### Open Container Laws

## Talking Points

Join the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind drivers and passengers that while the ability to transport containers of alcohol from restaurants may have changed, it is still illegal in most communities to have open containers of alcohol in a vehicle. Most importantly: It is never okay to consume alcohol while driving.

**Overview**

* Some laws governing alcohol service and delivery have either temporarily or permanently changed.
* Many states and communities now permit restaurants to offer cocktails to go, allowing restaurants to offer beer, wine, and spirits for carryout in addition to on-site consumption.
* While alcohol carryout is now easier in many states, it’s never okay to drink and drive.
* For some, even one drink may be one drink too many.
* Wait until you arrive at your final destination before you drink your beverage.
* Nationally, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05 g/dL.

**Laws**

**The Cost of Drunk Driving**

* The financial impact from impaired-driving crashes is devastating: Crashes in which alcohol was the cause resulted in $57 billion in economic costs.
* Drinking and driving is a risk no one should take; doing so can cause injury or death to the driver, passengers, and others on the road. The consequences of drunk driving could be life-altering.

**Stats**

For more information about the *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving* campaign, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).