

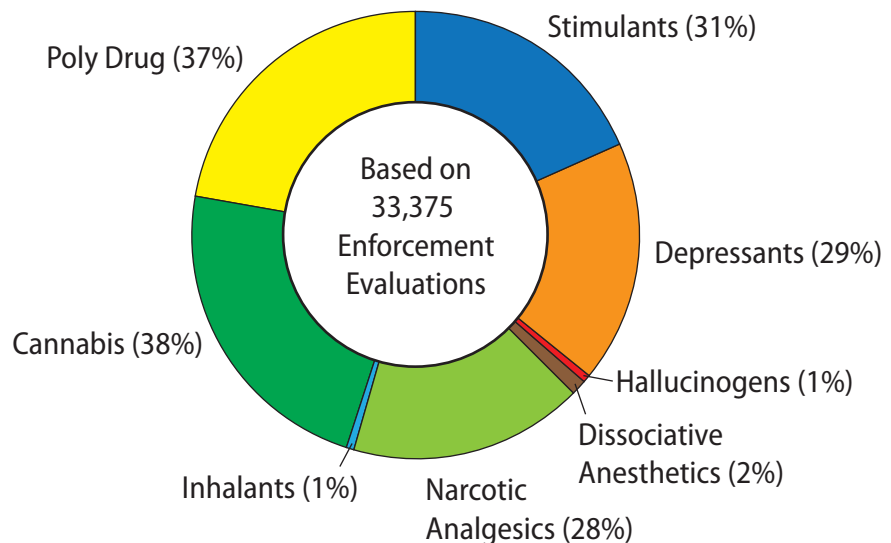


# Presence of Drugs In Drivers

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



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

# 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.

<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>



**NHTSA**