

KEY INSIGHTS AND TRENDS

- 25% of driving deaths in Texas involve alcohol.
- Fatal crashes involving alcohol represent 25.45% of all traffic fatalities in Texas.
- When alcohol is involved, a young Texas driver is 15x more likely to die compared to young drivers in alcohol-free crashes.
- In Texas, nearly 1 in 4 teen drivers who died in motor crashes tested positive for cannabis.
- 1 in 3 alcohol-related crashes in Texas involve drivers 25 and under.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens.
- 38% of Texas middle and high school students have used alcohol at some point.
- 17% of Texas students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days.
- 17% of Texas high school students have used cannabis at least once.
- Cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug among Texas youth.
- Average age of first alcohol use in Texas: 12.5
- Average age of first cannabis use in Texas: 13.9
- Impaired driving peaks between 2:00–2:59 AM and on Sundays.
- High school impaired driving increases by grade level — 12th graders are 6x more likely than 9th graders to drive while high.
- Marijuana impairment in class rises from 1.4% in 7th grade to 8.5% in 12th grade.
- Chronic use (10+ days high in class) increases from 0.2% in 7th grade to 3.9% in 12th grade, showing regular, not experimental, use.

Drug & Alcohol Combinations

- 2–6x: Cannabis combined with alcohol increases crash risk up to 6 times more than either substance alone.
- 27% of Texas crash fatalities involved THC, based on toxicology reports.

Passenger & Designated Driver Behavior

- 21% of Texas youth have ridden with a driver who had been drinking.
- 19% of Texas college students report riding with a driver who was high or drunk within the past year.
- While 41% of college students act as a designated driver monthly, the majority don't serve in that role regularly.

Public Health & Economic Impact

- \$10.3 billion: Estimated annual public cost of alcohol-related crashes in Texas.

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING STATISTICS

Texas Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Facts (2023)

- 1,090 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes where a driver was under the influence of alcohol in 2023.
- This represents 25.45% of the total number of people killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes.
- Most DUI-Alcohol crashes were reported between 2:00 am and 2:59 am.
- Sunday had more DUI-Alcohol crashes than any other day of the week.

Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students (2023)

- Approximately 11% of college students reported driving after drinking alcohol at least once a month.
- About 4% of college students admitted to driving at least once in an average month after having five or more drinks.
- Nearly 1.2% of survey respondents reported being involved in an auto accident involving a drunk driver.
- Of those involved in drunk driving accidents, about 18% reported they were the intoxicated driver.

Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2024)

- Among high school students in the past twelve months:
- 2.6% reported driving a car when they had "a good bit to drink"
- 2.1% drove after drinking 1-3 times
- 0.2% drove after drinking 4-9 times
- 0.3% drove after drinking 10+ times

DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING STATISTICSTexas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students (2023)

- 8% of college students reported driving high or stoned in a typical month.
- About 19% of college students reported riding in a car with someone who was high or drunk at least once in a typical month.

Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2024)

- Among high school students in the past twelve months:
- 3.2% reported driving a car when they felt high from drugs
- 2.0% drove while high 1-3 times
- 0.4% drove while high 4-9 times
- 0.8% drove while high 10+ times

IMPAIRED DRIVING BY GRADE LEVELTexas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2024)

- Driving a car when feeling high from drugs (past 12 months):
- Grade 9: 1.0% (0.7% did so 1-3 times, 0.1% did so 4-9 times, 0.2% did so 10+ times)
- Grade 10: 2.5% (1.8% did so 1-3 times, 0.2% did so 4-9 times, 0.5% did so 10+ times)
- Grade 11: 4.5% (2.9% did so 1-3 times, 0.2% did so 4-9 times, 1.4% did so 10+ times)
- Grade 12: 5.8% (3.3% did so 1-3 times, 1.2% did so 4-9 times, 1.3% did so 10+ times)
- This shows a clear progression of increased impaired driving with age/grade level, with seniors nearly 6 times more likely to drive while high compared to freshmen.

DESIGNATED DRIVING BEHAVIORSTexas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students (2023)

- About 41% of college students reported serving as a designated driver in a usual month.
- About 36% of college students reported riding with a designated driver in a usual month.
- Stats suggest that while designated driving is a common practice, it is not universal among college students.

IMPAIRMENT IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGSTexas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use (2024)

- Percentage of all students who attended class while impaired since the beginning of the fall semester:

- Drunk on alcohol: 2.7% (2.1% did so on 1-3 days, 0.3% did so on 4-9 days, 0.3% did so on 10+ days)
- High from marijuana: 4.7% (2.2% did so on 1-3 days, 0.6% did so on 4-9 days, 1.9% did so on 10+ days)
- High from other drugs: 1.4% (1.0% did so on 1-3 days, 0.2% did so on 4-9 days, 0.2% did so on 10+ days)

Attending Class While High from Marijuana Use (by grade level)

- Grade 7: 1.4% (1.0% did so on 1-3 days, 0.2% did so on 4-9 days, 0.2% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 8: 3.1% (1.8% did so on 1-3 days, 0.5% did so on 4-9 days, 0.8% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 9: 4.5% (2.3% did so on 1-3 days, 0.7% did so on 4-9 days, 1.5% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 10: 6.4% (2.4% did so on 1-3 days, 0.7% did so on 4-9 days, 3.3% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 11: 6.4% (2.7% did so on 1-3 days, 0.9% did so on 4-9 days, 2.8% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 12: 8.5% (3.8% did so on 1-3 days, 0.8% did so on 4-9 days, 3.9% did so on 10+ days)
- **Data shows a clear trend of increasing marijuana use in educational settings as students' progress through grade levels, with 12th graders more than 6 times as likely to attend class high compared to 7th graders**

Attending Class While High from Use of Other Drugs (by grade level)

- Grade 7: 1.1% (0.7% did so on 1-3 days, 0.2% did so on 4-9 days, 0.2% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 8: 1.5% (1.0% did so on 1-3 days, 0.2% did so on 4-9 days, 0.3% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 9: 1.3% (1.1% did so on 1-3 days, 0.1% did so on 4-9 days, 0.1% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 10: 1.4% (0.9% did so on 1-3 days, 0.3% did so on 4-9 days, 0.2% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 11: 1.2% (0.8% did so on 1-3 days, 0.2% did so on 4-9 days, 0.2% did so on 10+ days)
 - Grade 12: 1.8% (1.7% did so on 1-3 days, 0.0% did so on 4-9 days, 0.1% did so on 10+ days)
- **Unlike marijuana use, impairment from other drugs in educational settings does not show a clear progression by grade level**

Attending Class While Drunk on Alcohol

- The data shows that 2.7% of all students reported attending class while drunk on alcohol since the beginning of the fall semester.
- This includes 2.1% who did so on 1-3 days, 0.3% who did so on 4-9 days, and 0.3% who did so on 10+ days.
- While specific grade-level breakdowns for alcohol impairment in class were not provided in the detailed summary, the overall rate is lower than marijuana impairment (4.7%) but higher than impairment from other drugs (1.4%).

IMPLICATIONS FOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Prevention efforts should target high-risk times for impaired driving (early morning hours and weekends).
- Educational interventions should begin early, as data shows impairment behaviors increase significantly with each grade level.
- Special attention should be given to marijuana impairment, which shows the most concerning trends across grade levels.
- College campuses should strengthen designated driver programs, as current participation rates leave significant gaps in coverage.
- Interventions targeting high school seniors and college students should be prioritized, as these groups show the highest rates of impaired driving.
- Educational settings should implement screening and intervention programs, as a significant number of students are attending class while impaired.