

the RED CUP

Q&A



separating alcohol fact from fiction
EVERY TUESDAY IN THE DAILY WILDCAT

Q Can you get a DUI if you are under a 0.08 BAC and what are the consequences?

A. Yes, you can. Arizona has some of the strictest laws and consequences associated with driving under the influence. In 1990 Arizona adopted a zero tolerance law that states if a person is **impaired to the slightest degree**, then they can be arrested and charged with a DUI.

What does “impaired to the slightest degree” mean? Law enforcement officers are experienced in recognizing alcohol impairment that causes erratic or illegal driving behaviors, lack of coordination and balance, slurred speech, jerky eye movements, and more. Officers can determine from their investigation (driving, first contact, a field sobriety test) that an individual is impaired and unsafe to drive a car, and can make an arrest. BAC can be tested in the field or at the police station.

What are the consequences of a DUI? Besides expenses that come from getting a DUI there are also emotional costs and lost time.

- First Offense: Slightest Degree 0.08 or above
 - Up to 10 days in jail
 - Minimum \$250 fine and \$200 surcharge. Additional assessment charge of \$1000
 - Loss of license for 90-360 days.
- Emotional problems associated with injury to yourself or others
- All individuals convicted of a DUI must have an ignition interlock system installed in their car for a year, costing roughly \$1000 in fees and installation.
- Missed work or school
- Stress related to getting places without a car
- Increased auto insurance rates

DUI at 0.15 BAC or above is considered an Extreme DUI and receives higher fines, jail time, and stricter punishments than a regular DUI.

Word to the wise: when you go out at night, have a plan on how you are going to get home. Whether you decide to crash on a friend's couch, have a designated driver, or take a taxi, any of these options are better than the consequences of driving under the influence.

Guest columnist: Brittnee Eiler, Public Health Senior



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A DUI under age 21 is often called a “baby DUI.” The individual goes through the same process as a regular DUI and can incur additional citations (MIP).



Got a question about alcohol?

Email it to redcup@email.arizona.edu



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