WTSC - PIRE - NHTSA
Roadside Survey of Driver Drug & Alcohol Use

Darrin Grondel
WTSC Director
AAMVA Region IV Conference
June 4, 2015
• Recreational marijuana approved 2012 – medical was legalized in 1998
  – How will legalized recreational marijuana affect impaired driving in WA?
• The value of the PIRE Survey Offer
• Marijuana is addictive
  – #1 reason teens seek treatment
  – More addictive for young people
  – Higher THC in today’s marijuana
    • 3% THC in 1973
    • 20% to 30% THC in pot sold in stores today
Impaired Driving in WA

Washington Drug/Alcohol-Involved Driving Deaths, 1998-2014*

*By Year and Substance Involvement, *2014 figures based on preliminary data

**Definitions**

IDI: At least one driver (in the crash) had either a BAC of .08 or above, or a positive test for drugs; DDI: At least one driver had either a positive BAC test or was reported by police as 'Had Been Drinking'; AIDI: At least one driver had a BAC of .08 or above.

*Categories are not mutually exclusive.*
Is WA Roadside Survey Feasible?

- Law enforcement response to survey
- Governor’s Office
- ACLU

**The Plan:**
- Public outreach
- Role of enforcement
- WTSC on point
June, 2014 Data Collection

- Six counties, 5 locations in each
- 926 drivers eligible
- 97% (917) breath tests
- 96% (902) saliva
- 74% (711) blood

Male drivers age 20 – 34 over-represented:
  * 21% population
  * 45% survey sample
Public Information Strategy:

- Educational video posted on WTSC website
- Aggressive earned media outreach
- Give the reporters an opportunity to experience the survey
- Reporters can’t photograph people going through the survey
- Presentations for stakeholders
  - WASPC
  - WSP
  - ACLU
“Have you ever, even once, used marijuana?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>69% -- yes</th>
<th>T= 615</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31% -- no</td>
<td>T= 273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those who said they used marijuana in the last year were also asked: “Have you used marijuana within two hours of driving?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>44% -- yes</th>
<th>T= 97</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56% -- no</td>
<td>T = 123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T = 220 respondents
The drivers who said they’d used marijuana within two hours of driving were also asked: *when you used marijuana and drove, how do you think it affected your driving?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception of Marijuana Use</th>
<th>Percentage of Drivers</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not make any difference in my driving:</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>84 (87%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made me a better driver:</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know:</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made my driving worse:</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the drivers surveyed, 877 answered the question: “How likely do you think it is that marijuana impairs a person’s ability to drive safely if used within two hours of driving?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>T= 877</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very likely</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>162</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat likely</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>197</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all likely</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(T= 768 (88%))
881 Survey respondents answered the question: “How likely do you think it is that a person could be arrested for impaired driving after using marijuana within two hours of driving?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>T= 881</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very likely</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat likely</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>219</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all likely</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>T= 783 (89%)</td>
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For more information:

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