CCMTA | CCATM 75
1940 | 2015
Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators
Conseil canadien des administrateurs en transport motorisé

# Risky Driving in Canada: Public Opinion Survey on Road Safety

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# Purpose of survey

- CCMTA wanted to monitor variety of indicators of road safety to assess progress on Road Safety Strategy 2015.

- Some indicators are already being monitored by observational surveys (e.g., distracted driving), coroner data (e.g., fatally injured drivers who were drinking or using drugs) or collision data (e.g., belt use by fatally injured occupants, speeding).

- Current survey addresses some of these indicators as well as others such as aggressive driving and driving while tired.

- Future surveys may provide information on progress (i.e., reduction in risky driving).

# Survey methodology

- Survey was conducted by telephone in June 2014 using both land-line and mobile phones.
- Quota sampling ensured all ages and genders were represented appropriately.
- Sample was stratified by region (BC, AB, SK/MB, ON, QC, Atlantic, North).
- Only licensed drivers who had driven in last 30 days were interviewed.
- Total of 3,888 respondents completed survey with response rate of 25%.

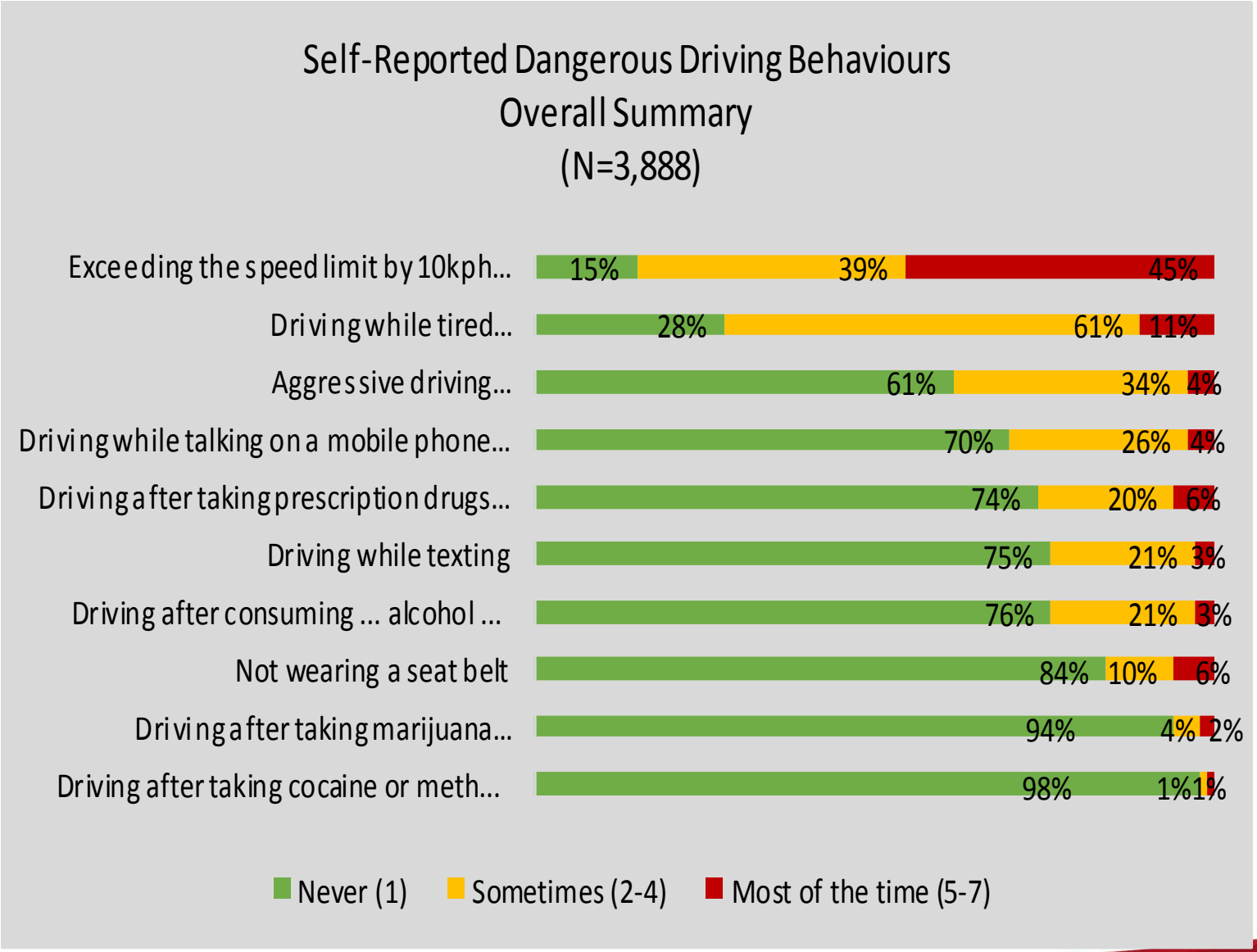
# Survey questionnaire

- Reported risky driving behaviours.
- Perceived change in other drivers' behaviour in past 5 years.
- Perceived danger of driving behaviours.
- Perceived impairment of driving by alcohol and other drugs.
- Perceived likelihood of being caught by police for impaired driving.

# Data analyses

- Sample was weighted by number of licensed drivers in each region to obtain national estimates.
- Results are presented by age and gender groups.
- Driving behaviours were correlated.
- Multiple regressions were conducted to determine what variables predict self-reported risky driving behaviour.

# Self-reported risky driving behaviours



# Driving behaviour by age (% sometimes)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Exceeding speed limit by 10kph on highway | 84 | 90 | 89 | 88 | 81 | 72 |
| Driving while tired | 75 | 79 | 79 | 76 | 70 | 54 |
| Aggressive driving (e.g., weaving in traffic, following too close) | 49 | 59 | 49 | 37 | 34 | 22 |
| Driving while talking on hand-held mobile phone | 41 | 48 | 45 | 31 | 19 | 9 |
| Driving after taking prescript. drugs such as pain relievers | 22 | 20 | 19 | 29 | 27 | 26 |

# Driving behaviour by age (% sometimes)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Driving and texting | **43** | **52** | **42** | **24** | **9** | **2** |
| Driving after consuming 2+ drinks in 2 hrs | **13** | **29** | **28** | **25** | **21** | **21** |
| Not wearing a seat belt | **20** | **20** | **19** | **14** | **16** | **10** |
| Driving after taking marijuana/cannabis | **12** | **10** | **10** | **5** | **3** | **1** |
| Driving after taking drugs like cocaine or meth | **2** | **1** | **2** | **2** | **3** | **1** |

# Driving behaviour by age & gender (% sometimes)

| CANADA | M | F | MALE (N=2,036) | | | FEMALE (N=1,852) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | | | 272 | 1,120 | 644 | 214 | 1,066 | 572 |
| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Exceeding speed limit by 10kph | 86 | 83 | 88 | 89 | 81 | 86 | 88 | 72 |
| Driving tired | 76 | 68 | 79 | 78 | 71 | 76 | 75 | 53 |
| Aggressive driving | 46 | 31 | 62 | 47 | 37 | 46 | 34 | 19 |
| Driving while on phone | 33 | 26 | 44 | 39 | 18 | 46 | 30 | 10 |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs | 24 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 27 | 21 | 28 | 26 |

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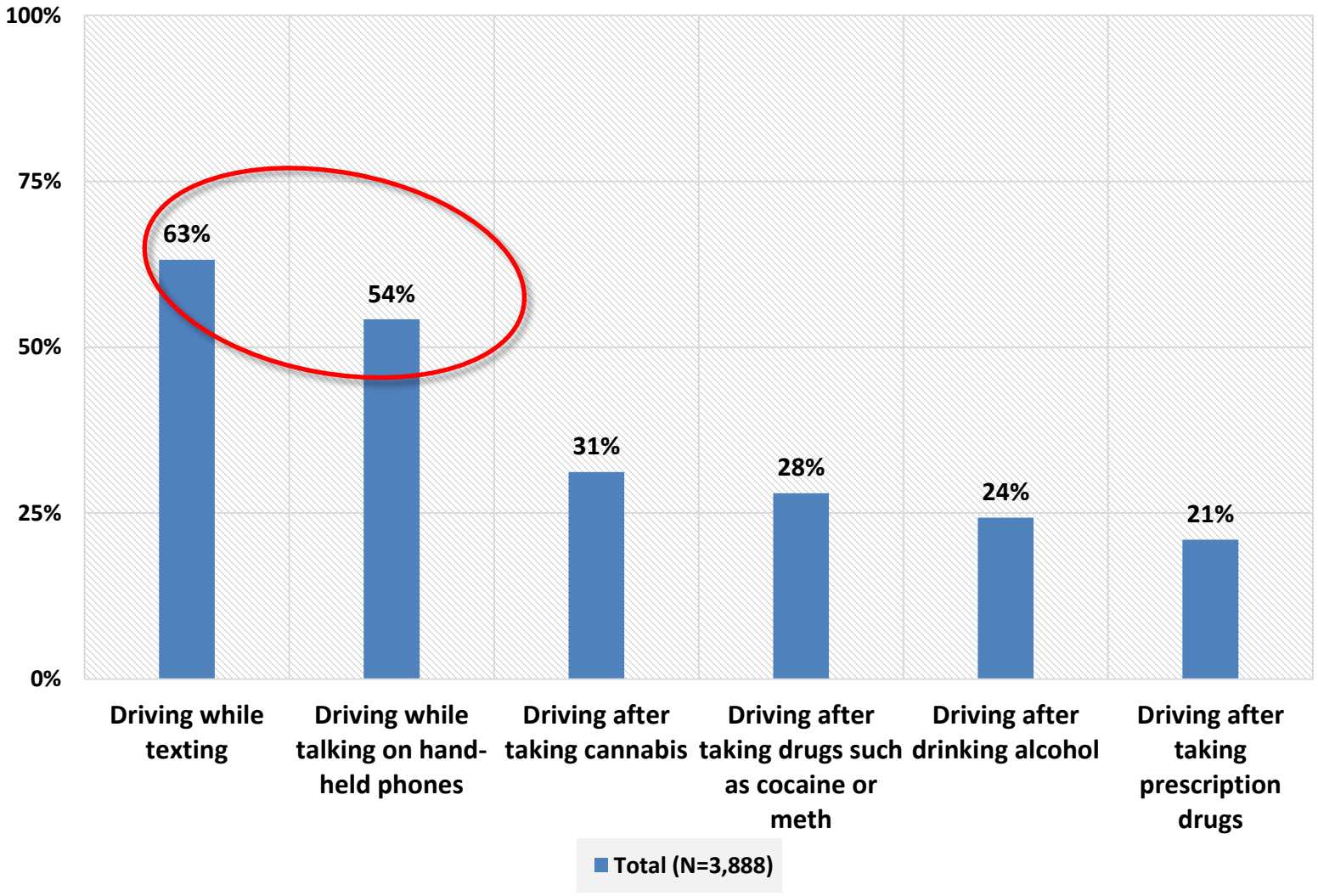
| Driving and texting | 26 | 23 | 47 | 32 | 7 | 49 | 27 | 4 |
| Driving after 2+ drinks in 2 hrs | 32 | 15 | 27 | 35 | 30 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| Not wearing belt | 20 | 11 | 26 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 9 |
| Driving after taking cannabis | 8 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| Driving after taking drugs like cocaine or meth | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

# Driving behaviour significantly increased in last 5 years (% 6-7)



# Behaviour increased in last 5 years by age & gender

| CANADA | M | F | MALE (N=2,036) | | | FEMALE (N=1,852) | | |
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| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Driving while texting | 62 | 64 | 57 | 61 | 66 | 65 | 64 | 65 |
| Driving while talking on hand-held cell phones | 53 | 55 | 42 | 52 | 60 | 47 | 54 | 62 |
| Driving after taking cannabis | 29 | 34 | 26 | 26 | 35 | 40 | 30 | 38 |

# Behaviour increased in last 5 years by age & gender

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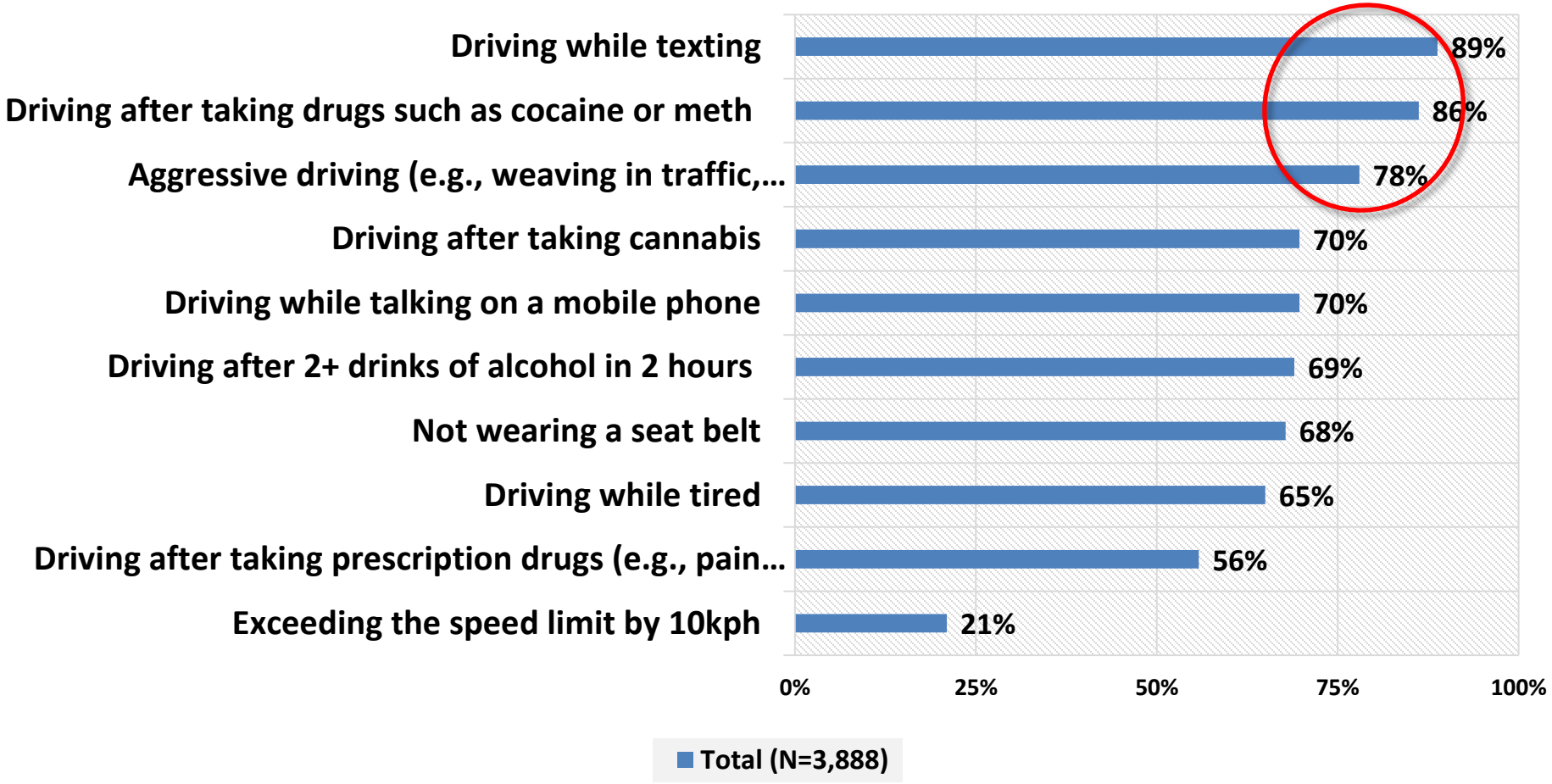
| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Driving after taking drugs like cocaine or meth | 25 | 32 | 24 | 20 | 34 | 28 | 28 | 41 |
| Driving after drinking alcohol | 22 | 27 | 20 | 19 | 28 | 29 | 22 | 34 |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs | 19 | 23 | 17 | 17 | 22 | 18 | 22 | 28 |

# Perceived danger of driving behaviours (% very dangerous, 6-7)



# Perceived Danger by age & gender (% very dangerous)

| CANADA | M | F | MALE (N=2,036) | | | FEMALE (N=1,852) | | |
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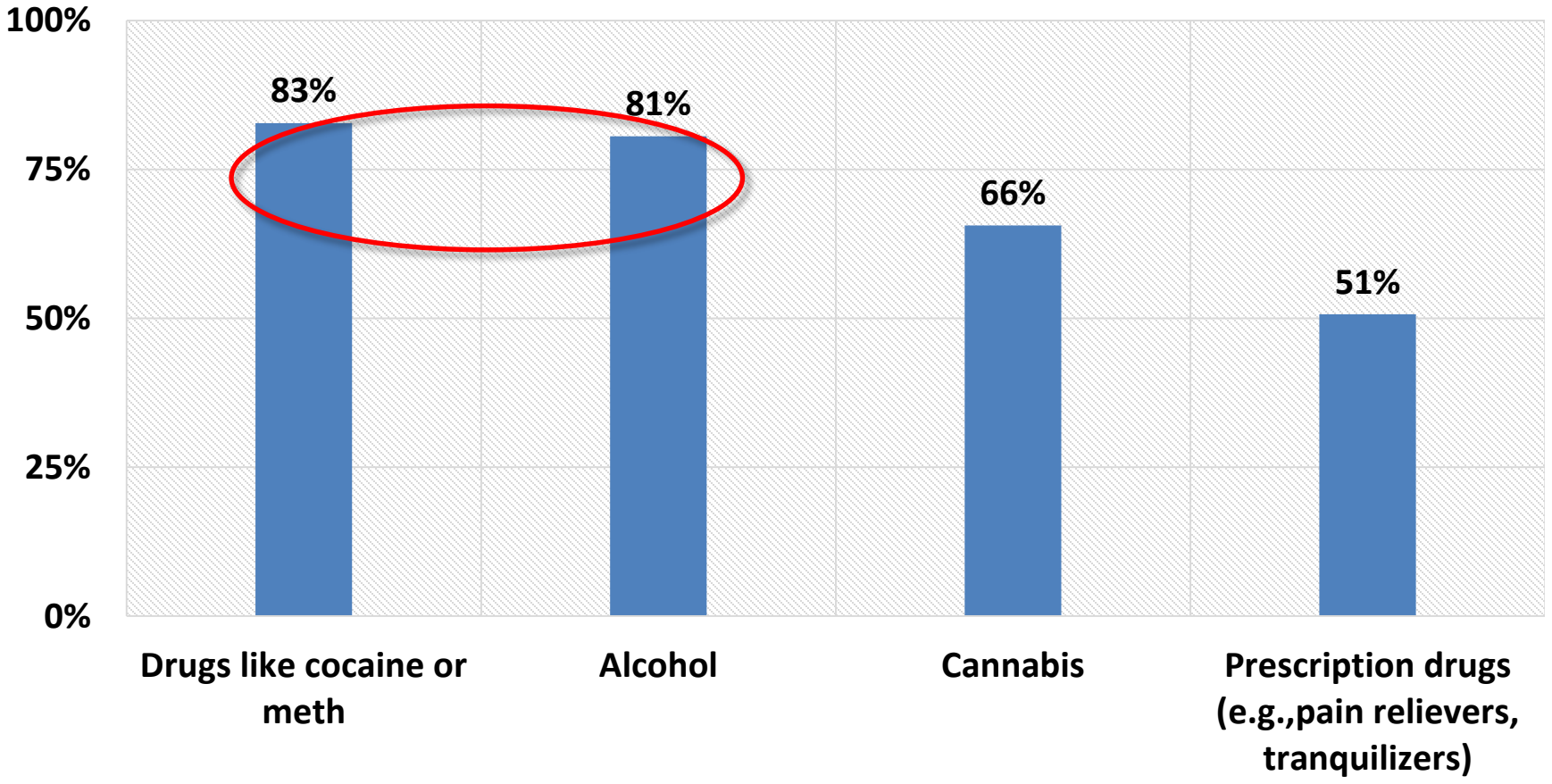
| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Exceeding speed limit by 10kph | 17 | 25 | 12 | 15 | 23 | 11 | 23 | 35 |
| Driving tired | 60 | 71 | 48 | 59 | 65 | 60 | 71 | 73 |
| Aggressive driving | 74 | 82 | 64 | 74 | 77 | 74 | 84 | 83 |
| Driving while on phone | 64 | 76 | 52 | 61 | 73 | 63 | 75 | 83 |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs | 51 | 61 | 46 | 54 | 48 | 64 | 62 | 57 |

# Perceived Danger by age & gender (% very dangerous)

| CANADA | M | F | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | | | 272 | 1,120 | 644 | 214 | 1,066 | 572 |
| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Driving and texting | 86 | 92 | 76 | 87 | 89 | 88 | 93 | 91 |
| Driving after 2+ drinks in 2 hrs | 61 | 78 | 58 | 62 | 61 | 81 | 78 | 77 |
| Not wearing belt | 62 | 74 | 59 | 63 | 61 | 73 | 74 | 76 |
| Driving after taking cannabis | 65 | 74 | 57 | 65 | 69 | 73 | 75 | 73 |
| Driving after taking drugs like cocaine or meth | 84 | 89 | 83 | 85 | 82 | 92 | 90 | 86 |

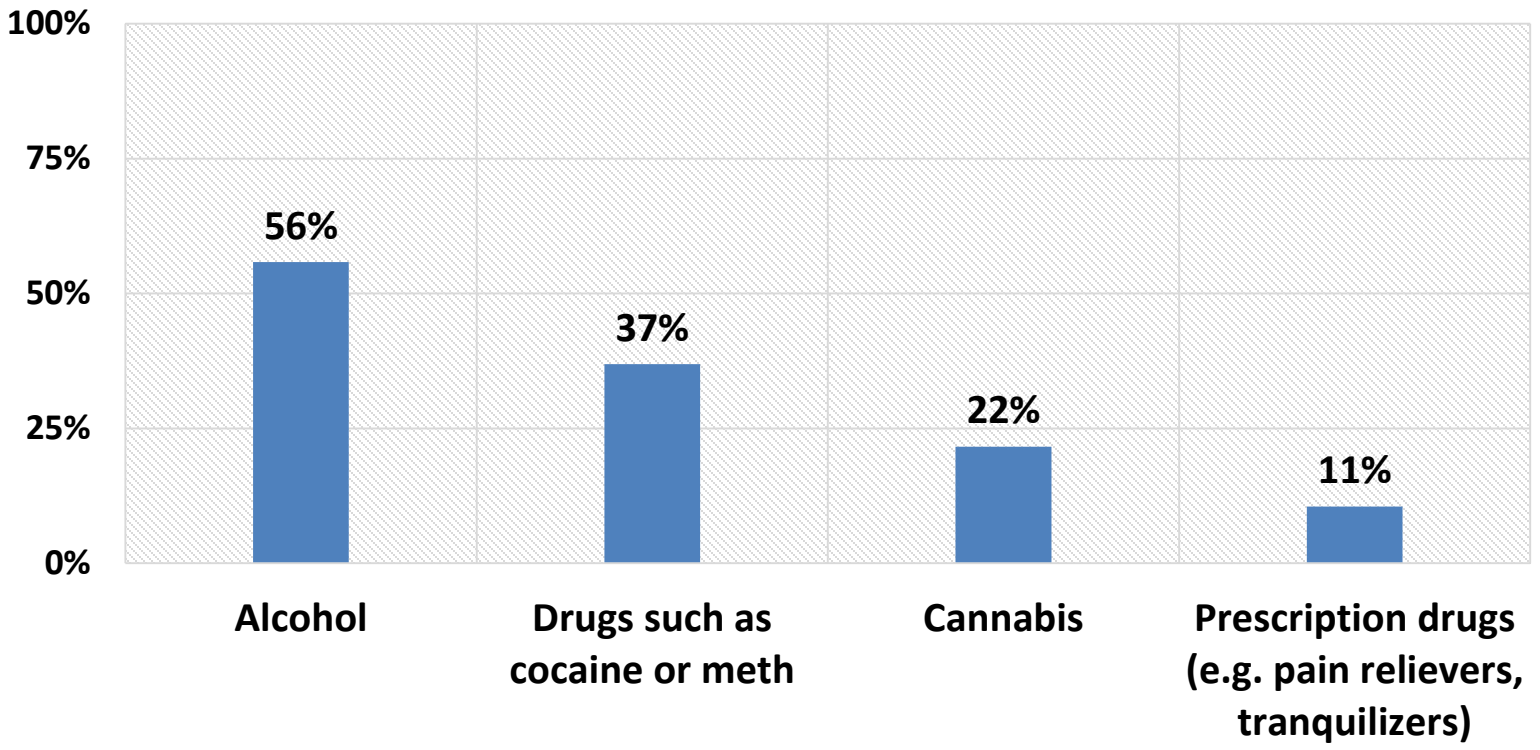
# Strongly agree driving impaired by alcohol/drugs (% 6-7)



# Driving impaired by alcohol/drugs by age & gender (% strongly agree)

| CANADA | M | F | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | | | 272 | 1,120 | 644 | 214 | 1,066 | 572 |
| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Driving after 2+ drinks in 2 hrs | 76 | 85 | 74 | 78 | 73 | 88 | 87 | 81 |
| Driving after taking cannabis | 62 | 69 | 55 | 62 | 65 | 68 | 70 | 70 |
| Driving after taking drugs like cocaine or meth | 81 | 85 | 74 | 83 | 80 | 85 | 86 | 82 |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs | 49 | 53 | 47 | 51 | 45 | 63 | 54 | 48 |

# Very likely to be caught for impaired driving (% 6-7)



# Very likely caught for impaired driving by age/gender

| CANADA | M | F | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | | | 272 | 1,120 | 644 | 214 | 1,066 | 572 |
| | | | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) | Young (16-24) | Middle-aged (25-54) | Older (55+) |
| Driving after 2+ drinks in 2 hrs | 53 | 59 | 59 | 57 | 43 | 67 | 59 | 56 |
| Driving after taking cannabis | 21 | 22 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 27 | 21 | 22 |
| Driving after taking drugs like cocaine or meth | 34 | 40 | 50 | 33 | 29 | 55 | 40 | 34 |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs | 10 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 11 |

| Correlation of Driving Behaviours | Driving while texting | Driving while talking on phone | Driving after taking cocaine | Aggressive driving | Exceed speed limit by 10kph | Not wearing seat belt | Driving after 2+ drinks | Driving while tired | Driving after taking cannabis | Driving after taking medication |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Driving while texting | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Driving while talking on phone | .538 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Driving after taking drugs such as cocaine | .275 | .220 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Aggressive driving | .316 | .272 | .207 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Exceeding limit by 10kph | .244 | .248 | .044 | .294 | 1 | | | | | |
| Not wearing belt | .159 | .215 | .231 | .157 | .084 | 1 | | | | |
| Driving after 2+ drinks | .255 | .210 | .302 | .209 | .191 | .138 | 1 | | | |
| Driving tired | .270 | .268 | .126 | .282 | .281 | .113 | .190 | 1 | | |
| Driving after taking cannabis | .217 | .202 | .460 | .208 | .110 | .185 | .267 | .113 | 1 | |
| Driving after taking prescrip medication | .066 | .093 | .188 | .123 | .110 | .093 | .135 | .154 | .117 | 1 |

# Predictors of driving while texting

| Variable | B Coefficient | R | R Squared | R Square Change | P Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | -.28 | .32 | .10 | .10 | .000 |
| Distance Traveled | .17 | .35 | .12 | .02 | .000 |
| Perceived Danger of Texting | -.08 | .36 | .13 | .01 | .000 |
| Household Income | .06 | .37 | .13 | .003 | .002 |

# Predictors of talking on phone

| Variable | B Coefficient | R | R Squared | R Square Change | P Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perceived Danger of Talking | -.21 | .25 | .06 | .06 | .000 |
| Age | -.18 | .31 | .10 | .04 | .000 |
| Distance Traveled | .15 | .34 | .12 | .02 | .000 |
| Household Income | .06 | .35 | .12 | .003 | .002 |

# Predictors of driving after cannabis use

| Variable | B Coefficient | R | R Squared | R Square Change | P Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perceived Danger | -.16 | .30 | .09 | .09 | .000 |
| Cannabis Impairs Driving | -.09 | .34 | .12 | .03 | .000 |
| Age | -.06 | .35 | .12 | .01 | .000 |
| Gender | -.12 | .36 | .13 | .01 | .000 |

# Predictors of drinking and driving

| Variable | B Coefficient | R | R Squared | R Square Change | P Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perceived Danger | -.21 | .29 | .08 | .08 | .000 |
| Gender | -.31 | .32 | .10 | .02 | .000 |
| Alcohol Impairs Driving | -.05 | .33 | .11 | .01 | .000 |
| Household Income | -.04 | .33 | .11 | .001 | .03 |

# Predictors of speeding

| Variable | B Coefficient | R | R Squared | R Square Change | P Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perceived Danger | -.47 | .42 | .18 | .18 | .000 |
| Household Income | .31 | .45 | .21 | .02 | .000 |
| Age | -.20 | .47 | .22 | .02 | .000 |
| Distance Traveled | .11 | .47 | .23 | .002 | .000 |

# Predictors of aggressive driving

| Variable | B Coefficient | R | R Squared | R Square Change | P Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perceived Danger | -.20 | .22 | .05 | .05 | .000 |
| Age | -.16 | .27 | .07 | .02 | .000 |
| Gender | -.28 | .29 | .08 | .01 | .000 |
| Household Income | .11 | .31 | .09 | .01 | .000 |
| Distance Traveled | .06 | .31 | .10 | .01 | .01 |

# Conclusions

- Most commonly reported risky driving behaviours were driving over speed limit, driving while tired, aggressive driving, and driving while using hand-held phones.
- Male drivers aged 21-24 were most likely to engage in risky driving.
- Driving behaviours seen to have increased most in last 5 years include texting, hand-held phone use, and driving after using cannabis.
- Driving while texting, driving after using cocaine/meth, and aggressive driving perceived to be most dangerous behaviours.

# Conclusions

- While over 80% strongly agreed that driving was impaired by alcohol and drugs like cocaine and meth only about 2/3 believed this about cannabis.
- 56% thought it was very likely that a driver impaired by alcohol would be caught by police but only 22% thought this about cannabis.
- Many of risky behaviours are correlated >.25.
- Perceived danger of risky behaviour was best predictor of risky driving followed by age, distance traveled, household income, and perceived impairment of driving by alcohol/drug.

Full report can be found under Road Safety Research at:

**www.ccmta.ca**

# Driving behaviour significantly increased in last 5 years by age (% 6-7)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Driving while texting | **60** | **61** | **63** | **63** | **63** | **68** |
| Driving while talking on hand-held cell phones | **46** | **44** | **49** | **54** | **59** | **62** |
| Driving after taking cannabis | **32** | **33** | **25** | **29** | **32** | **41** |

# Driving behaviour significantly increased in last 5 years by age (% 6-7)

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Driving after taking drugs such as cocaine or meth | **22** | **30** | **22** | **25** | **33** | **42** |
| Driving after drinking alcohol | **26** | **23** | **20** | **21** | **28** | **34** |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs (e.g. pain relievers) | **18** | **17** | **19** | **19** | **22** | **29** |

# Perceived danger of driving behaviour by age (% very dangerous, 6-7)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Driving while texting | 80 | 84 | 86 | 91 | 91 | 89 |
| Driving after taking drugs such as cocaine or meth | 85 | 89 | 87 | 87 | 88 | 80 |
| Aggressive driving (e.g., weaving, following closely) | 69 | 68 | 79 | 79 | 80 | 79 |
| Driving after taking cannabis | 68 | 62 | 64 | 72 | 72 | 71 |
| Driving while talking on hand-held mobile phone | 58 | 57 | 59 | 72 | 77 | 78 |

# Perceived danger of driving behaviour by age (% very dangerous, 6-7)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Driving after consuming 2+ drinks of alcohol in 2 hours | 68 | 71 | 66 | 71 | 72 | 65 |
| Not wearing seat belt | 66 | 66 | 64 | 70 | 67 | 70 |
| Driving while tired | 53 | 55 | 62 | 67 | 70 | 67 |
| Driving after taking prescription drugs such as pain relievers, tranquilizers | 54 | 55 | 59 | 58 | 53 | 52 |
| Exceeding the speed limit by 10kph on highway | 17 | 7 | 17 | 20 | 26 | 31 |

# Strongly agree driving impaired by alcohol/drugs by age (% 6-7)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Alcohol | 76 | 85 | 83 | 82 | 79 | 75 |
| Cannabis | 60 | 63 | 61 | 68 | 66 | 69 |
| Drugs like cocaine or meth | 78 | 81 | 84 | 85 | 83 | 78 |
| Prescription drugs such as pain relievers | 53 | 56 | 56 | 51 | 46 | 47 |

# Very likely to be caught for impaired driving by age (% 6-7)

| CANADA | AGE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sample Size | 235 | 251 | 697 | 1,489 | 658 | 558 |
| | 16-20 | 21-24 | 25-34 | 35-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Alcohol | **65** | **61** | **61** | **56** | **52** | **47** |
| Drugs like cocaine or meth | **57** | **49** | **38** | **35** | **29** | **34** |
| Cannabis | **30** | **23** | **20** | **22** | **18** | **23** |
| Prescription drugs (e.g., pain relievers, tranquilizers) | **15** | **13** | **10** | **9** | **9** | **13** |