

DRUGGED DRIVING IS DEADLY AND PREVENTABLE



Driving under the influence of any drug, legal or illegal, all too often leads to tragic, irreversible consequences that shatter families and reverberate across communities. A growing number of states are legalizing recreational marijuana and the national opioid crisis and prevalence of prescription drug use is growing, too.

What we know: Studies show driving under the influence of at least one impairing drug is increasing. This includes alcohol, marijuana and medications like opioids, stimulants and anti-depressants. A review at five trauma centers of fatally and seriously injured drivers showed 64 percent had at least one impairing substance in their system.

Combining one or more impairing substances, called poly-drugged driving, is more dangerous than using each substance alone. It leads to greater risk of causing a crash. A critical step to stop it is understanding the attitudes and awareness of Americans toward alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs, the laws that regulate their use and risk of consuming and driving.

What research shows: In February 2020, MADD commissioned IPSOS, a global market research leader, to conduct a nationwide survey of adult perceptions and behaviors toward marijuana-impaired driving. The results were alarming: one in eight adults admitted to driving within two hours of consuming marijuana.

MADD retained IPSOS in June 2021 to conduct a second survey about behaviors and attitudes toward prescription medications—opioids, stimulants and anti-depressants. The results were also frightening. One in five adults said they had, or know someone who has, driven within two hours of taking one or more impairing substances.

What's ahead: The research findings drive our mission to educate the public, advocate for stronger laws, push for more research and support specialized law enforcement training to identify and remove drug-impaired drivers.

We still have much to learn about how to measure drug impairment. Determining the threshold is more complicated than the standard .08 blood alcohol measurement. We need more research to establish a standard to differentiate between the presence of drugs and impairment.

Don't risk your life and the lives of others by driving impaired. It takes all of us to eliminate drug-impaired driving. Together, we can create a nation of NO MORE VICTIMS. Mothers Against Drunk Driving's mission is to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, prevent underage drinking and support the victims of these violent crimes. Triumph Law, a personal injury firm in the Sacramento Region, is a proud sponsor.

