



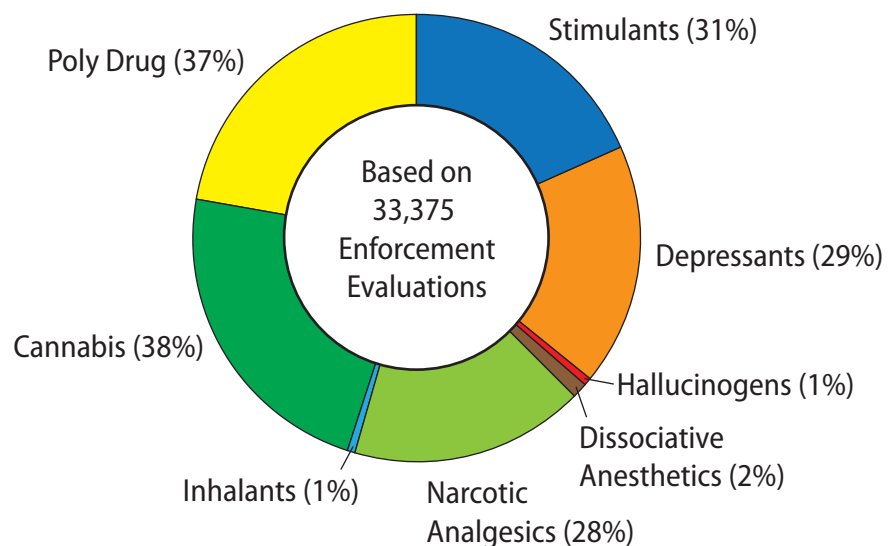
U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# Presence of Drugs In Drivers

**Reported Drug Use Among Fatally Injured Drivers From 2007 to 2016.  
According to FARS Data, Cannabinoid Use Doubled Between 2007 and 2016.**

| Fatally Injured Drivers |                          |                                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                         | Tested and Drug Positive | Tested and Cannabinoid Positive |
| 2007                    | 25%                      | 8%                              |
| 2008                    | 27%                      | 10%                             |
| 2009                    | 32%                      | 11%                             |
| 2010                    | 33%                      | 11%                             |
| 2011                    | 35%                      | 11%                             |
| 2012                    | 37%                      | 13%                             |
| 2013                    | 38%                      | 14%                             |
| 2014                    | 38%                      | 14%                             |
| 2015                    | 42%                      | 16%                             |
| 2016                    | 42%                      | 18%                             |

**Confirmed Toxicology Results from  
Drug Recognition Expert  
Enforcement Evaluations, 2017**



Source: Sobriety Testing Resource Center



**NHTSA**



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# Drug-Impaired Driving Quick Facts

## **Impaired driving is illegal and deadly.**

- Drugs can cause impairment.
- In every State and the District of Columbia, impaired driving is illegal.
- Whether by drugs, alcohol, or a combination, impaired driving puts the driver, their passengers, and other road users at risk.
- In NHTSA's National Roadside Survey conducted from 2013–2014,<sup>i</sup> 20 percent of the sampled weekend nighttime drivers in traffic tested positive for potentially impairing drugs.

## **Science has not caught up yet. But it is getting closer.**

- Trends show an increase in the number of drivers testing positive for marijuana and other drugs that can impair driving, but specific drug concentration levels can't be reliably equated with a specific degree of driver impairment.
- Predicting real-world crash risk is challenging, however, studies show that marijuana impairs psychomotor skills, lane tracking, and cognitive function.<sup>ii</sup>
- Collecting drug-impaired driving data is critical to understanding the scope of the problem.

## **Combating drug-impaired driving requires proven strategies and innovative practices.**

- Develop robust and effective **public education** programs to raise awareness that drugs may impair drivers.
- Support and expand **law enforcement** use of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training and the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program.
- Establish guidance to help **State and local governments** strengthen their drug-impaired driving programs.
- Strengthen **drug testing** by deploying screening equipment and devices, particularly as new drugs of abuse emerge.
- Enhance the ability of the **criminal justice system** to manage drug-impaired driving, with improved coordination among prosecutors, toxicologists, judges, and programs that leverage Law Enforcement Liaisons, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, and Judicial Outreach Liaisons.



**NHTSA**

<sup>i</sup> [https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/812118-roadside\\_survey\\_2014.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/812118-roadside_survey_2014.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/812440-marijuana-impaired-driving-report-to-congress.pdf>