

The introduction of random roadside drug testing of drivers has led to an increased awareness of the dangers of drugs and driving. With Victoria leading the way in 2004, and New South Wales and South Australia following, other states are currently in the process of implementing random drug testing for drivers as an enforcement measure.



RECREATIONAL DRUGS AND DRIVING

- One in 10 drivers (12 per cent) has driven after taking recreational drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, speed, and ecstasy (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)
- Most people (66 per cent) think recreational drugs pose a much greater danger on our roads than prescription drugs (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)
- One in 20 drivers (six per cent) thinks that taking a small amount of recreational drugs before driving doesn't really affect their driving ability (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)
- Three times as many young drivers as older drivers believe that driving after taking recreational drugs is safer than driving after drinking: 10 per cent of drivers under 25 versus seven per cent of drivers over 25 (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)
- Seven in 10 drivers (71 per cent) believe prescription drugs are a hidden danger on our roads (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)
- Drivers aged 25-34 are more likely than those aged 18-24 to have driven after taking recreational drugs: 24 per cent versus 17 per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

TIPS FOR SAFER TRAVEL

- Never drive while under the influence of alcohol or any other recreational drug.
- Never mix drugs, alcohol and driving.
- Be aware that some drugs are cumulative and remain in the system many hours after having been consumed.
- Check with your doctor whether any prescription medications (or combination of medications) may impair your ability to drive.
- Check and follow the warning labels on both prescription and over-the-counter medication – if in doubt, ask your doctor or chemist.
- Do not agree to be the passenger of any driver who has been using alcohol, medicines or other drug of impairment.
- Arrange to be picked up by a designated driver who will abstain from consuming any alcohol and drugs for the night.
- Use public transport or a taxi.
- Arrange to stay overnight.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

- One-quarter of all drivers (24 per cent) have driven after taking medicinal drugs or tablets despite the label warning them not to, with drivers aged 18-34 (27 per cent) most likely to do this (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)

RANDOM ROADSIDE DRUG TESTING

- Most people (92 per cent) think random roadside drug testing of drivers is a good idea (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)
- Seventeen per cent of all drivers do not think the results of random roadside drug tests are reliable (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)

ATTITUDES OF DRUG-DRIVERS

Drivers who say they have driven after using recreational drugs are more likely to exhibit other careless attitudes towards driving:

- They are twice as likely to have driven when over 0.05 (78 per cent versus 37 per cent)
- They are more likely to send or read text messages while driving (52 per cent versus 39 per cent)
- They are more likely to have driven after taking medicinal drugs, even though the label warned them against doing so (45 per cent versus 24 per cent) (source: *2007 AAMI Young Drivers Index*)

