



Drugged driving, or driving after using drugs, is a significant public health and public safety threat and is a bigger issue than generally recognized. According to the first-ever analysis of drug involvement from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) census, one in three (33%) fatally injured drivers with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009.¹ Additionally, data from the 2010 Monitoring the Future study showed an estimated 12 percent of high school seniors reported having driven after smoking marijuana in the 2 weeks prior to their interview; this is more than drove after drinking alcohol (9%).² And in 2011, 11 percent of young people (16 to 25) drove under the influence of illicit drugs in the prior 12 months.³

New and young drivers are the most at-risk for crashes on the roads and are at risk for the most harmful effects of drug use. As teens take to the roads, parents can take action by talking about the dangers of drugged, drunk, and distracted driving. It's important that our youngest drivers learn how to drive safely and make healthy choices.

Below are the most recent teen driving and substance use trends.

THE FACTS

- ✓ Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for 15 to 19 year olds in 2007.⁴
- ✓ More than five percent of 16 or 17 year olds and nearly 14 percent of 18 to 20 year olds reported driving under the influence of alcohol in the past year.⁵
- ✓ In a 2006 comprehensive study on unsafe driving by high school students, 30 percent of seniors reported driving after drinking heavily or using drugs, or riding in a car whose driver had been drinking heavily or using drugs, at least once in the prior two weeks.⁶
- ✓ Nearly 70 percent of students have consumed alcohol by the end of high school. More than half (54%) of 12th graders in 2012 report having been drunk at least once in their life and about half indicated they have tried an illicit drug, with 40 percent having used on one or more occasions in the prior 12 months.⁷
- ✓ After alcohol and tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs are the most commonly abused substances by teens. The most commonly abused prescription drugs by teenagers include painkillers (e.g., Vicodin; OxyContin), tranquilizers, and stimulants (e.g., Adderall; Ritalin).⁸
- ✓ In 2011, past month use of illicit drugs, cigarettes, and binge alcohol use were lower among youths aged 12-17 who reported that their parents always or sometimes engaged in monitoring behaviors than among youths whose parents seldom or never engaged in such behaviors.⁹

54%

of 12th graders in 2012 report having been drunk at least once in their life.

70%

of students have consumed alcohol by the end of high school.

- 1 U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Traffic Safety Facts. Drug Involvement of Fatally Injured Drivers. November 2010 DOT HS 811 415.
- 2 Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2011). Monitoring the Future national results on adolescent drug use: Overview of key findings, 2010. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.
- 3 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-44, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 12-4713. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/2k11results/nsduhresults2011.htm>
- 4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (extracted June 2011). <http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/lead-caus10.html>.
- 5 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-41, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 11-4658. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2011. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k11Results/NSDUHResults2011.htm#3.1.10>
- 6 O'Malley, P.M., and Johnston, L.D. Drugs and driving by American high school seniors, 2001-2006. Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs 68(6):834-842, 2007.
- 7 Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (December 19, 2012). "The rise in teen marijuana use stalls, synthetic marijuana use levels, and use of 'bath salts' is very low." University of Michigan News Service: Ann Arbor, MI. Retrieved 01/07/2013 from <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pressreleases/12drugpr.pdf>
- 8 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-44, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 12-4713. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k11Results/NSDUHResults2011.htm>
- 9 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-44, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 12-4713. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k11Results/NSDUHResults2011.htm#6.8>