



Colorado Drugged Driving Fact Sheet

Revised Aug. 9, 2011

- In 2007...
 - 554 people were killed in traffic crashes in Colorado
 - 17% (92) of the total deaths involved a driver who tested positive for drugs
 - 81 drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for drugs
 - 28% (23) of the drivers who tested positive for drugs had ingested marijuana
 - Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs (195), 42% (81) tested positive for drugs.

- In 2008...
 - 548 people were killed in traffic crashes in Colorado
 - 15% (84) of the total deaths involved a driver who tested positive for drugs
 - 72 drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for drugs
 - 43% (31) of the drivers who tested positive for drugs had ingested marijuana
 - Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs (171), 42% (72) tested positive for drugs.

- In 2009...
 - 465 people were killed in traffic crashes in Colorado
 - 19% (88) of the total deaths involved a driver who tested positive for drugs
 - 82 drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for drugs
 - 45% (37) of the drivers who tested positive for drugs had ingested marijuana
 - Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs (177), 46% (82) tested positive for drugs.

- In 2010...
 - 448 people were killed in traffic crashes in Colorado
 - 14% (62) of the total deaths involved a driver who tested positive for drugs
 - 55 drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive for drugs
 - 58% (32) of the drivers who tested positive for drugs had ingested marijuana
 - Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs (126), 44% (55) tested positive for drugs.

Data only includes drivers who were tested for drugs and results that were reported to CDOT.

Colorado Law Enforcement Drug Recognition Experts (DREs)

- Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) are law enforcement officers who are highly trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs, and to identify which category of drug is causing the impairment.
- The number of certified DREs has risen from 86 in 2005 to 173 as of July 1, 2011. There are expected to be over 190 DREs statewide by the end of 2011.
- From 2005 to 2010, the number of evaluations conducted by DREs each year has nearly doubled, from 465 (2005) to 910 (2010).
 - 2005 – 465
 - 2006 – 511
 - 2007 – 668
 - 2008 – 729
 - 2009 – 810
 - 2010 -- 910
- On average, between 2005 and 2010, roughly 58% of all DRE evaluations came up with a result of marijuana as a drug involved.
- From 2009 (391) to 2010 (599), there was a 35% increase in the number of DRE evaluation that came up with a result of marijuana as a drug involved.
 - 2005 – 300
 - 2006 – 304
 - 2007 – 335
 - 2008—429
 - 2009 – 391
 - 2010 - 599

Sources:

Colorado FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)
Colorado Drug Recognition Experts Annual Reports, 2005-2010

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