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.

From 1999 to 2010, the percent of drivers involved in a fatal crash while testing positive for cannabis more than tripled for all age groups.²

3X

Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities have declined 52% from 1982-2013.³

52% Since 1982

Among Weekend Nighttime Drivers

Above the legal limit for alcohol: 1.5% Tested positive for drugs: 22.5%

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

→ THE FACTS

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

→ A 2008 Swedish study of DUID drivers showed 90% had THC levels below 5 ng at the time of their DUID arrest.⁶

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 Victoria, Australia, these tests are not currently used in court in the United States.⁷

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 vast majority of DUI arrests are inaccurately attributed to alcohol alone.¹⁰

Drug use combined with alcohol use exponentially increases traffic crash risk

→ Low amounts of marijuana combined with low amounts of alcohol cause severe impairment. Research has shown that combining substances has a multiplicative effect on collision risk.¹¹

→ Combining alcohol and marijuana is common among seriously and fatally injured drivers.¹²

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

RESPONSIBILITY.ORG
**What We Support**

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports measures designed to combat marijuana-impaired and other 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
  - 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 poly-drug use or drug and alcohol use while driving impaired
  - Zero tolerance per se laws for people under 21 for marijuana and other drugs
  - Adoption of legal limits for marijuana-impaired and other drug-impaired driving based on a consensus of scientific evidence

- **DUID Education and Training for Criminal Justice Professionals**
  - Expanded DUID law enforcement training, including courtroom testimony training
  - Expanded DUID training for prosecutors
  - Expanded DUID training for judges

For further information and sources 1-13

Contact brandy.nannini@responsibility.org or visit www.responsibility.org/DUID

---

**Proven Strategies to Stop Impaired Driving**

Offering

BACARDI U.S.A., INC.  Beam Suntory  Brown-Forman  Constellation Brands  Diageo  Hood River Distillers  Pernod Ricard USA

Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility

Click to visit our social media channels