

Drivers Unfazed and Confused on Drugged Driving

With the recent legalization of recreational marijuana in several states, safety advocates are increasingly concerned that drugged drivers pose a very serious threat to the safety of U.S. road users.

[New research](#) from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that nearly half of Americans share this concern and report feeling that drug-impaired drivers are a bigger problem today compared to 3 years ago. With 85% of Americans supporting marijuana-impairment laws, the survey reveals that while there's awareness of this serious issue, Americans are unclear on impairment thresholds, safety implications and legal ramifications.

The Foundation's survey found that while two-thirds feel that those who drive after drinking alcohol pose a "very serious" threat to their personal safety, just over half feel the same way about drug use. In fact, 1-in-6 Americans report that, where they live, most people feel it's



acceptable to drive 1 hour after using marijuana.

When it comes to prescription drug use and driving, Americans report feeling even less concerned, with just over a quarter reporting feeling the same "very serious" threat to their personal safety. However, many of these drugs, along with over-the-counter medications, can impair a driver in similar ways as alcohol. Previous studies have found

that a single dose of some cold and allergy medications can have the same effect on driving as being above the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration, and certain antidepressants have been shown to increase crash risk by up to 41%.

To educate drivers on the impact that prescription and over-the-counter drugs can have on safe driving ability, the Foundation developed [Roadwise RX](#) - a free, interactive tool that allows users to input various medications and check for side effects and interactions that can lead to driver impairment.

Register Your School for Walk + Bike Challenge Month in May

The [Walk + Bike Challenge](#) is a friendly competition aimed at encouraging more kids and families to walk and bike to and from school and throughout their neighborhoods.

The Challenge is hosted by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) with support from ODOT and other partners.



After registration, be sure to order your free incentives, including: stickers, temporary tattoos, prize ribbons, and helmets. Check out the Resources page for tips, curriculum, and coordinator packet.

Tracking can be done on a weekly basis or for the entire month. Weekly prize drawings will be held for schools that log trips each week. Registered schools will automatically be entered for *Fire Up Your Feet*, which offers additional cash awards and program support.

**Safe Cars Save Lives:
New NHTSA Recall Campaign**

The campaign urges consumers to check for open recalls at least twice a year.

NHTSA has launched a new public awareness campaign called [Safe Cars Save Lives](#) that urges consumers to check for open recalls at least twice a year and to get their vehicles fixed as soon as parts are available. Last year, there were close to 900 recalls affecting 51 million vehicles nationwide. Every year, on average, 25% of recalled vehicles are left unrepaired.

The *Safe Cars Save Lives* campaign features [online banner ads](#) illustrating that safety should never take a back seat and that checking for a recall could help save a life. Consumers are urged to get into the habit of checking their vehicle identification number (VIN) twice a year at a minimum using NHTSA's free [VIN look-up tool](#).

To remember to check, NHTSA

suggests timing it with day light savings – every November when setting clocks back and every March when setting clocks forward. If there is an open recall, the safety agency advises owners to contact their local dealer to schedule an appointment and bring their vehicle in for repair as soon as possible.



The recall awareness campaign also includes a suite of [safety videos](#) to help inform consumers on how to check their VINs, how recalls and investigations work, and information on what every car owner should know.

Last April, NHTSA convened a [Retooling Recalls workshop](#) comprised of leading transportation officials, automotive industry

representatives, safety advocates and researchers to examine the reasons for low recall repair rates, and options for improving the process.

NHTSA also issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM). The ANPRM seeks to identify additional ways to notify vehicle owners, purchasers and dealers of safety-related defects and noncompliances. Members of the public can read the ANPRM and provide feedback by [clicking here](#).

NHTSA's announcement builds on current efforts to provide consumers with information to help them make informed vehicle safety decisions, including the [VIN Lookup tool](#), [5-Star Safety Ratings System](#), and mobile apps for Apple and Android devices that provide on-the-spot information on crash protection features, advanced safety features, and recalls on new vehicles and many older models.



Janelle Lawrence
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Contact Us



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Mark Your Calendars for our Annual Business Lunch!

Join Oregon Impact for our **10th Annual Business Lunch** held **Wednesday, March 16th** at the Abernethy Center in Oregon City.

Hear engaging guest speakers while enjoying a delicious meal.

Take a break from your busy workday to relax with us and

support a great cause. Network with others who are passionate about helping to keep Oregon's roadways safer. And be sure to enter our raffle for your chance to win a prize!

This year's topic focus is: *Cannabis in the Workplace*. More information and [online sign up here](#).

We hope to see you there!



IIHS Naturalistic Driving Study Provides New Window on Driver Distraction

Figuring out the role cellphone use and other distracting behaviors play in crashes is a challenge for researchers. While things like driver age and alcohol impairment are fairly easy to establish after a serious crash, distraction is harder to pin down. In most cases, there is no reliable record of what a driver was doing in the moments leading up to a collision.

IIHS researchers recently conducted a naturalistic [driving study](#) in which a group of drivers are continuously monitored over an extended time period. The study provides new evidence that using cellphones, eating or drinking, and interacting with an in-vehicle system all increase the odds of a crash.

Of the crashes recorded, 42% were low-risk tire strikes, which include things like a tire hitting a curb. Most drivers likely wouldn't even consider these to be crashes and in some cases might not even notice

them. Another 41% were classified as minor, while 10% include sufficient damage to be police-reportable, and 7% were classified as "most severe."

Researchers looked for the presence of "secondary behaviors" — activities performed by drivers in addition to driving, which allowed scientists to calculate the odds of crashing while so engaged.



The odds ratios went up for every category of secondary behavior that was examined, and all were significant. Of all activities analyzed, manipulating a cellphone was associated with the biggest crash risk — about 5 times the odds of crashing while driving without any secondary behavior.

A new finding is that simply talking

on a cellphone also significantly increases the odds of a crash when tire strikes are excluded.

The study doesn't address what policies might reduce the types of distraction that lead to crashes. Earlier research has found that cellphone bans reduce phone use, but not crashes. The researchers hypothesized that drivers who refrained from using their phones manually may have switched to hands-free systems, which also can be distracting, or may have been distracted by something else

"Although this study shows that manipulating a cellphone is more risky than some other secondary behaviors, it's important to remember that drivers are distracted in many other ways, and putting down the phone does not mean a driver is paying attention to the road," says Anne McCartt, IIHS Sr. VP for research and co-author of the new study. "An approach that addresses all kinds of distraction, instead of focusing specifically on cellphones, will be most successful in improving safety."

Transportation Safety Workshops

TREC Events
TREC Workshops are typically held at PSU.

UP Highway Safety Workshops

OSU Kiewit Center

Topic	Date	Time	Registration
TREC Workshop & Livestream: An Analysis of Cyclist Path Choices Through Shared Space Intersections in England	2/12	12 pm	More Info
TREC Webinar: Development of a Pedestrian Demand Estimation Tool	2/18	10 am	Register
TREC Workshop & Livestream: Size Variables in Recursive Logit Route Choice Models	2/19	12 pm	More Info
TREC Workshop & Livestream: Transportation Life Cycle Assessment	2/26	12 pm	More Info
UP: Free Transportation Safety Workshop in Happy Valley	2/16	9 am - 4 pm	Register
Kiewit Center Workshop: Highway Safety Manual	3/22 - 3/26	All Day	Register

Car Seat Check-Up Events and Fitting Stations

Date	City	Location	Address	Time
2/13	Hillsboro	Tuality Health Edu Ctr	334 SE 8th Ave	9 am - 11:30 am
2/17	Redmond	Redmond Fire	341 NW Dogwood Ave	2 pm - 4 pm
2/20	Vancouver*	Peace Health*	92nd Ave Entrance	8:45 am - 2 pm*
2/20	Beaverton	Park Place Center	4915 SW Griffith Dr	9 am - 12 pm
2/25	Forest Grove	Forest Grove Fire	1919 Ash St	3 pm - 5 pm
2/25	Eugene	Eugene Fire	1725 W 2nd Ave	4 pm - 6 pm
2/27	Keizer	Keizer Fire	661 Chemawa Rd	12:30 pm - 2 pm
2/27	Portland	Providence St. Vincent's	9205 SW Barnes Rd	10 am - 12:30 pm
3/3	Redmond	Redmond Fire	341 NW Dogwood Ave	11 am - 2 pm
3/3	Island City	La Grande Rural Fire	10200 S McAlister Rd	2 pm - 4 pm

Events are tentative due to weather.

For all event listings, appointment options, best practice information, visit the [Child Safety Seat Resource Center](#).



*Peace Health Event: Registration required by 8:45 am for 9-10 am class. First come, first served. Must attend class to participate in the clinic, which is held from 10 am - 2 pm.

Remembering Daisy

from [SafeKids.org](#)

My name is Jamie and I am the mother of 4 beautiful children. In 2014 I experienced a tragic loss when my 3-year-old daughter, Daisy, died in a car accident.



could have been prevented. Because I had been so tired, I didn't take the time to buckle up my children. If I had spent those 5 minutes strapping them into their car seats, Daisy might still be here with me today.

Daisy was the most loving baby. She constantly showed her affection and love for others. Although she adored everyone, Daisy was particularly attached to me. I couldn't bathe, eat or sleep without my little girl right by my side.

I hope my story encourages parents to always buckle up their kids regardless of the situation. You don't want to feel the pain or grief I am going through. The sadness is overwhelming, even after a year.

I was driving on the highway with my children when the tread came off my back tire. I lost control and the van rolled 25 feet down the bank. With none of us wearing seat belts, we were tossed around the car. My 5-year-old daughter was thrown face first into the window. My 1-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son were luckier – they had no serious abrasions. Unfortunately, Daisy was trapped in the car and I couldn't get her out. I watched her take her last breath. It was the most terrible thing you could ever imagine; a mother trying to save her daughter, but unable to.

I understand that some people, when they read my story, might get angry with me and say some bad things. That's OK. As long as that anger reminds them to put their children in the proper car seats and to buckle up every ride, every time. There is nothing that can be said or written that makes me feel worse than I already do every day.

Losing Daisy that day was absolutely heartbreaking. One of the most upsetting things about the crash is knowing that her death

If my daughter passing away can save at least one child's life, then at least something good can come out of it. Next time you're thinking of leaving your child unbuckled, think of me and my family and what we are going through. It's not worth it and remember that one minute to buckle up your child could make all the difference.

Register Your High School for the Seat Belts Save Challenge



The 2016 National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) Seat Belts Save Challenge is a four-week campaign open to all U.S. high school students. It is designed to educate teen drivers about the dangers of riding in a car without wearing a seat belt, and increase the number of teens who regularly wear a seat belt while driving or riding in a car. Participating schools can win recognition from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and coverage in national media.

To participate, register by March 1, 2016. Challenge activities can take place between March 1 and May 26, 2016. Your school can conduct the four-week challenge at any time during that period. The final report must be submitted to NOYS on or before June 10, 2016.

For Rules and Guidelines, Challenge Materials (including an Implementation Guide), State-specific Fact Sheets, and the "Challenge Calendar" visit the [SeatBeltsSave](#) website.