Drugged Driving
Driving Under the Influence of Drugs
Safe Communities is a coalition centered, data driven model, which is a collaboration of citizens and agencies for injury prevention.

The Driver Safety Public Education Campaign focuses on reduction of injury and death from motor vehicle crashes.
Why is Drugged Driving a issue?

- The principal concern regarding drugged driving is that driving under the influence of any drug that acts on the brain could impair one’s motor skills, reaction time, and judgment. Drugged driving is a public health concern because it puts not only the driver at risk but also passengers and others who share the road.- National Institute on Drug Abuse.
Driving under the influence of drugs affects the driver, but puts pedestrians and other drivers at risk.
For the past 25 years, as a nation, we have been concerned with the effects on drunk driving. However, we are seeing an increase in drugged driving, especially in the younger generations.

Drunk driving is the act of driving under the influence of alcohol whereas drugged driving is under the influence of drugs.
Drugged Driving

- Drugged driving includes the use of illegal substances, as well as, prescribed drugs that have affects on operators/drivers of vehicles.
Conservative estimates show that 20% of crashes in the U.S. are caused by drugged driving. This is about 6,761 deaths, 440,000 injuries and $59.9 billion in costs each year.

In a national survey, drugs were present more than 7 times as frequently as alcohol among weekend, nighttime drivers in the U.S., with 16% testing positive for drugs, compared to 2% testing at or above the legal limit for alcohol.

NHTSA and Stopdruggeddriving.com
Effective drugged driving prevention is one of the best ways to improve highway safety, to reduce illegal drug use, and to get more drug abusers into addiction treatment.
How Do Drugs Affect Driving Skills?

- **Coordination:** Effects on nerves/muscles – steering, braking, accelerating, manipulation of vehicle

- **Reaction time:** Insufficient response & reaction

- **Judgment:** Cognitive effects, risk reduction, avoidance of potential hazards, anticipation, risk-taking behavior, inattention, decreased fear, exhilaration, loss of control
How Do Drugs Affect Driving Skills?

- **Tracking:** Staying in lane, maintaining distance
- **Attention:** Divided, not focused. High demand for information processing is severely affected
- **Perception:** 90% of information processed by our brain while driving is visual. Glare resistance and recovery, dark and light adaptation, dynamic visual acuity – all are negatively impacted by drug use
For alcohol, detection of its blood concentration (BAC) is relatively simple, and concentrations greater than 0.08 percent have been shown to impair driving performance; thus, 0.08 percent is the legal limit in this State and most others.

For illicit drugs, no agreed-upon limit for which impairment occurs has been reliably demonstrated. Furthermore, determining current drug levels can be difficult, since some drugs linger in the body for a period of days or weeks after initial ingestion.

National Institute for drug abuse
Drug Effects Related to Driving

Methamphetamine


- Paranoia, Hallucinations, Mood disturbances
- Repetitive motor activity, Stroke
- Euphoria and rush

Ecstasy “XTC” and “MDMA”

- Hallucinations
- Tremors
- Muscle cramping
- Blurred vision
Drug Effects Related to Driving

**Cocaine** *"coke," "C," "snow," "flake," or "blow."*
- Irritability
- Mood disturbances
- Paranoia
- Auditory hallucinations
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea
- Disturbances in heart rhythm
- Heart attacks
- Chest pain
- Respiratory failure
- Strokes
- Seizures
- Headaches

**Heroin** *"smack", "H", "skag", and "junk"*
- Depressed respiration
- Clouded mental functioning
- Heaviness of extremities
- Drowsiness
Marijuana

- Problems with memory
- Distorted perception
- Difficulty in thinking and problem-solving
- Loss of coordination
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Anxiety
- Panic attacks
- Hallucinations and paranoia

It is the most common drug used by drivers other than alcohol. It is the most common drug used by Teen drivers other than alcohol.
THC, the high producing element in marijuana, affects areas of the brain that control body movements, balance, coordination, memory and judgment. Evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicate that marijuana negatively affects a driver’s attentiveness, perception of time and speed, and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences.
Marijuana and Driving

- Research also shows that impairment increases significantly when marijuana use is combined with alcohol. Studies have found that many drivers test positive for alcohol and THC, making it clear that drinking and drugged driving are often linked behaviors.
This a primary issue for ages 12-17 as these types of drugs are accessible through home medicine cabinets. The key concern is the variability of these pharmaceutical drugs that cause various side effects. These effects change due to the expiration date and to the physiological reaction unique to each individual.

http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/prescription-drugs
Adolescent Prescription Drug Abuse

- Prescription drug use among teenagers is second to marijuana.
- Prevalent issue that is increasing.
- Pharm Parties and Fish Bowls

http://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/prescription-drugs
"Intoxicated" means: not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, a combination of two or more of those substances, or any other substance into the body.
Texas Law

- **DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED.** A person commits an offense if the person is intoxicated while operating a **motor vehicle** in a public place.

- Similar offenses exist for those operating an **airplane** or a **boat**.
Texas Penalties for DWI

- **1st Offense**
  - Up to a $2,000 fine
  - 3 to 180 days in jail
  - Loss of drivers license up to 1 year
  - Annual fee of $1,000 or $2,000 for 3 years

- **2nd Offense**
  - Up to a $4,000 fine
  - 30 days to 1 year in jail
  - Loss of drivers license up to two years
  - Annual fee: $1,000, $1,500 or $2,000 for 3 years

- **3rd Offense**
  - A $10,000 fine
  - 2 to 10 years in prison
  - Loss of drivers license up to two years
  - Annual fee: $1,000, $1,500 or $2,000 for 3 years
Proud to be in control of my choices because they are the key to driving drug free.
Prevent Drugged Driving

✓ Make responsible decisions when driving or riding as a passenger when drug use is noticeable.

✓ Find someone else to drive if you absolutely must take a prescription drug that may impair your driving ability.

✓ Be aware of the drug's potential interactions with alcohol, other prescription medicines, and over-the-counter medicines.
Prevent Drugged Driving

✓ Make sure that medicine cabinets are cleaned out of old drugs and current drugs are secured properly

✓ Encourage drug free driving to friends and family members.
  ✓ Emphasize this to young adults and teenagers

✓ Report intoxicated drivers to the law enforcement at 911

✓ Avoid intoxicated drivers on the road