



Research In Progress

Determine the Crash Risk of Drugged Driving

Project Manager: Amy Berning (Email: Amy.Berning@dot.gov, Phone: 202-366-5587)

Until NHTSA's 2007 National Roadside Survey, we did not have much information on the incidence of drugged driving, or the crash risk associated with drugged driving. The Roadside Survey provided us with data from over 9,000 drivers across 60 sites on the incidence of drugged drivers on U.S. roads. As a subtask under that contract, we are conducting a study examining the crash risk associated with drugged driving – data on alcohol crash risk will also be obtained.

This drug crash risk project uses a “case control” methodology. Data were collected in Virginia Beach, Virginia from February 2010 through September 2011. Teams, comprised of a law enforcement officer and an interviewer/phlebotomist, arrived at a motor vehicle crash and (following much of the same methodology as in the Roadside Survey) sought to obtain breath, saliva, and blood samples from drivers in the crash. A team then returned to the site of the crash, one week later, at the same time of the day/night, and randomly selected drivers to obtain breath, saliva, and blood samples from “control” drivers.

This project will provide much needed information on the risk associated with driving drug positive. Data were collected on usage of over-the-counter, prescription, and illegal drugs.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is also supporting this research project.

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