

## Strategies to Combat Drug Impaired Driving Involving Legal Drugs



Chuck Hayes  
International Association Chiefs of Police

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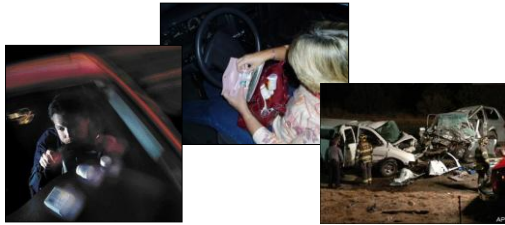
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## Drugged Driving Involving Legal Drugs is on the Rise



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## Prescription Drugs and Driving

- ✓ Rx drug abuse is a worldwide problem
- ✓ Rx drugs are being prescribed and abused at an all time rate – highest in history!
- ✓ Many people who use and abuse them drive
- ✓ Exact extent of DUI Rx drug problem not known
- ✓ Rx drugs creating an increasing danger on roads
- ✓ Rx drugs create challenging DUI investigations
- ✓ Rx drugged driving cases are difficult to prosecute
- ✓ Rx drug problem will probably get worse

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## DUID – Rx Drugs

April 2008

Oconomowoc, WI



### Wisconsin Driver Kills Three After 3<sup>rd</sup> DUI Court Sentencing

Three days after being sentenced for his 3<sup>rd</sup> DUI, Benson consumed Rx pills and then crashed into a vehicle killing a 39 year-old mother, who was 6 months pregnant and her 10 year old daughter. Benson admitted taking four Xanax and four Ambien prior to the crash. Was en route to the pharmacy for more prescription meds when the crash occurred.

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## The Drugged Driving Problem

**Traffic Safety Facts**  
Research Note  
2007-04-01/170

**Results of the 2007 National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers**

Over the last few decades, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) have conducted the National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers (NRS) in 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2007. These surveys yielded a wealth of information on the prevalence of alcohol and drug use by drivers. The 2007 National Roadside Survey (NRS) was conducted in 2007. NHTSA is releasing a summary of alcohol and drug use by drivers in 2007.

The 2007 NRS included, for the first time, measures to estimate the use of oral medications (including prescription and over-the-counter) by drivers. These measures have yielded the first-ever data on the use of oral medications by drivers. The 2007 NRS also included, for the first time, measures to estimate the use of oral medications by drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation. The 2007 NRS also included, for the first time, measures to estimate the use of oral medications by drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation and who were also stopped for a traffic violation.

The 2007 NRS was designed to provide national estimates of alcohol and drug use by drivers. The survey included measures to estimate the prevalence of alcohol and drug use by drivers, the percentage of drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation, and the percentage of drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation and who were also stopped for a traffic violation.

**Results of the 2007 Survey: Alcohol**

The 2007 NRS found a steady decline in the number of drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation and who were also stopped for a traffic violation. The percentage of drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation and who were also stopped for a traffic violation declined from 11.1% in 2001 to 8.1% in 2007.

**Percentage of Drivers Stopped for a Traffic Violation and Who Were Also Stopped for a Traffic Violation**

Year	Percentage
2001	11.1%
2007	8.1%

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## 2007 NRS – Drug Results

- ✓ More nighttime drivers (14.4%) were drug-positive than daytime drivers (11.0%)
- ✓ Nighttime blood tests indicated 13.8% of the drivers were drug-positive
- ✓ Using combined results of oral fluid and blood tests, 16.3% of the nighttime drivers were drug-positive

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## Rx Drugs and Society



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## Strategies

Encourage more public education and information on the risks of prescription drugs and driving.

MAY CAUSE DROWSINESS.  
ALCOHOL MAY INTENSIFY THIS EFFECT.  
USE CARE WHEN OPERATING A CAR  
OR DANGEROUS MACHINERY.



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## Rx Drugs – Proper Use, Misuse and Abuse

Proper Use:

- Used as prescribed/directed

Misuse:

- Not taken as directed
- Illegally using another persons drug(s)

Abuse:

- Seeking mind-altering effects
- Purposely exceeding recommended dosage



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## Non-Medical Use of Rx Drugs

- Between 1992 – 2003, non-medical use of Rx drugs increased 94% in the U.S.
- 1<sup>st</sup> time users of Rx drugs for non-medical use:

1980's	<0.5 million per year
1998	1.6 million
2000	>2 million per year
2006	6.3 million
2008	7 million

Source: NIDA Research Report Series – Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction  
Trends in Prescription Drug Abuse

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## Prescription Drug Abuse

- Rx drug abuse accounts for almost 30% of the overall drug problem in the U.S.
- Between 2001 – 2005 accidental deaths involving drug abuse increased 114%
- Costs public and private medical insurers over \$72 billion a year



Source: ONDCP 2009 National Prescription Drug Threat Assessment

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## Strategies

Encourage more education and public awareness on the risks of prescription drugs and elderly drivers.



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## Abuse: Not Just Young People

Elderly abuse Rx drugs three times as frequently as the general population



Elderly consume 25% of all Rx medications taken in U.S.

Source: Ondus, et al., 1999

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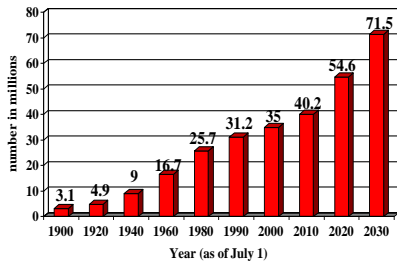
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## "Baby Boomer" Generation

### Number of Persons 65+, 1900-2030



Source: A Profile of Older Americans: 2003, Administration on Aging, HHS

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## Older Drivers and Medications

2009 AAA Study revealed that 78% of 55 and older drivers surveyed are taking more than one Rx medication and only 28% knew the impact the drugs could have on their ability to drive.



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## Strategies

Study the most frequently implicated prescription drugs in impaired driving incidents.



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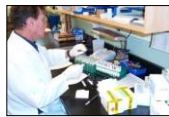
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## Most Frequently Detected Rx Drugs By Laboratory Analysis (2007)

1. Hydrocodone (Vicodin)
2. Diazepam (Valium)
3. Alprazolam (Xanax)
4. Carisoprodol (Soma)
5. Oxycodone (Oxycontin)
6. Methadone (Dolophine)
7. Zolpidem (Ambien)



Source: Recommendations for Toxicological Investigation of Drug Impaired Driving, Farrell, Kerrigan & Logan, Journal Forensic Sciences, September 2007

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## Most Frequently Detected Rx Drugs By Laboratory Analysis (Wisconsin 2009)

1. Alprazolam (Xanax)
2. Diazepam (Valium)
3. Oxycodone (Percocet, Oxycontin)
4. Clonazepam (Klonopin)
5. Methadone (Dolophine, Methadose)
6. Hydrocodone (Lorcet, Lortab, Vicodin)
7. Zolpidem (Ambien)
8. Citalopram (Celexa)

Source: Amy Miles-Cochems, WI Lab March 2011

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## Most Frequently Detected Rx Drugs By Laboratory Analysis (Washington 2009)

1. Alprazolam (Xanax)
2. Methadone (Dolophine, Methadose)
3. Oxycodone (Percocet, Oxycontin)
4. Clonazepam (Klonopin)
5. Diazepam (Valium)
6. Citalopram (Celexa)
7. Zolpidem (Ambien)
8. Lorazepam (Ativan)



Source: Washington State Laboratory March 2011

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## Most Frequently Detected Rx Drugs By Laboratory Analysis (Arizona 2009-2010)

1. Alprazolam (Xanax) +48%
2. Diazepam (Valium) +5%
3. Carisoprodol (Soma) +156%
4. Oxycodone (Percocet, Oxycontin) +72%
5. Hydrocodone (Vicodin) +58%
5. Zolpidem (Ambien) +75%
6. Lorazepam (Ativan) +22%
7. Clonazepam (Klonopin) +41%

Source: Michelle Spirk, AZ DPS Lab March 2011

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## "Pain Killers" in the U.S.

- More than 200,000 pounds of Codeine, Morphine, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone and Meperidine were purchased in 2005
- Enough to give more than 300 milligrams of pain killers to every person in the U.S. (30 10-mg pills)
- U.S. is responsible for approximately 95% of all the Oxycodone used in the world today!!



Source: MSNBC, September 2007

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## Strategies

Research the possible adverse effects of new prescription drugs on driving performance before the medications are made available to the public.



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## Anti-Depressants – The New Challenges



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## Anti-Depressants



- Can cause CNS Stimulant-like effects
- Affects vary from individual to individual, from drug to drug and, vary when mixed with other drugs, over-the-counter substances or with alcohol

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## Oregon Crime Lab Top-10 Anti-Depressant DUI Cases

Drug Name	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Citalopram (Celexa)	41	35	41	108	225
Venlafaxine (Effexor)	35	38	57	61	191
Fluoxetine (Prozac)	45	44	45	45	179
Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril)	34	25	35	57	151
Amitriptyline (Elavil)	32	27	40	45	144
Trazadone (Desyrel)	29	43	33	43	148
Promethazine (Pherergan)	26	17	42	51	136
Nortriptyline (Pamelor)	16	26	47	38	127
Sertraline (Zoloft)	20	17	24	24	85
Bupropion (Wellbutrin)	16	12	30	14	72

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## Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI's)

Anti-depressant drugs designed to elevate a person's mood. Effects the Serotonin.

Most commonly prescribed:

- Celexa (Citalopram)
- Lexapro (Escitalopram)
- Luvox (Fluvoxamine)
- Prozac (Fluoxetine)
- Zoloft (Sertraline)



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## Other Problem Anti-Depressants

- ✓ Effexor (Venlafaxine)
- ✓ Desyrel (Trazadone)
- ✓ Wellbutrin (Bupropion)
- ✓ Paxil (Paroxetine)



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## Strategies

Encourage all states to enact impaired driving laws that include "any drug" or impairing substance.

Must go beyond only controlled substances.



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## Model DUI Statute

"Under the influence of alcohol, any drug or any substance"

28 "any drug" states\*

\*A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing with Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, NHTSA 12/09

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## Strategies

Increase drugged driving training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and toxicologists.



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## ARIDE Training

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) -

- 37 states provided training in 2010
- 459 classes conducted
- Approximately 11,400 officers trained

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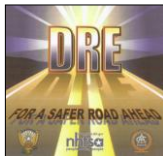
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## DRE Training

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training

- 63 Schools conducted in 2010
- 1,344 officers trained



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## National Drug Control Policy (May 2010)



Strategy #5: Preventing Drugged Driving Must Become a National Priority on Par with Preventing Drunk Driving:

- ✓ Encourage States to Adopt Per Se Drug Impairment Laws
- ✓ Collect Further Data on Drugged Driving
- ✓ Enhance Prevention of Drugged Driving by Educating Communities and Professionals
- ✓ Provide Increased Training to Law Enforcement on Identifying Drugged Drivers
- ✓ Develop Standard Screening Methodologies for Drug Testing Labs to Detect the presence of drugs

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## Thank You! – Questions?



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