



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY



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CONTACT:

ONDCP Public Affairs: 202-395-6618

MediaInquiry@ondcp.eop.gov -OR-

MADD Communications: 469-420-4503
media@madd.org

White House Drug Policy Director and Mothers Against Drunk Driving Unite to Combat Drugged Driving; Call on Parents to Act to Reduce Significant Public Safety Threat

New Analysis Shows 1 in 4 Fatally Injured Drivers who Tested Positive for Drugs are Under the Age of 25; MADD Announces Support Services for Victims of Drugged Driving and Recognition for Law Enforcement Efforts

(Washington, D.C.)—Today, Gil Kerlikowske, Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and Jan Withers, National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) announced a new partnership to raise public awareness regarding the consequences of drugged driving. MADD has launched a national effort to provide support to the victims of poly-abuse (both alcohol and drugs) and drugged driving, and to recognize law enforcement officers for their achievements in drugged driving enforcement. ONDCP also released new resources produced by ONDCP for parents and teens aimed at educating young drivers regarding the perils of driving while under the influence of drugs.

According to a new ONDCP analysis of 2009 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) census, roughly one in four (23 percent) of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for drugs were under the age of 25. Additionally, based on data from 2005 to 2009, almost half (42 percent) of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana were under the age of 25.

The results of this analysis provide a deeper look at previously released information from NHTSA's FARS census of fatal motor vehicle crashes which showed that one-in three motor vehicle driver fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. FARS data also showed the involvement of drugs in fatal crashes has increased by five percentage points over the past five years, even as the overall number of drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes in the United States has declined.

“Research shows that drugs have adverse effects on judgment, reaction time, and motor skills – all vital requirements for responsible driving,” said Kerlikowske. “I can think of no greater organization with which to partner to save lives on our roadways than MADD. For decades, MADD has been a lynchpin in our Nation's efforts to make our roadways safer and I am proud to join them to help raise public awareness regarding the devastating consequences of drugged driving.”

“In partnership with ONDCP and in recognition of the growing problem of poly-abuse and drugged driving, MADD is putting a face on these issues by launching a nationally coordinated effort to provide support to the underserved and growing number of drugged driving victims in America,” said MADD National President Jan Withers. “In addition, we are presenting Pennsylvania State Police Corporal David Andrascik with the first annual MADD Hero Award for Drugged Driving Enforcement for his ongoing efforts in implementation of effective strategies for recognizing drugged driving and keeping our roads safe.”

“We already know the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, and a growing body of research indicates that drugged driving is also a concern—especially for young drivers aged 15-20 who are at particularly high risk for traffic crashes and really need to remain fully alert and focused on driving,” said David Strickland, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. “We’re pleased to be working alongside the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Mothers Against Drunk Driving to bring attention to this serious health and safety issue.”

Recognizing the need to arm parents, young people, and community leaders with information to prevent drugged driving, ONDCP also released a *Drugged Driving Toolkit*. The toolkit provides tips for parents of teen drivers, sample community activities to raise public awareness regarding drugged driving, and tips to help teens reject negative influences to ensure they remain “Above the Influence.” The toolkit is available for download at www.TheAntiDrug.com.

President Obama has made combating drugged driving a drug control priority and has set a goal of reducing drugged driving prevalence by 10 percent by 2015. To achieve this goal, the Obama Administration is working to increase public awareness and encouraging states to explore legal responses, such as *per se* laws that make it illegal for individuals to drive with illicit drugs in their system. Already, 17 states in the United States have adopted these statutes. Additionally, ONDCP is providing increased training to law enforcement to identify drugged drivers and working with the National Institutes of Health and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop standard screening methodologies for drug-testing labs to use in detecting the presence of drugs among drivers.

Since its inception in 1980, MADD has worked tirelessly to stop drunk driving and to support the victims of drunk driving and prevent underage drinking. Victims and survivors of both drunk and drugged driving crashes can get support from trained victim advocates 24/7 at 1-877-MADD-HELP, at no charge. More information about MADD can be found at www.madd.org.

For more information on national efforts to reduce drug use and its consequences visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/ONDCP

The Office of National Drug Control Policy seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation’s effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving was founded by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, and it is now the nation’s largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunk driving and underage drinking, while also supporting victims of drunk and drugged driving.



Drugged Driving: A Growing Threat on Our Roadways

By [Jan Withers](#) | October 13, 2011 | [1 Comments](#) | Filed in: [General](#) , [National President](#) , [Victim Services](#)

For more than 30 years, MADD has worked hard to put a face to the statistics. Study after study shows what happens when alcohol and driving are mixed — tragedy. But while drunk driving remains one of the primary threats on America's roadways, alcohol isn't the only drug that causes heartbreak on our roadways. We are also seeing a growing trend of poly-abuse (both alcohol and other drugs) and drugged driving crashes. Although the substances are different, the consequences are the same — needless deaths and injuries.

Just ask Hollywood Ruch and Stephanie Call. Both are speaking at today's event after personally being impacted by drivers under the influence of drugs.

Here's what we're up against according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#):

- Roughly one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs.
- In 2009, of the drivers who were killed in motor vehicle crashes (and were subsequently tested and had results reported), one in three tested positive for drugs.
- One in ten high school seniors self-reported that in the last two weeks they had driven a car after using marijuana.

The ripple effects after a crash are as deep as they are wide. At MADD, we like to say: first there is the crash ... then there is the impact. That is why since our founding, MADD has provided [support to victims and survivors](#) of drunk driving crashes. After my daughter Alisa died, I turned to MADD for help. And what I found was that not only did I get help, I got hope too.

For the past 17 years, I've personally served as a victim advocate and have worked with hundreds of families, some of which lost their loved ones to a drugged driver. Each case is as heartbreaking as the next.

While MADD has been providing support for those victims and survivors of drugged driving crashes who have been referred to or have reached out to MADD, until now, MADD has not made specific national efforts to reach these underserved victims. Today, in recognition of the growing problem of poly-abuse and drugged driving, we are announcing alongside the [White House Office of National Drug Control Policy](#) the launch of a national coordinated effort to reach out to the underserved and growing number of drugged driving victims in the country.



Corporal David Andracsik

In addition to victim services, MADD will also begin honoring those law enforcement officers who are pioneers in discovering effective strategies for recognizing drugged driving. At MADD, we believe that recognizing officers who make significant contributions to ending drugged driving is key to raising awareness about this growing threat to American families.

Starting this year, an award, known as the 'MADD Hero Award for Drugged Driving Enforcement,' will be awarded biannually to a law enforcement agency, individual or group that has made significant contributions toward getting drugged drivers off of the nation's roadways. I am proud today to share that the first winner of the MADD Hero Award for Drugged Driving Enforcement is Corporal David Andracsik of the Pennsylvania State Police Department Bureau of Patrol. We thank Corporal Andracsik for all he has done to help protect people and prevent injuries.

You can help support this exciting new aspect to our organization's ongoing efforts to save lives and serve people. Make a [donation](#) or find out how you can become a [trained victim advocate](#). MADD needs people like you to push our lifesaving mission forward.

<http://www.madd.org/blog/drugged-driving.html>

The Washington Post

Anti-drugged-driving campaign cites fatal crash data

By Ashley Halsey III, Published: October 13

One-third of the almost 14,000 drivers whose bodies were checked specifically for drugs after they died in crashes tested positive, according to a federal report that was used Thursday to renew a campaign against drugged driving.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy gleaned the statistics from 2009 federal highway fatality data. The new report said that narcotics and depressants were more likely to be found in the bodies of crash victims age 45 or older and that marijuana use was highest among those younger than 24. Forty-eight percent of dead drivers who tested positive for drugs also had been drinking.

“We already know the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, and a growing body of research indicates that drugged driving is also a concern, especially for young drivers aged 15 to 20 who are at particularly high risk for traffic crashes,” said David Strickland, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The study was released as the nation’s state highway safety officials urged state legislators to address drugged driving more aggressively. The release came on the eve of a White House summit on the issue scheduled for Friday.

“State and national data indicate that drugged driving is a growing problem that demands more attention,” said Barbara Harsha, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association. “As with drunk driving, a strong national-state partnership is necessary to make progress.”

The association recommended that states change their laws to provide separate and distinct penalties for alcohol- and drug-impaired driving and that they make drug testing of fatally injured drivers routine. Policies on testing crash victims for drugs vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

“Drugs have adverse effects on judgment, reaction time and motor skills,” said Gil Kerlikowske, director of National Drug Control Policy.

Federal officials said they would join Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in a campaign to raise public awareness about the danger of drugged driving.

“MADD is putting a face on these issues by launching a nationally coordinated effort to provide support to the . . . growing number of drugged driving victims,” said Jan Withers, the group’s national president.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/commuting/anti-drug-campaign-targets-drivers-in-fatal-vehicle-crashes/2011/10/12/gIQA84PZhL_story.html