

Drug-Impaired Driving

What You Need to Know

Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) is on the rise while alcohol-impaired driving continues to decline.



In 2013, drugs were present in 40% of fatally injured drivers with a known test result. ²

40% IN 2013

Among Weekend Nighttime Drivers



22.5% of weekend nighttime drivers in the United States tested positive for drugs compared to 1.5% testing at or above the legal limit for alcohol. ⁴

53% SINCE 1982 Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities have declined 53% from 1982-2014. ³

→ THE FACTS

FACT → DUID is far less understood than alcohol-impaired driving

- There is no DUID equivalent to .08 BAC. It is currently impossible to define DUID impairment with an illegal limit. ⁵
- Data from Washington reveal that in 2014, among the drivers involved in fatal crashes positive for THC, half exceeded the 5ng/ml per se limit. ⁶
- Many law enforcement officers are not trained to identify drug impairment.

FACT → DUID testing process is extremely complicated

- Drug testing is almost always delayed by at least 90 minutes due to the use of blood tests. Though oral fluid testing offers promise in the future and is used in jurisdictions such as Australia and the United Kingdom, it is only being piloted in the United States. ⁷

FACT → Drug-impaired driving is under-reported and has been for years

- DUI is the only crime where police stop investigating once minimal evidence is obtained. ⁸
- Current protocols prevent drug testing once a suspect registers an illegal BAC limit, skewing the ability to measure the DUID problem and as a result, the true magnitude of the drug-impaired driving problem is unknown. ⁹
- The majority of DUI arrests are inaccurately attributed to alcohol alone. ¹⁰
- Most drivers do not understand how various drugs can increase crash risk.

FACT → Drug use combined with alcohol use significantly increases traffic crash risk

- Research has shown that combining substances has a multiplicative effect on collision risk. ¹¹
- The combination of alcohol and marijuana is common among seriously and fatally injured drivers. ¹²

FACT → THC is the drug most commonly found in the blood of impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims. ¹³



What We Support

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports measures designed to combat drug-impaired driving through:



→ BETTER DUID DATA

Increased testing for drug impairment including mandatory testing for drugs and alcohol in all fatal and serious injury crashes

Improved drug testing protocols including oral fluid testing

Improved data and record systems which differentiate between arrests for alcohol-impaired driving and drug-impaired driving



→ IMPROVED DUID LAWS

State laws that provide separate and distinct sanctions for DUI and DUID

Enhanced penalties for combining substances while driving impaired

Zero tolerance per se laws for people under 21 for marijuana and other drugs

Legal limits for drug-impaired driving based on a consensus of scientific evidence

Substance abuse and mental health screening and assessment for DUID offenders



→ DUID EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS

Expanded DUID law enforcement training, including [Drug Evaluation and Classification \(DEC\) Program](#), [Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement \(ARIDE\)](#) and courtroom testimony training

Expanded DUID training for prosecutors

Expanded DUID training for judges

For further information and sources 1-13



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