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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/impaireddriving.html>

Impaired Driving

Also called: Distracted driving, Drugged driving, Drunk driving

Impaired driving is dangerous. It's the cause of more than half of all car crashes. It means operating a motor vehicle while you are affected by:

- Alcohol
- Legal or illegal drugs
- Sleepiness
- Distractions, such as using a cell phone or texting
- Having a medical condition which affects your driving

For your safety and the safety of others, do not drive while impaired. Have someone else drive you or take public transportation when you cannot drive. If you need to take a call or send a text message, pull over.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Start Here

- Dangers of Distracted Driving [<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/dangers-texting-while-driving>] (Federal Communications Commission)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Blood Alcohol Level [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/blood-alcohol-level/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-alcohol-en-la-sangre/>]

Specifics

- Distracted Driving [<https://www.cdc.gov/distracted-driving/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Driving after Stroke [<https://www.stroke.org/en/life-after-stroke/recovery/daily-living/driving-after-stroke>] (American Stroke Association)
- Driving When You Have Cataracts [<https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/10900b-drivewell-handout-cataracts.pdf>] (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) - PDF
Also in Spanish [<https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/drugged-driving>]  (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
Also in Spanish [<https://nida.nih.gov/es/publicaciones/drugfacts/conducir-bajo-el-efecto-de-drogas>]
- Some Medicines and Driving Don't Mix [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/some-medicines-and-driving-dont-mix>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/algunas-medicinas-y-el-volante-no-se-mezclan>]

Statistics and Research

- Alcohol-Impaired Driving [<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813450>] (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) - PDF

- Driver Electronic Device Use in 2021 [<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813357>] (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) - PDF
- Impaired Driving Facts [<https://www.cdc.gov/impaired-driving/facts/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- State Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Estimates [<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813472>] (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) - PDF

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Driving Under the Influence [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Driving+Under+the+Influence%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Integrated deep learning framework for driver distraction detection and real-time road... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40645997>]
- Article: Modeling of injury severity of distracted driving accident using statistical and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40522939>]
- Article: Two programs, too many names? A critical review of ride-sharing and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40483074>]
- Impaired Driving -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Distracted+Driving%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+OR+%22Driving+Under+the+Influence%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bs%5B%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism [<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>] 
- National Institute on Drug Abuse [<https://nida.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://nida.nih.gov/es>]

Older Adults

- Driving Safety and Alzheimer's Disease [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/safety/driving-safety-and-alzheimers-disease>]  (National Institute on Aging)
- How Do You Know When It's Time to Give up the Keys? [https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/news%202017-03/HealthyLivingTips_GiveUptheKeys.pdf] (Administration for Community Living) - PDF
- Safe Driving for Older Adults [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/safety/safe-driving-older-adults>]  (National Institute on Aging)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nia.nih.gov/espanol/conduccion-automoviles/conductores-tercera-edad>]

Patient Handouts

- Breath alcohol test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003632.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003632.htm>]
- Dementia and driving [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000028.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000028.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Breath alcohol test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003632.htm>]

Dementia and driving [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000028.htm>]

Distracted driving [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000818.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Motor Vehicle Safety [<https://medlineplus.gov/motorvehiclesafety.html>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/impaireddriving.html>] on *Impaired Driving*

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