



National Transportation Safety Board

Drug-Impaired Driving Countermeasures

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Overview

- State of Texas efforts
- National efforts and countermeasures
- Drug toxicology testing

Texas Impaired Driving Laws and Problem

- “Driving while intoxicated” law includes all substances
- Alcohol and other drug countermeasures
- Texas has high rate of impaired driving fatalities
- Impaired driving fatalities increasing

Texas Highway Safety Plans

- “Texas is facing a crisis in road safety”
- Impaired-driving is a safety plan emphasis area
 - 38% (1,323) of total state fatalities (3,516) involved an alcohol-impaired driver
 - 47% of all fatally injured drivers (with valid test result) tested positive for a drug

Texas Performance Targets

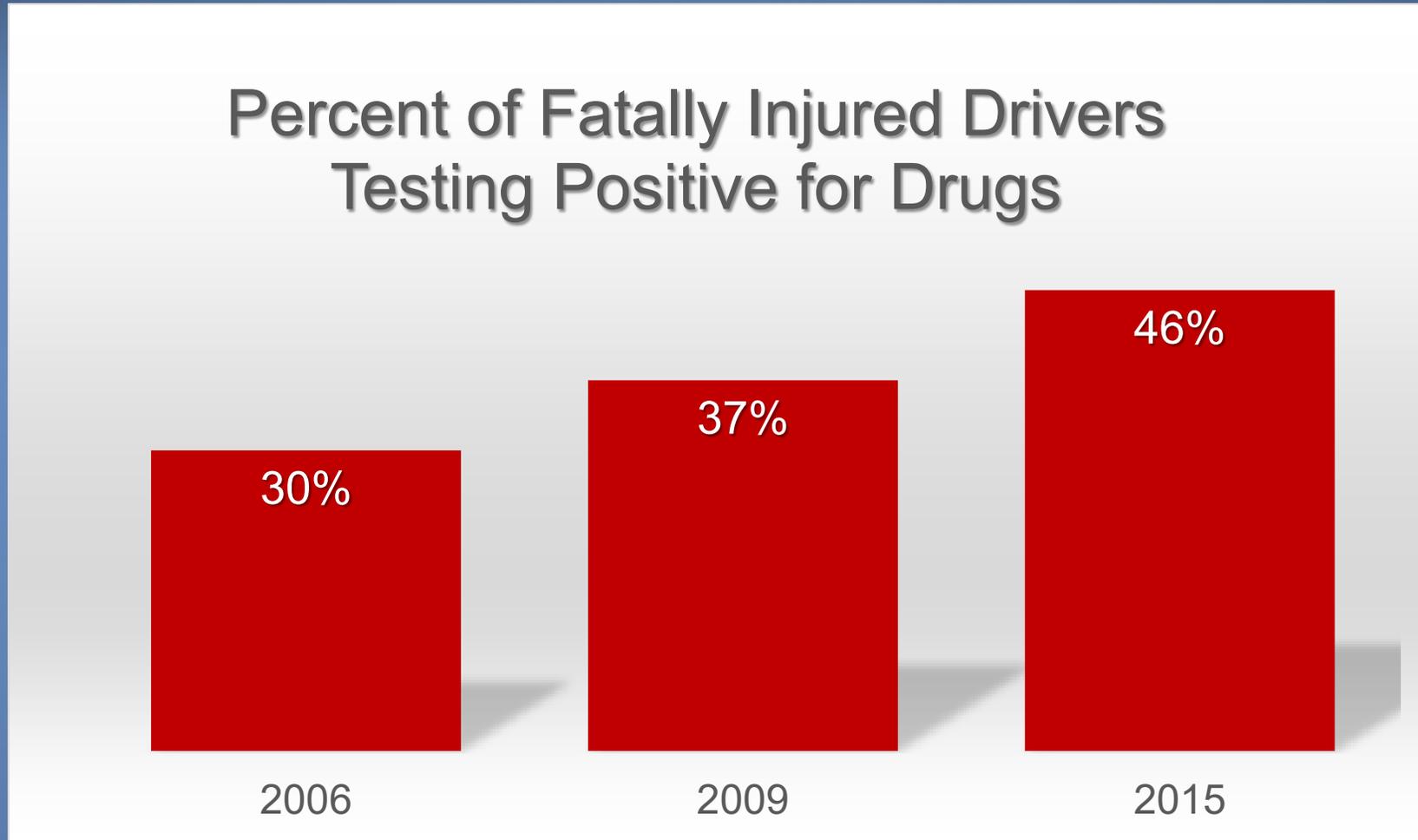
Outcome	2015 Total	2022 Projection	2022 Target
Traffic-related fatalities	3,516	4,327	4,241
Traffic-related serious injuries	17,096	19,454	19,065
Impaired driving fatalities	1,323	1,653	1,620
Rate of alcohol-related driving fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled	0.51	0.58	0.57

(Source: 2017-2022 Texas SHSP and HSP)

Assessment of Texas Impaired Driving Program

- Impaired driving task force and statewide plan
- Assessment identified shortcomings in leadership, resources, and training
- 25 of 65 assessment recommendations not being addressed or require legislative action
- Executive-level engagement is needed

Prevalence of Drugs



Prevalence of Drugs

National Roadside Survey (2013-2014)	Weekday Days	Weekend Nights
Tested positive for some drug or medication	22.4%	22.5%
Illegal drugs, including marijuana	12.1%	15.2%
Medication	10.3%	7.3%
Marijuana	11.7%	12.6%

National Efforts

- NHTSA “Call to Action”
- *“If you feel different, you drive different. Drive high, get a DUI.”*
- Limited number of science-based countermeasures
- Need to evaluate best practices and countermeasures

Drug Toxicology Testing

- Postcrash drug toxicology testing inconsistent
- Common standard for drug toxicology testing is needed (H-12-33):
 - Circumstances tests should be conducted
 - Minimum set of drugs for which to test
 - Cutoff values for reporting results
- Data will provide better understanding of problem

Summary

- Need to reverse upward trend in fatalities involving impaired drivers in Texas
- Nationwide use of drugs by drivers is increasing
- Need to identify science-based countermeasures
- Need for common standard of practice for drug toxicology testing