ALR for Drugged Drivers

Stephen K. Talpins
Institute for Behavior and Health

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• ALR is an effective strategy to reduce alcohol impaired driving
• Researchers estimate that ALR laws are associated with a 5% to 9% reduction in alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities
• ALR laws work because they provide swift, certain, and meaningful remedial measures
Drunk Driving

• The percentage of people who tested at or above 0.08 during the National Roadside Surveys (NRS) dropped from 7.5% in 1973 to 1.5% in 2013-2014

• According to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), alcohol impaired fatalities dropped from 21,113 in 1982 to 10,265 in 2015 (a 51% decrease)
Drunk Driving

- The percentage of weekend nighttime drivers who tested positive for drugs during the NRS increased from 16.3% in 2007 to 22.5% in 2013-2014
  - The percentage of weekend nighttime drivers who tested positive for THC during those surveys increased from 8.6% to 12.6%
- The percentage of fatally injured drivers who were tested for drugs and tested positive increased from 28% in 2005 to 43% in 2
Drugged Drivers

- Most ALR laws do not apply to drugged drivers
  - Traditional drug testing methods are very expensive
  - Results are unavailable for days, weeks, or even months
  - However, emerging technology provides a great opportunity to expand the laws
Emerging Methods

- Oral fluid testing
- Breath testing for cannabis (and other drugs)
- Transdermal testing
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• ALR may save even more lives if applied to drugged drivers

• Drugged drivers appear to be more recalcitrant than alcohol-impaired drivers

• One study found that drivers who tested positive for cannabinoids were 1.61 times more likely to be re-arrested than those who tested positive for alcohol alone

• Drugged drivers are more difficult to prosecute than drivers who test above the illegal limit for alcohol due to untimely testing and/or the absence of zero tolerance or per se laws in most states
• “GHSA encourages States to consider expanding their existing Administrative License Revocation (ALR) laws or enacting new ALR laws for drug-impaired drivers who fail or refuse a drug test”

• GHSA, August 13, 2013
For More Information
Contact:

Stephen K. Talpins
Institute for Behavior and Health
(305) 610-3585
sktalp@aol.com