



FACT SHEET:

NHTSA Drug and Alcohol Crash Risk Study

About the study

- Largest such study ever conducted to assess the comparative risk of drunk and drugged driving.
- Conducted in Virginia Beach, Va., over a 20-month period.
- Collected data from more than 3,000 drivers involved in a crash, and more than 6,000 non-crash drivers for comparison.
- Once a crash-involved driver agreed to participate, research teams selected non-crash drivers for comparison at the same location, day of week, time of day and direction of traffic as the crash.
- Drivers were tested for a wide range of drugs, but marijuana was the only drug found in large enough numbers for statistically significant findings.

About the findings

- Drivers at a breath alcohol level of 0.08 percent, the legal limit in every state, were about four times more likely to crash than sober drivers.
- Drivers with an alcohol level of 0.15 percent were 12 times more likely to crash than sober drivers.
- Marijuana users were about 25 percent more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with no evidence of marijuana use.
- Other factors – such as age and gender – appear to account for the increased crash risk among marijuana users.
- Ongoing research will refine our understanding of when marijuana use by drivers increases the risk of crashing.