

How Body Weight Affects BAC

In every state across the nation, the legal blood alcohol content (BAC) limit for drivers 21 years and older is .08 percent (though the limit for commercial truck drivers and underage drivers may be much lower). If an officer finds that your BAC is over your state's legal limit, you may be placed under arrest and charged with driving under the influence (DUI).

BAC is determined by a number of factors, such as gender, rate of alcohol consumption, medication, and food. Another factor that plays a role in your BAC is body weight.

Body Weight and BAC

When you consume alcohol, it is absorbed into the body at different points along the gastrointestinal tract, with the majority being absorbed at the smaller intestine. Typically, the alcohol concentration peaks within one to four hours, depending on the individual. While alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream, it is naturally drawn to water and is normally found in body tissue.

In general, individuals with less body weight will have a higher BAC than an individual with a higher body weight after consuming the same number of drinks. This is due to individuals with a lower body weight having less water in their bodies, which means that there is a higher concentration of alcohol within the bloodstream.

Body fat also affects BAC. If you take two people--one who has a lower body fat percentage and one who has a higher amount of body fat--the individual with more body fat will have a higher BAC. This is because fat does not have as much water as lean tissue.

This is also where gender comes in; women typically have less body weight than men, but have more fatty tissue. Therefore, if a man and a woman consume the same amount of alcohol, the woman will likely have a higher BAC and thus be more likely to be arrested for DUI.

There are many charts available that estimate an individual's BAC after consuming alcohol based on gender and weight; however, these are only estimates and may not match up with an official breathalyzer test. As mentioned earlier, there are a number of other factors that could have an impact on your BAC. A good rule of thumb is to avoid getting behind the wheel of a car if you feel like your driving abilities have been affected by the consumption of alcohol.

Contact a Broward County Criminal Defense Attorney

If you have been arrested for DUI, it is important that you speak with a [Broward County criminal defense attorney](#) as soon as possible. The sentence for DUI offenders in Florida is harsh, and may include imprisonment, probation, loss of driving privileges, and much more. The attorneys at Falk & Ross Law Firm are dedicated to defending individuals who have been accused of this serious crime. For a free consultation on your Broward County case, call 877-663-5110 or 305-741-6997 today.