

## FAQ

### **What is a BAC?**

BAC stands for Blood-Alcohol Content. It measures the amount of ethanol in the blood as grams per deciliter (g/dL). Police use breathalyzers to measure a suspected drunk driver's BAC, which can be used as evidence of impairment.

### **What is the BAC law in Ohio?**

In Ohio, any driver with a BAC of .08 g/dL (.08%) can be charged with a DUI per se. In other words, a .08 g/dL is sufficient, but not necessary, evidence to charge a motorist with DUI. A driver can still be charged with a DUI if the officer suspects he is impaired even if his BAC is less than .08 g/dL. This is often the case when motorists are high on narcotics.

### **What are DUI Checkpoints?**

DUI checkpoints are a high-visibility enforcement effort to get drunk drivers off the road. As cars enter the checkpoint, an officer will direct them to pass by or stop them briefly and to ask a few questions. If an officer suspects the driver has been drinking, the car is then diverted to the side of the road for further questioning. DUI checkpoints can be successful in two ways. First, they can directly catch drivers who have been drinking and get them off the road. Second, the high-visibility of the checkpoint acts as a deterrent to would-be drunk drivers. Both situations help make the roads safer.

### **What are Saturation Patrols?**

Saturation patrols involve one or more extra police officer patrolling the streets at night. Like DUI checkpoints, saturation patrols can be successful in two ways. Drunk drivers are more likely to be caught with extra enforcement. The extra enforcement also gives residents the impression the police are looking for drunk drivers and hence has a deterrent effect.

### **Are DUI Checkpoints illegal?**

A Supreme Court ruling in 1990 declared that sobriety checkpoints do not infringe on constitutional rights, and are necessary for public safety to deter and detect drunk drivers. Eleven states have ruled that checkpoints violate their state constitutions. The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled in favor of DUI checkpoints.

### **What does OVI stand for?**

OVI is an acronym for Operating a Vehicle Impaired. It is synonymous with DUI (Driving under the influence). OVI is a relatively new term used in Ohio. Since more people are familiar with the term DUI, it is the one used most often throughout this site.