

DRIVING AFTER USING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS, ROADSIDE TESTING, AND RISK PERCEPTION AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN AUSTRALIA.

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Introduction and Aims: One of the most serious road safety concerns is driving under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. This study will use interview data from sentinel samples of people who regularly use drugs in Australia's capital cities aiming to describe trends in driving after using alcohol and illicit drugs, exposure to roadside breath testing and roadside drug testing, and perceptions of accident risk and risk of police apprehension when driving after consuming alcohol and illicit drugs.

Method / Approach: Data were obtained from face-to-face interviews from the national Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) and the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) between 2007 and 2019. The EDRS contains a sample of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulant drugs, whilst the IDRS consists of a sample of people who regularly inject drugs.

Results: Self-reported drug driving has been consistently higher than reports of drink driving for both the EDRS (53% for drug driving and 29% for drink driving in 2018) and IDRS sample (74% for drug driving and 5% for drink driving in 2018). Over the course of monitoring, the most commonly used drug before driving among the EDRS sample was cannabis whereas heroin was the most commonly used drug before driving among the IDRS sample.

Discussions and Conclusions: Although the rates of drug and drink driving have decreased in the general population in recent years in Australia and the number of drug tests increasing over the years, there are still significant numbers reporting driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol among our sample.

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