



**Data Brief**

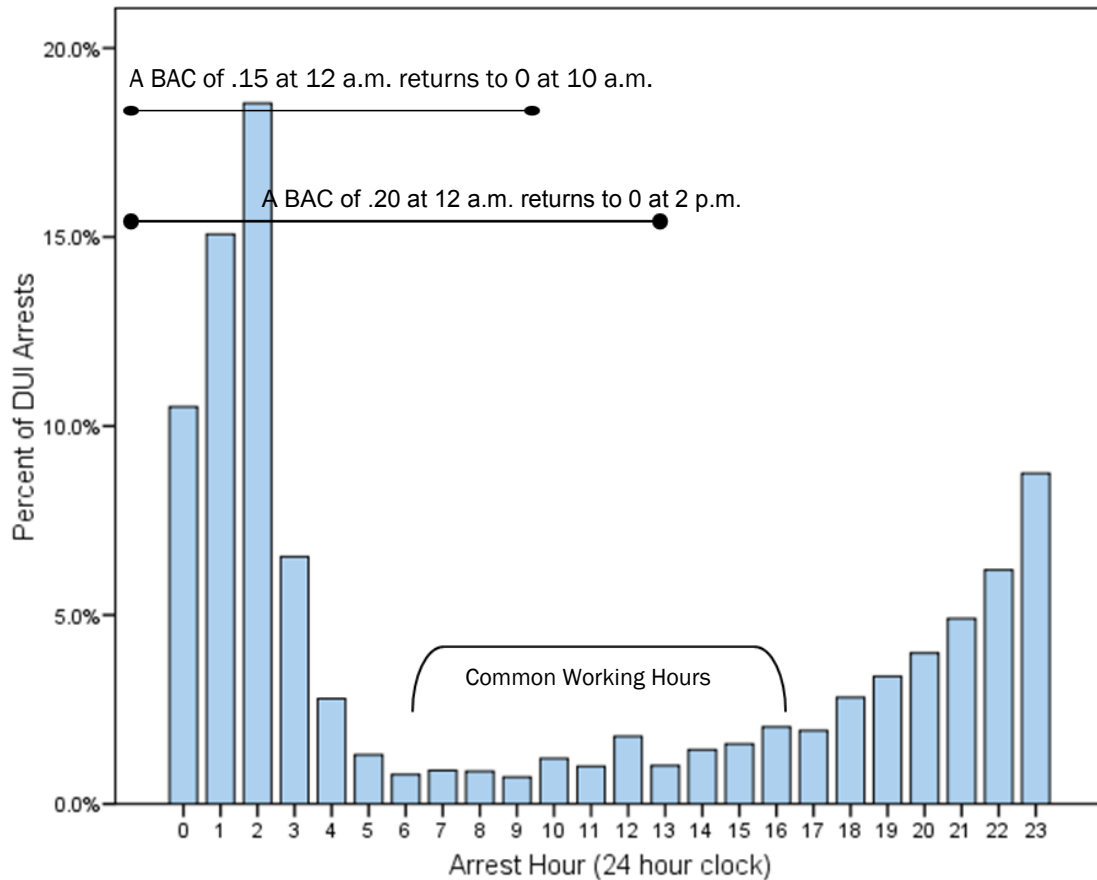
**Potential Blood Alcohol Content Levels during Working Hours**

December 2012, No 8

**Residual Blood Alcohol Levels may be a workplace concern assuming timing of DUI arrests indicates common drinking patterns**

Residual blood alcohol levels during common work hours (7:00 a.m.–5:00p.m.) can be a problem when establishing common drinking patterns based on DUI arrests. Forty-four percent of DUI arrests occur between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. BAC levels at the time of arrest vary but most frequently are between the .15 and .20 range. To attain a .15 BAC level, an average 200 lb male would consume approximately 8 drinks and a 120 lb female approximately 4-5 drinks. Alcohol is metabolized by the body at approximately .015 per hour. If an individual stops drinking at midnight with a BAC between .15 and .20, alcohol will remain in their system during the following work day. BAC of .15 at midnight will return to 0 at 10 a.m. and BAC of .20 at midnight will return to 0 at 2 p.m.

**Potential BAC Levels During Common Work Hours based on percentage of DUI Arrests by the Hour**  
2011 South Dakota DUI arrests



Source: DUI Arrest Data, South Dakota Unified Judicial System

Support for this document and support for the South Dakota Substance Abuse Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup is made possible by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (CSAP-SAMHSA).