



Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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madd.org

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March 1, 2021

MADD supports HB 4308 and HB 4309 to help stop drunk driving

The Honorable Graham Filler
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Filler and House Judiciary Committee Members,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges you to support and advance HB 4308 by Representative Hammoud and HB 4309 by Chairman Filler, which eliminates the sunset provision of Michigan's .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) law.

In September 2003, .08 BAC became the illegal threshold for driving drunk in Michigan. As a result of Michigan's .08 law, in addition to the efforts of law enforcement and an increasing use of ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers, drunk driving deaths have decreased by 23%. All states have had a .08 law in place since 2005, which has contributed to a significant decline in drunk driving deaths across the United States.

Attempting to drive with a .08 BAC is dangerous and deadly. When drivers reach .08 BAC, their critical driving skills, such as judging distance and speed, steering, visual tracking, concentration, braking and staying in driving lanes, are severely impaired (Moskowitz, 2000). In addition, a person who is at a .08 BAC is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink (Zador, 2000) (Keall et al, 2004).

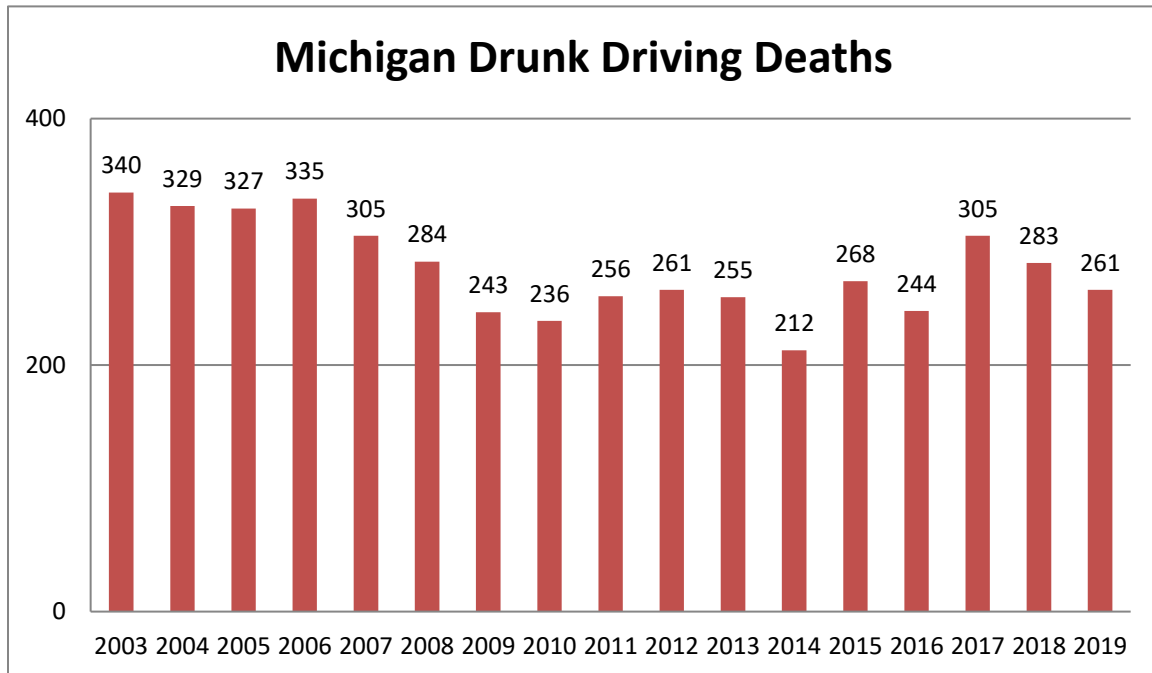
MADD is not against people age 21 and over consuming alcohol, and Michigan's .08 law does not stop people from drinking alcohol. It helps stop drunk driving. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that to reach a .08 BAC, men must typically consume five or more drinks, and women must typically consume four or more drinks, in about two hours. This dispels the myth that someone can be arrested for drunk driving at .08 BAC after one beer at a ball game or a glass of champagne at a wedding.

MADD encourages you to support and advance HB 4308 and HB 4309. MADD believes Michigan's 23% reduction in drunk driving deaths is due in part to the .08 law. Enclosed is more information on .08. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alex Otte
MADD National President

Since .08 was implemented in Michigan in 2003, there has been a 23 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths. *Source: NHTSA*



Blood alcohol concentration is a measure of how much alcohol is in someone's blood. It is the most accurate and measurable gauge of alcohol impairment.

12 oz.
5% alcohol

5 oz.
12% alcohol

1.5 oz.
40% alcohol

.08 BAC

- Trouble controlling speed
- Difficulty processing information and reasoning
- Reduced coordination and ability to track moving objects
- Difficulty steering
- 11 times more likely to cause a crash compared to a sober driver

TO GET TO THE ILLEGAL .08 BAC LEVEL, A 160-POUND MALE MUST DRINK **FOUR DRINKS IN AN HOUR.**