



FACT SHEET:

National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers

About the survey

- Conducted for the first time in 1973; repeated in 1986, 1996, 2007, and 2013-14
- Collects data from 300 roadside sites across the country
- Road signs alert drivers to a voluntary paid survey ahead
- Strictly voluntary and anonymous
- Drivers who are too impaired to safely drive from the research sites are offered other means to get home; of more than 30,000 participants over 40 years, none have driven away from the sites after being identified as impaired and none have been arrested
- Testing for presence of illegal drugs, prescription medicines, and over-the-counter drugs conducted for the first time in 2007

About the findings

Drinking and driving is falling

- The proportion of drivers with measurable alcohol levels declined by about 30 percent from 2007 to 2014. This decline was seen across all alcohol levels. Since the first such survey in 1973, the prevalence of alcohol among drivers has declined by nearly 80 percent.
- In 2014, about 1.5 percent of weekend nighttime drivers had .08 or higher breath alcohol concentrations (BrACs).
- About 8.3 percent of drivers had some measurable alcohol in their systems.

Drugged driving is rising

- About 20.0 percent of drivers tested positive for at least one drug in 2014, up from 16.3 percent in 2007.
- Some 12.6 percent of drivers had evidence of marijuana use in their systems, up from 8.6 percent in 2007.
- More than 15 percent of drivers tested positive for at least one illegal drug, up from 12 percent in 2007.