a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.05 in all states and territories for drivers on their full licence. Probationary licence holders are not permitted to have any trace of alcohol in their blood when driving. Penalties for breaching these laws are severe.



#### DRIVERS WHO ADMIT TO DRINK-DRIVING

- Four in 10 drivers (37 per cent) admit to having driven when over the legal drink-drive limit
  - Most men aged 35-54 (52 per cent) say they have probably driven when over the legal drink-drive limit – the highest of all age groups surveyed; women aged 55 years or older are the least likely to have done this
  - The Northern Territory, more than any other state/territory, has a higher proportion of drink drivers
  - Drivers of utility vehicles are the most likely to say they have driven when probably over the drink-drive limit, followed by 4WD drivers (58 per cent and 40 per cent respectively) (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
  
- One in 10 drivers (9 per cent) believes it is OK for them to drink and drive after a few drinks, so long as they feel capable
  - Men and Tasmanian drivers are the most likely to agree that they should be able to drive after a few drinks, so long as they feel capable (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

#### FAST FACTS

Approximately 26 per cent of drivers and motorcycle riders killed on Australian roads have a BAC higher than the legal limit (source: *National Road Safety Action Plan 2005-2006*, Australian Transport Council)

BAC is a measure of the amount of alcohol in a person's blood: the number of grams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood e.g. a BAC of 0.05 means 0.05 grams or 50 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of blood. As a driver's BAC increases, so too does their risk of being involved in a crash:

**0.05** double the risk

**0.08** seven times the risk

**0.15** 25 times the risk

(source: RTA NSW 2005)

Novice drivers who have any alcohol in their blood are at a much higher risk of crashing, which is why they are restricted to a zero alcohol limit (source: RTA NSW 2005)

# Drink Driving

Continued

## AVOIDING THE 'BOOZE BUS'

- Approximately one in six drivers (15 per cent) says that sometimes when they have been drinking, they have taken a different route to avoid being breathalysed
  - Men are twice as likely as women to take a different route to avoid being breathalysed
  - Younger men, Tasmanian and Northern Territory drivers are more likely to engage in this behaviour (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)

## THE MORNING AFTER

- Nearly half of all drivers (45 per cent) says that after a night of heavy drinking, they have been concerned that they have been over the limit when driving the following day
  - Men, particularly young men, are the most likely to be worried about their blood alcohol content (BAC) the day after a night of heavy drinking
  - Young women are also more likely to be worried than their older counterparts
  - Northern Territory drivers are the least worried about being over the BAC limit the next day (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)

