Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

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Enhancing Drug-Impaired Driving Data across Canada

A Summary of 34 Recommended Data Indicators

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) started a multi-year project to develop a set of indicators to expand, enhance and standardize drug-impaired driving (DID) data across Canada. CCSA formed an expert DID Indicators Advisory Committee to review the evidence, provide practical expertise and develop recommendations for measuring the effects of DID across Canada.

Below is a list of **34 data indicators** recommended by the Advisory Committee. Indicators span nine areas. Broadening the scope of DID data collection and improving the methods used to collect them can help policy makers, decision makers, and road and public safety practitioners in their ongoing work to reduce DID across Canada.

To learn more about the 34 indicators, the detailed level of data to be collected for each of these indicators, challenges, and recommendations for implementing them within different sectors and agencies and more detailed information about the expert DID National Advisory Committee, refer to the full report *Measuring the Impact of Drug-Impaired Driving: Recommendations for National Indicators*.

Table 1: Summary of recommended indicators across nine areas to measure the impact of drug-impaired driving in Canada

Icon	Data source	Indicator
	Law enforcement: Incident data	Driver demographics Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) blood concentration levels among tested drivers Substance category[a] and polycategory use among drivers Drivers who have received administrative sanctions Drivers recommended for criminal charge or charges[b] Approved drug screening equipment (ADSE) use and results Standardized field sobriety test (SFST)[c] results
	Law enforcement: Resource use data	Trained frontline[d] officers Certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) officers Requests for DREs Demands for blood (testing)
	Judicial: Court data	Disposition type (court decision) among drivers Sentencing (type and quantum[e]) data on drivers Driver demographics

	Coroner and medical examiner: Fatality data	Driver demographics Substance category[a] and polycategory use among drivers
	Hospital: Injury data	Injury data among drivers Substance category[a] and polycategory use among drivers THC use (preferably blood test) among drivers Driver demographics
	Roadside surveys: Passenger and light-duty vehicle operator data	THC use (oral fluid) among drivers Date, day of the week and time when driver was stopped Driver demographics[f] Substance category[a] and polysubstance use among drivers
	Roadside surveys: Commercial vehicle operator data	THC use (oral fluid) among drivers Date, day of the week and time when driver was stopped Substance category[a] and polysubstance use among drivers Driver demographics[f]
	Motor vehicle division: Driver record data	Driver demographics Administrative sanctions[g] issued to drivers DID criminal convictions reported for drivers Recidivism:[h] DID administrative sanctions among drivers Recidivism: DID criminal convictions among drivers
	National surveys: Public data	Driver knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and self-reported behaviour

Note. This table does not include the detailed breakdown and explanation of the individual indicators. These are found in the report.

[a]Categories are defined as the seven used by Drug Recognition Experts (Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2018): central nervous system (CNS) depressants, inhalants, dissociative anaesthetics, cannabis, CNS stimulants, hallucinogens and narcotic analgesics.

[b]Charges by law enforcement agencies only (i.e., does not include court charge data).

[c]SFSTs are a series of behavioural tests (i.e., one-leg stand, walk-and-turn and horizontal gaze nystagmus) to detect impairment, but do not identify substance type. Although the tool was originally developed to detect impairment by alcohol, studies support its use as a screening tool for impairment by drugs in some of the other substance categories (e.g., CNS stimulants, CNS depressants, cannabis or narcotic analgesics) (Papafotiou, Carter, & Stough, 2005; Porath-Waller & Beirness, 2014).

[d]Frontline officers include uniformed police officers performing general duties, patrol or both, and whose duties include stopping motor vehicles for enforcement purposes, as well as uniformed officers assigned to full-time traffic services duties.

[e]Quantum refers to the court's punishment, which can be a fine, the length of a sentence or both.

[f]Standardized data collection methods and criteria used across Canada.

[g]Sanctions are specific to provincial or territorial jurisdictions and often include licence suspensions, fines and vehicle impoundment. Law enforcement can apply these sanctions in different combinations with or without laying criminal charges.

[h]Recidivism rates are the extent to which an individual repeats the same crime.