

AskChilli

Date: 22nd July 2010

Sample Definition:

- All Sample – N=1000, 17 to 34 year old.
- All Drivers – N=828 (83% of the total sample)

Recreational Drug Usage:

- Almost half (45%) of the total sample have used recreational drugs in the past
- 13% of the total sample have used recreational drugs in the past 2 months

Drug Driving Behaviour:

- 6% of all drivers have driven under the influence of recreational drugs in the past
- 85% of all drivers are 'Very Unlikely' to drive under the influence of recreational drugs in the next 12 months; however only 42% of those who already have driven under influence of recreational drugs are 'Very Unlikely' to do that again, in fact 14% of them are either 'Very likely' or 'Quite Likely' to do that again.
- 22% of all respondents have been a passenger in a car where the driver has been under the influence of a recreational drug, this proportion rises to 31% among those who have used recreational drugs before and up to 78% among those who already have drug driving experience
- 64% of all respondents are 'Very Likely' to intervene if a friend or family member were to drive after using recreational drugs with a further 17% 'Quite Likely' to intervene; among those who admitted they have driven under the influence of drugs only 24% would be 'Very likely' to intervene
- 50% of those who admitted they have driven under influence of recreational drugs were fined for other traffic offence before
- 11% of those who ever tried drugs use them at least once a week or more often. However among those who admitted they have driven under the influence of drugs the proportion of regular drug users (who use drugs at least once a week) is 34%

Attitudes to Drug Driving:

1. Perceived Unacceptability

Among all respondents, the perceived unacceptability for the following offences, taking the top box score of **'Very Unacceptable'** behaviour, is:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol – 85%
- Driving under the influence of drugs -79%
- Driving without wearing a seat belt – 61%
- Driving while talking or texting on a mobile phone – 43%
- Speeding - 38%
- Driving when feeling tired – 18%

Among those who ever tried recreational drugs the proportion of respondents who found driving under the influence of drugs 'Very unacceptable' was 70%, which is significantly lower compared to those who have never used drugs (86% think driving under the influence of drugs is 'Very unacceptable')

2. Perceived Dangers

Among all respondents, the perceived dangers, taking the top 2 ratings of 9+10 indicating 'Extremely Dangerous', of driving while under the influence for the following substances is:

- Ecstasy – 79%
- Alcohol – 76%
- Cocaine – 73%
- Cannabis/ Marijuana – 46%
- Prescribed Medication – 13%

Those who used recreational drugs before were more likely to perceive driving under influence of drugs as less dangerous compared to those who never used drugs, for example the average rating (on a scale 0-10, where 0 means 'not dangerous at all' and 10 'extremely dangerous') the average rating for marijuana was 6.5 among users and 8.3 among non-users; alcohol received the same rating of 9.1 in both groups.

Perceived cause of road deaths:

Among all respondents, the perceived biggest cause of deaths on Irish roads is:

- Speeding – 56%
- Alcohol – 27%
- Road Conditions – 7%

- Driver Fatigue – 3%
- No Seatbelt – 3%
- Drugs – 1%

Driving History:

- 27% of all drivers have been fined or given penalty points for traffic offences in the past
- The biggest offences were for:
 1. Speeding (70%)
 2. Rules of the road offences (e.g. dangerous overtaking, breaking red lights etc.) (11%)
 3. Non seat belt wearing (11%)
 4. Invalid Road Tax (10%)
 5. Holding a mobile phone whilst driving (9%)
- 31% of all drivers have been involved in a collision in the past
- 6% of all drivers have had a collision within the last 12 months