

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

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

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

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

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 Victoria, Australia, these tests are not currently used in court 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 vast majority of DUI arrests are inaccurately attributed to alcohol alone.¹⁰

FACT → 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

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



RESPONSIBILITY.ORG

Offering
PROVEN STRATEGIES to STOP IMPAIRED DRIVING

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

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