Stages of Intoxication

Reduced Awareness, Information Processing, and Visual Acuity (BAC = 0.01 to 0.12 percent)
- More self-confident or daring
- Shortened attention span
- Overconfident
- Poor judgment—may say or do the first thing that comes to mind, rather than an appropriate response or action for the given situation
- Unpredictable, impulsive, careless, distractive

Reduced Muscle Coordination (BAC = 0.09 to 0.25 percent)
- Loss of judgment
- They have trouble understanding or remembering things (even important events)
- Does not react to situations as quickly
- Body movements uncoordinated—small and large muscle coordination loss
- Poor balance
- Blurry vision, side vision impaired, loss of glare recovery
- May have trouble sensing things (hearing, tasting, feeling, seeing)
- Indecisive, unreasonable

Confusion (BAC = 0.18 to 0.30 percent)
- Confused—might not know where they are or what they are saying
- Dizzy and may stagger
- May be highly emotional—aggressive, with drawn or overly happy
- Cannot see clearly
- Sleepy
- Slurred speech
- Uncoordinated movement (trouble catching an object thrown to them)
- May not feel pain as readily as a sober person

Stupor (BAC = 0.25 to 0.49 percent)
- Can barely move
- Cannot respond to stimuli
- Cannot stand or walk
- May vomit
- May lapse in and out of consciousness

Coma (BAC = 0.35 to 0.50 percent)
- Unconscious
- Reflexes are depressed (i.e., pupils do not respond appropriately to changes in light)
- Skin feels cool (lower-than-normal body temperature)
- Breathing is slower and more shallow
- Heart rate may slow
- May die

Death (BAC = 0.50 + percent)
The person's autonomic nervous system shuts down. This system controls those things that a person does not have to think about in order to function (i.e., breathing, heartbeat, circulation, digestion, etc.)

Increased Probability of Causing a Crash
- 0.06%–2X
- 0.08%–3X–4X
- 0.10%–6X
- 0.16%–35X

Above information shows the BAC level at which the effect usually is first observed, and in some areas will overlap because of individuals' variables. Information gathered from a variety of sources, including the National Health and Traffic Safety Administration, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the American Medical Association, the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, (www.webMD.com).


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