

Illegal BAC Levels and Maximum Legal Speed Limits

State	Illegal BAC Levels ¹	Maximum Legal Speed Limits ²
California	.08 1990-1999	65 on freeways since 12/95; 70 on rural freeways since 1/96
Florida	.08 since 1/94; .12 prior	70 on some interstates (IS) since 4/96; 65 on some 4-lane roads since 11/96
Georgia	.10 1990-1999	70 on IS and some "look-alikes" and 65 urban IS since 7/96
Illinois	.08 since 7/97; .10 prior	65 on urban IS since 11/95
Indiana	.10 1990-1999	65: No speed limit increase 1990-1999
Kansas	.08 since 7/93; .10 prior	70 on IS, 65 on other primary roads since 3/96
Maryland	.10 1990-1999	60 or 65 on urban IS since 7/96
Michigan	.10 1990-1999	70 on IS since 12/96
Missouri	.10 1990-1999	70 on IS and on any road with safety study since 3/96
New Mexico	.08 since 1/94; .10 prior	75 on IS, 70 on 4-lane with shoulders, 65 on 2-lane with shoulders, and 60 on 2-lane without shoulders since 5/96
North Carolina	.08 since 10/93; .10 prior	70 on IS since 8/96

State	Illegal BAC Levels ¹	Maximum Legal Speed Limits ²
Ohio	.10 1990-1999	65 on IS since 2/96
Pennsylvania	.10 1990-1999	75 on turnpike and 65 on select roads since 12/95
Texas	.08 since 9/99; .10 prior	70 on IS (during day) since 12/95
Utah	.08 1990-1999	75 on IS since 3/96
Virginia	.08 since 7/94; .10 prior	65: No speed limit increase 1990-1999
Washington	.08 since 1/99; .10 prior	70 on IS since 3/96

¹ The amount of alcohol in a person's body is measured by the weight of the alcohol in a certain volume of blood. This is called blood alcohol concentration (BAC). The measurement is based on grams per deciliter (g/dl), and in most states a person is considered legally intoxicated if his or her BAC is .10 g/dl or greater; that is, alcohol makes up one-tenth of one percent of the person's blood. In 1995, NHTSA held a national summit with state and community leaders to create a new comprehensive strategy to reduce impaired driving nationwide. In 1998, President Clinton called for the promotion of a national legal limit, under which it would be illegal per se to operate a motor vehicle with a BAC of .08 or higher, across the country, including on Federal property. In 1998 Congress passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorizing highway, highway safety and other programs for the next six years. While TEA-21 did not establish .08 as the standard for impaired driving nationwide, it did provide \$500 million of incentive grants over six years to states that have enacted and are enforcing a .08 BAC law.

² The National Highway System Designation Act (NHS Act) of 1995 (Public Law 104-59) was signed into law on November 28, 1995. The NHS Act, among other things, eliminated the Federal mandate for the National Maximum Speed Limit (NMSL). In so doing, the NHS Act ended a period of more than 20 years of Federal involvement in the states' establishment of speed limits. The speed limits listed here may have been changed in some states since 1999.