

## U.S. Safety Board Proposes Lower BAC Standard

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### EXTRA EXTRA!

Want to go out for a drink with friends? With Arizona already being one of the strictest enforcers for laws against driving under the influence, people are already accustomed to having a designated driver or reserving a taxi at the end of the night. However, recently the National Transportation Safety Board has suggested lowering the drinking alcohol content level from 0.8 to 0.5 nationally. This would mean a grown man would reach the Blood Alcohol Content level of 0.5 if he had about 2-3 drinks within an hour.

Because each state determines its own BAC Standard, the law cannot be implemented unless each individual state agrees on it. The Safety Board is encouraging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to offer financial incentives to individual states to encourage them to enforce these changes.

If this law was put into effect in each state, it would result in a lot of strong reactions against such higher alcohol restrictions, but it is also predicted to result in saving of lives. Driving under the influence is one of the main killers in the United States. About 10,000 people each year die due to alcohol related incidents. If this law were enforced, it is predicted to reduce the number of deaths each year by an estimated 500 to 800 lives.