



Public Opinion Survey of Drugs and Driving in Canada

Brian Jonah and Valerie Todd

CCMTA · CCATM

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF MOTOR TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATORS
CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ADMINISTRATEURS EN TRANSPORT MOTORISÉ

Background

- CCMTA's Drugs and Driving Framework identified need to raise public's awareness regarding risks associated with drug-impaired driving
- Purpose of Survey: To determine drivers' knowledge, perceptions, attitudes, reported behaviour regarding drugs and driving to identify potential target groups and messages for awareness campaigns
- Survey conducted in November 2012



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Sampling Methodology

- A sample of 1,500 licensed Canadians who had driven in previous 30 days were interviewed either by telephone or on-line
- Sample was representative of all ages, genders, and regions of Canada (BC, AB, Prairies, ON, QC, Atlantic, North)
- Sampling error was +/- 2.5% nationally and +/- 6.5% regionally



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Questionnaire

- Concern about drinking and driving, drugs and driving,
- Whether impaired driving by various substances is getting better, worse, or staying same,
- Beliefs about impairing effects of alcohol/drugs on driving,
- Knowledge about laws dealing with drug impaired driving,
- Perceived likelihood of being stopped and charged by police for alcohol or drug impaired driving,
- Self-reported driving during the past 30 days after use of alcohol, cannabis, other street drugs, prescription drugs and non-prescription drugs
- Attitudes toward various countermeasures



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Concern About Impaired Driving

Region

Impaired Driving by	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Alcohol	78	71	80	73	75	86	81	78
Street drugs	65	64	61	68	66	70	67	67
Cannabis	58	56	49	52	51	73	60	58
Prescription drugs	53	50	33	40	47	52	53	49
Non-prescription drugs	39	33	16	36	36	35	42	36



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Concern About Impaired Driving by Age and Sex

Impaired driving by:	Age							Sex	
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Alcohol	79	70	77	75	78	80	83	77	84
Street drugs	58	64	62	65	65	74	74	61	72
Cannabis	48	45	48	58	56	65	73	54	62
Prescription drugs	39	41	43	52	48	54	57	46	53
Non-prescription drugs	35	34	27	39	38	36	43	31	42



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Impaired Driving Increased in Last 5 Years by Region

Region

Impaired Driving by:	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Alcohol	19	23	36	29	29	22	38	26
Cannabis	35	32	41	36	48	38	43	41
Other street drugs	30	31	41	38	42	41	43	39
Prescription drugs	30	34	29	35	47	41	39	40
Non-prescription drugs	25	22	26	31	38	33	27	32



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Impaired Driving Increased in Last 5 Years by Age and Sex

Impaired driving by:	Age							Sex	
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Alcohol	30	17	21	25	28	20	30	26	27
Cannabis	45	39	40	44	41	40	39	41	41
Other street drugs	36	35	36	37	39	39	48	33	45
Prescription drugs	32	39	45	40	41	41	37	35	46
Non-prescription drugs	27	37	34	31	30	35	30	29	35



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RETHINK ROAD SAFETY

Strongly Agree that Substance Impairs Ability to Drive by Region

Region

Impaired Driving by:	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Alcohol	94	91	91	91	94	87	92	92
Cannabis	70	76	68	67	65	75	63	68
Other street drugs	93	91	97	89	90	87	90	90
Prescription drugs	56	51	60	52	56	49	54	55
Non-prescription drugs	46	41	44	45	45	41	43	43



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RETHINK ROAD SAFETY

Strongly Agree that Substance Impairs Ability to Drive by Age and Sex

Impaired driving by	Age							Sex	
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Alcohol	89	90	89	92	94	92	93	89	95
Cannabis	66	76	66	74	66	66	73	64	74
Other street drugs	81	87	90	91	91	93	88	86	95
Prescription drugs	58	55	62	53	53	53	53	49	61
Non-prescription drugs	44	51	44	46	44	36	44	40	47



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RETHINK ROAD SAFETY

Knowledge of Laws on Drugs and Driving by Region

Region

Knowledge Item	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Drug impaired Driving is Offence in Criminal Code	86	83	83	86	87	82	81	85
Penalty for drug impaired driving is 12 month licence suspension	10	17	26	18	16	16	26	16
Unsure if jurisdiction has admin law	56	56	43	58	61	53	59	58



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Knowledge of Laws on Drugs and Driving by Age and Sex

Knowledge Item	Age							Sex	
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Drug Impaired Driving is Offence in Criminal Code	92	85	88	88	84	84	77	90	79
Penalty for drug impaired driving is 12 month licence suspension	18	10	18	19	15	16	15	17	15
Unsure if jurisdiction has admin law	50	51	61	62	65	47	57	53	63



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RETHINK ROAD SAFETY

Being Stopped/Charged by Police for Impaired Driving as Very Likely by Region

Impaired Driving by:	Region							
	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Alcohol	55	54	64	59	61	81	65	64
Cannabis	18	26	14	20	23	42	21	26
Other street drugs	35	35	42	33	37	52	33	39
Prescription drugs	7	4	3	7	7	10	9	8
Non-prescription drugs	5	3	3	5	5	9	7	6



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Being Stopped/Charged by Police for Impaired Driving as Very Likely by Age and Sex

Impaired driving by:	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Alcohol	64	70	60	62	69	65	59	62	66
Cannabis	27	23	25	31	28	24	26	24	28
Other street drugs	42	38	42	40	40	38	34	36	43
Prescription drugs	2	6	7	11	7	5	12	8	11
Non-prescription drugs	5	4	7	8	2	4	9	5	5



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Using Alcohol or Other Drugs and Driving in Past 30 Days by Region

Region

Driving After Using Substance	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Alcohol	17	18	16	22	13	17	12	16
Cannabis	3	1	5	2	3	2	2	3
Other street drugs	0	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0.1
Prescription drugs	8	7	8	10	9	13	10	10
Non-prescription drugs	12	8	3	9	4	16	8	9



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Using Alcohol or Other Drugs and Driving in Past 30 Days by Age and Sex

Driving After Using Substance Past 30 Days	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Alcohol	16	17	16	15	16	17	12	22	8
Cannabis	3	3	4	1	2	1	1	3	1
Other street drugs	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0
Prescription drugs	4	1	12	7	13	12	9	6	13
Non-prescription drugs	7	3	8	9	10	8	11	9	8



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RETHINK ROAD SAFETY

Strongly Agreeing with Measures to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving by Region

Support for Preventive Measures	British Columbia	Alberta	North	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Canada
Suspending licence of drug impaired driver for 3 days	74	75	77	75	76	76	80	76
Drivers must do physical tests at roadside	81	77	92	80	78	81	85	79
Random saliva testing for drugs at roadside	31	40	50	36	36	48	47	46
Mandatory testing for alcohol/drugs if involved in serious crash	83	86	89	83	80	88	91	84



Strongly Agreeing with Measures to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving by Age and Sex

Support for Preventive Measures	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Suspending licence of drug impaired driver for 3 days	74	64	75	83	69	82	79	70	82
Drivers must do physical tests at roadside	77	66	78	77	81	80	87	73	86
Random saliva testing for drugs at roadside	33	25	33	44	39	41	50	33	46
Mandatory testing for alcohol/drugs involved in serious crash	78	65	80	85	85	89	91	79	88



Predictors of Impaired Driving

- Conducted stepwise multiple regression
- Drinking and driving: male, lower income, lower concern about drinking and driving, and less supportive of random drug testing
- Driving after cannabis use: male and less likely to perceive cannabis as impairing driving
- Driving while using prescription drugs: women, less likely to perceive these drugs as impairing driving



Conclusions

- Greater concern about driving while impaired by alcohol than by illicit and medicinal drugs
- About 40% believe that driving while impaired by cannabis, other street drugs, or prescription drugs has increased in past 5 years
- Only two-thirds agree that cannabis impairs driving performance- **Message**
- Knowledge about legal consequences of drug impaired driving relatively low- **Message**



Conclusions

- Higher perceived risk of being stopped and charged for impairment by alcohol than drugs
- 16% drove within 2hrs of consuming 2+ drinks in last 30 days
- About 3% drove within 4 hours of using cannabis; higher among 16-34 and males- **Target**
- Less than 1% drove after using other street drugs;
- 9% drove while taking non-prescription drugs
- 10% drove while taking prescription drugs; higher among women- **Target**
- At least 75% supported 3 day licence suspensions, roadside physical tests and mandatory testing after collision but less than 50% support for random drug testing

