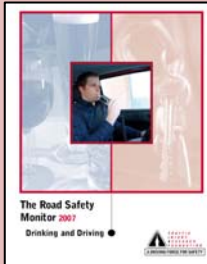




TIRF Bulletin

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The Road Safety Monitor 2007: Drinking and Driving

Ward Vanlaar, Patricia Emery, and Herb Simpson

TIRF recently released *The Road Safety Monitor 2007: Drinking and Driving*. The

Road Safety Monitor (RSM) examined the drinking and driving behaviours of Canadians and also shed light on new emerging trends in impaired driving.

Of particular interest, the RSM revealed that progress in reducing Canada's drinking and driving problem appears to have halted.

Some 1.84 million Canadians reported driving at least once while they thought they were over the legal limit, up from 1.7 million last year. In addition, the percentage of motorists who drove while they thought they were over the legal limit climbed to 8.2%, up from 5.6% in 2004.

The RSM also revealed several other findings, including:

- Canadians are more concerned about drinking and driving than any other road safety issue;
- Male motorists are more likely to drink and drive than female motorists;
- Drinking drivers are more likely to have an increased number of traffic tickets (excluding parking tickets);
- Drinking drivers display lower levels of concern for road safety in general;
- Repeat drinking drivers made 6.6 million drunk driving trips in Canada within the past year;
- Repeat drinking drivers were responsible for 90% of all drunk-driving activity in Canada; and,
- Over 80% of Canadians supported the use of mandatory ignition interlocks and immediate vehicle impoundment for drinking drivers.

The report on drinking and driving is the first of several RSM issues based on our 2007 poll. Future issues will discuss elderly drivers and speeding.

Financial support for the RSM is provided by Transport Canada, the Brewers Association of Canada, and Toyota Canada.

The Road Safety Monitor 2007: Drinking and Driving can be downloaded at: http://www.trafficinjuryresearch.com/publications/pub_details.cfm?intPubID=238.



Continuous Transdermal Alcohol Monitoring: A Practitioner's Guide

Robyn Robertson, Ward Vanlaar, and Herb Simpson

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) has released its second report on transdermal alcohol monitoring entitled, *Continuous Transdermal Alcohol Monitoring: A Practitioner's Guide*.

Continuous alcohol monitoring technology is used to measure alcohol consumption using vaporous sweat excreted through the skin. It is currently being used in more than 40 U.S. states.

The guide provides a framework to assist agencies with the development of needed policies and practices to monitor offenders with diagnosed alcohol issues. In addition, the guide contains a series of checklists, forms, and a survey for practitioners to evaluate the success of program implementation.

The guide is based on in-depth interviews with court personnel, probation officials, treatment professionals, and service providers.

Continuous Transdermal Alcohol Monitoring: A Practitioner's Guide is available for download on TIRF's website at: http://www.trafficinjuryresearch.com/publications/pub_details.cfm?intPubID=237.

Funding for this guide was made possible by a grant from Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc.

Published Article

As part of the research for his Ph.D., Ward Vanlaar, Research Scientist for TIRF, has published an article entitled, "Less is more: The influence of traffic count on drinking and driving behaviour."

The article suggests that drinking drivers tend to avoid high traffic count road sites. This information can be useful when organizing police road checks.

This work has been published by the scientific journal, *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. To obtain a copy, please type 10.1016/j.aap.2007.11.007 into the DOI query bar at: <http://dx.doi.org>.

Coming Soon to TIRF's Website



Traffic Injury Research Foundation YOUNG DRIVER RESOURCE CENTRE

TIRF is currently developing a new comprehensive web-based resource centre on young drivers. The Centre will feature in-depth information on Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL), driver education, other youth-oriented safety programs, and data on young drivers. The Centre will also provide useful information for the parents of young drivers.

The *Young Driver Resource Centre* will be launched in early 2008. If you would like to be notified about the launch, please contact Dean Morin by e-mail at: deanm@trafficinjuryresearch.com.

Funding for the Centre was provided by Toyota Canada.

Staff Activity Update

DWI Conference for Judges: Robyn Robertson gave an invited presentation entitled, "Alcohol Impaired Driving and Monitoring Technologies." Forth Worth, TX. August 25, 2007.

Session on Sentencing Vehicle Traffic Law Offenders, National Judicial College: Robyn Robertson gave an invited presentation entitled, "Technologies for DWI Offenders." Reno, NV. August 30, 2007.

Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting: Dan Mayhew gave an invited presentation entitled, "Teens and Distractions: The Problem and the Solutions." Portland, OR. September 23-26, 2007.

2007 Meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police: Robyn Robertson gave an invited presentation entitled, "Acquainting Officers with Alcohol Ignition Interlocks." New Orleans, LA. October 16, 2007.

CCMTA Road Safety Research and Policies Standing Committee Meeting: Dan Mayhew gave a presentation entitled, "Progress Report on STRID 2005 Projects." Ottawa, ON. October 23, 2007.

New Donors

TIRF is pleased to welcome General Reinsurance Corporation as a new silver-level donor. TIRF also wishes to welcome Skid Control School and PartnerRe Canada as new bronze-level donors.

Project Update: Police Survey

As part of a multi-stage project, TIRF is conducting a survey of Ontario's front-line police officers about their experiences dealing with fatigued drivers. Funding for this survey was provided to TIRF by TD Meloche Monnex.

TIRF Board Member Profile

In September 2007, Ian Faris joined TIRF's Board of Directors.

Ian currently serves as the President and CEO of the Brewers Association of Canada (BAC). Prior to joining the association, Ian was a senior executive with an international government relations consulting firm in Ottawa specializing in public affairs, and strategic communications. In addition, Ian has enjoyed successful careers in the corporate sector and he has also served as a senior advisor to two federal cabinet ministers.

Ian currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation (ABMRF), the Hill Charity Fund, and the Orleans Young Players theatre school.

Born in British Columbia, Ian later attended Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He is married and has two children.

HOW TO ORDER

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