

PIRE California Roadside Survey – 2012

A randomized testing of 1375 drivers for alcohol and drugs from a cross section of locations in northern, central and southern California. The surveys took place at night on the weekend.

Tested for the presence of 50 drugs, including synthetic marijuana (K-2)

1313 drivers provided an oral fluid sample

1449 provided a breath sample

14% of drivers tested positive for drugs

7.4% of the drug positive drivers tested positive for pot

2.7% tested positive for illegal drugs

3.3% tested positive for legal drugs (OTC and medications)

1% of drivers had a BAC over .08

40% (519) of the drivers said they'd smoked pot sometime in their life. Of the drivers who said they had used pot sometime in their life,

* the majority (53% or 192) said they started using sometime between age 14 and 17.

* 28% (130) said they'd smoked pot within the last 30 days.

The people who said they smoked pot within the last 30 days were also asked how often they smoke pot. 63% (52) said they smoke pot once a day; 25% (21) said they smoke 2-to-3 times a day; 12% (10) said they smoke more than three times a day.

Have you used pot within two hours of driving? Yes= 14% (67) and no= 86% (402)

When you used pot and drove, did it affect your driving? Yes= 22% (55) and no=78% (191) Only 22% of those who said they drove while high also said pot degraded their driving ability; 78% of people who said they drove while high also said pot did not degrade their driving ability, in fact a large percentage (31%) said it improved their driving.

Of the drivers who tested positive for drugs (184) 52% (98) tested positive for pot. If you add those who tested positive for synthetic pot to the mix, then 55% (102) tested positive for pot.

15 (1% of the total) drivers had a BAC over .08.

184 drivers tested positive for drugs.

Drivers with alcohol in their systems – what levels? And how about pot smokers, did they have alcohol in their system, too?

BAC positive drivers	What level of Alcohol?	Pot and alcohol combined
15	BAC .08 or higher (1%)	0
25	BAC .05 to .08 (1.7%)	9
66	BAC under .05 (4.6%)	4
1,326	No alcohol (92.6%)	85