

time/space for distribution. It was concluded that the combined effects of the sanctions and the PI&E campaign were associated with an estimated reduction in accident-involved drivers under 21 years of age judged HBD of approximately 50% in six experimental counties. Thus, the addition of localized PI&E *which emphasized the penalties for violation of the law* appeared to increase quite substantially the beneficial effects of the sanction.

Given the extent of benefits documented for the Maryland sanction and the PI&E enhancement, it is reasonable to conclude that a lower BAC restriction for youth is a countermeasure which should be widely implemented. There is no evidence from the present study that Maryland itself or its implementation of the countermeasure were in any way atypical of the U.S. in general. Therefore, there is reason to believe that other locales can achieve safety benefits analogous to those observed in Maryland if they adopt and publicize similar sanctions.

REDUCED BAC LIMITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Ralph Hingson, Timothy Heeren, Jonathon Howland, and Michael Winter, Boston University School of Public Health

[From *Alcohol, Drugs and Driving*, 7:2:117-127]

Since 1983, nine states have passed laws that lower the legal BAC level for adolescent drivers. This paper

examines fatal crash data in the four states that passed laws before 1989 and have accrued sufficient data for evaluation. Adolescent and adult night fatal crash trends were compared in these states and four nearby states with similar drinking age laws, but which did not lower BAC levels for teen drivers. Equal numbers of pre- and post-law years were examined in each of the four pairs of states. In the four states that lowered their BAC levels for teens there was a 34% post-law decline in night fatal crashes among adolescents targeted by lower BAC levels. Among adults there was a 7% decline in night fatal crashes. In comparison states there was a 26% decline in adolescent night fatal crashes and a 9% decline in adult night fatal crashes. As a group, states that lowered their BAC levels for adolescents had significantly greater post-law reductions in night fatal crashes among adolescents relative to adults ($p < .05$) than was observed in comparison states. This early evidence from the first four states to lower adolescent legal limits suggests this law may help to reduce adolescent involvement in alcohol-related fatal crashes.