



Department
for Transport

Assessing Impact: Update from the UK

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Overview

- Drug driving problem
- Legislation
- Publicity campaign
- Impact
- Key findings and issues



Drug Driving Problem

Traffic volumes and collisions where drug driving cited as contributory factor 2006-2015 for England and Wales

Year	Billions of vehicles miles (all vehicles)	Collisions with drug driving as a CF		
		Number of collisions	Number of fatalities	Number of serious injuries
2006	284.1	582	57	236
2007	286.5	633	66	232
2008	283.6	638	53	257
2009	280.8	585	47	233
2010	276.4	526	39	199
2011	277	588	49	216
2012	275.7	564	29	222
2013	276.7	554	32	225
2014	283.4	643	51	249
2015	288.7	818	60	326

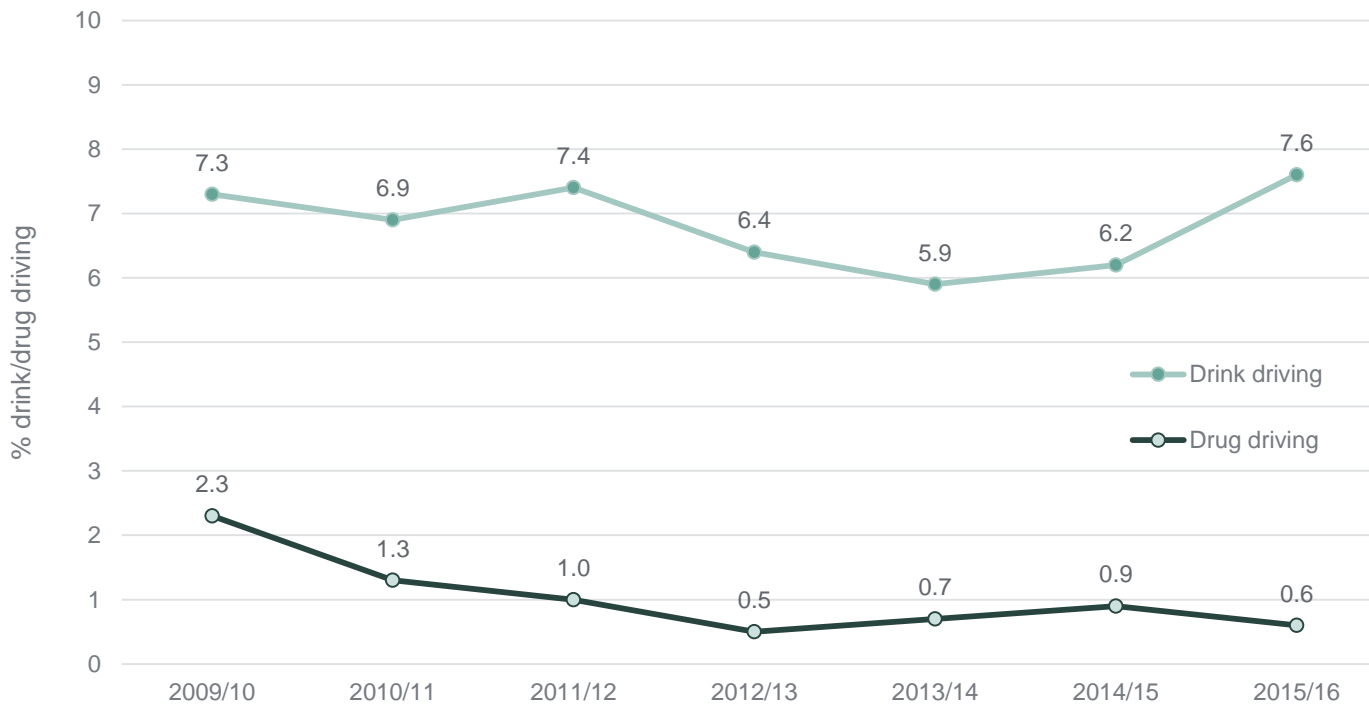
Source: Source: Table TRA0106 from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/tra01-traffic-by-road-class-and-region-miles> and similar tables for previous years, STATS19, Risk Solutions

- ▶ Drug driving figures likely under-reported
- ▶ Males are over-represented in drug driving collisions and self-reported drug driving
- ▶ Illicit drug use more common among 16-34 year olds



Drug Driving Problem

Self-reported drink and drug driving as a proportion of all drivers, driving at least once in last 12 months, 2009/10 onwards



► Cannabis is the most prevalent drug in use and in drug driving

Source: ONS Crime Survey for England and Wales, published by DfT September 2016 (n=15,500)



Drug Driving Legislation and Penalties

Road Traffic Act 1988 (RTA)

RTA Section 4	RTA Section 5A (introduced 2015)	Penalties
Driving, or being in charge, when under influence of drink or drugs.	Driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle with concentration of specified controlled drug above specified limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum 1 year driving ban• An unlimited fine• Up to 6 months in prison• A criminal record• Driver's licence record held for 11 years



Specified Drugs and Limits Threshold limit in micrograms per litre of blood (µg/L)

Illegal drugs		Medical drugs	
Benzoylecgonine	50µg/L	Clonazepam	50µg/L
Cocaine	10µg/L	Diazepam	550µg/L
Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Cannabis)	2µg/L	Flunitrazepam	300µg/L
Ketamine	20µg/L	Lorazepam	100µg/L
Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)	1µg/L	Methadone	500µg/L
Methylamphetamine	10µg/L	Morphine	80µg/L
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)	10µg/L	Oxazepam	300µg/L
6-Monoacetylmorphine (Heroin)	5µg/L	Temazepam	1,000µg/L
Amphetamine		250µg/L	



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THINK! Campaign



IT'S LIKE A
BREATHALYSER
FOR DRUGS.
NO WE HAVEN'T BEEN
SMOKING SOMETHING



THE ROADSIDE SWAB IDENTIFIES
DRUG DRIVERS ON THE SPOT.

DON'T DRUG DRIVE



IF YOU'RE
HIGH BEHIND
THE WHEEL,
THIS WILL BRING
YOU DOWN.



THE ROADSIDE SWAB IDENTIFIES
DRUG DRIVERS ON THE SPOT.

DON'T DRUG DRIVE



**Certain medicines may
affect your ability to drive**

It is illegal to drive if your driving is impaired by drugs,
or if you have certain drugs above a specified level in
your blood.

If you are taking your medicine as directed and your
driving is not impaired, then you are not breaking the
law.

If you're unsure whether you can drive safely while
taking your prescribed medicine, you should not drive
and consult your doctor or pharmacist.

www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law





Impact

Evaluation of the first year:

- Operation and enforcement
- Public attitudes and awareness
- Convictions and behaviour



First year findings

Operation and enforcement

- ▶ Increase in drug driving as a contributory factor in traffic collisions
- ▶ 54% of preliminary drug screening tests are positive for cannabis and/or cocaine
- ▶ Of the drivers screened: 94% male and 64% aged between 16-29 years
- ▶ For blood samples taken where the preliminary saliva test was positive for cannabis, 32% of blood tests were at or below the specified limit
- ▶ In approximately 1 in 8 cases, blood could not be taken following a positive saliva test

Public attitudes and awareness

- ▶ 67% of people believe that drug drivers are unlikely to be caught
- ▶ 48% of drivers and 32% of non-drivers aware of the section 5A drug driving offence

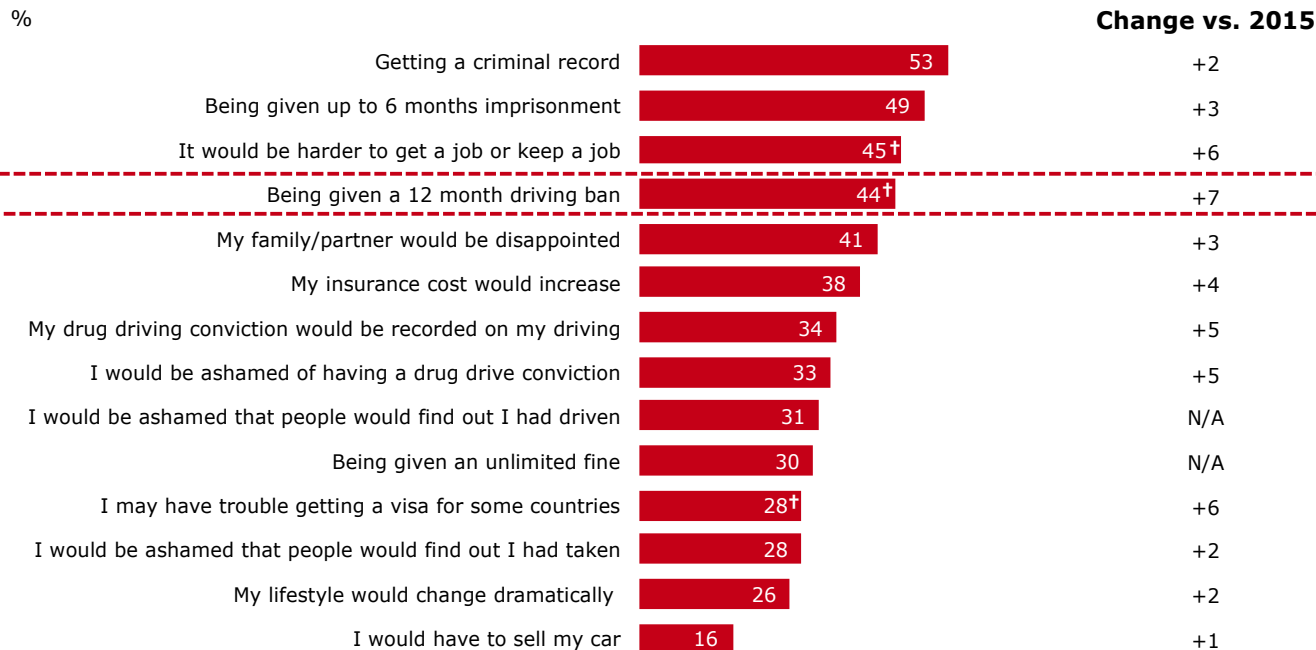
Convictions and behaviour

- ▶ Conviction rates for Section 5A offences were 98% in 2015; similar to drink driving
- ▶ Reduction in self-reported drug driving



Campaign insights

Practical and emotional fears of drug driving repercussions



- ▶ Overall, young male drivers are less willing to drug drive after the campaign
- ▶ Significant increases in people believing that, once stopped, drug drivers will be spotted and convicted
- ▶ The roadside swab was perceived as a deterrent

Q11a. Imagine you were to be caught driving after taking recreational drugs, which of the following would you be most likely to worry about happening?

Base: All males 17-29. Post (2015: 499; 2016: 750)

[†]denotes significant difference 2015 post to 2016 post

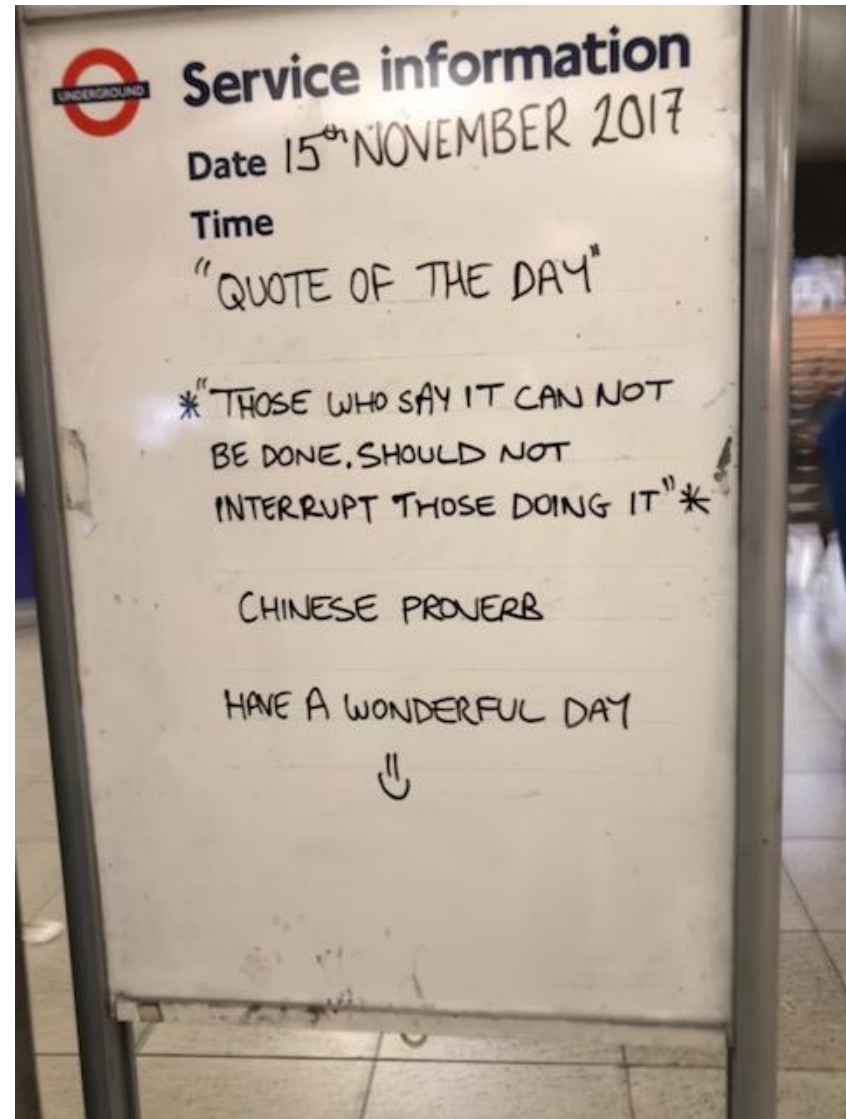
Source: Think! TNS BMRB 2016



Key Findings and Issues



- Better reporting and increased prosecutions
- Monitor trends
- Reduce time between screening test and evidential sample
- Investigate alternative evidential methods
- Improve public awareness and perceptions





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Thank You

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