

LETTERS

DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CANNABIS

Roadside drug testing would not be much of a deterrentAdam R Winstock *consultant addiction psychiatrist*

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As part of a wider survey on drug use patterns and harms conducted at the end of 2011 by Global Drug Survey (www.globaldrugsurvey.com), in partnership with *Mixmag* and the *Guardian* newspaper, we asked current cannabis smokers about the risk of being identified as intoxicated with cannabis (without alcohol) while driving if they were pulled over by the police within two hours of smoking a joint.^{1 2}

We obtained data from more than 10 000 cannabis users from around the world. The table¹ outlines the results from the UK, US, and Australia. The findings support Hall's cautious view on the likely impact of roadside drug testing on driving while under the influence of drugs. For any drug driving policy to be an effective deterrent, drivers must consider the risk of being stopped and subsequently detected a real possibility.

Our results suggest that a minority of cannabis users think they would be detected as driving under the influence with the approaches currently used in their countries. The full results of the 2012 global drug survey were published in the *Guardian* and *Mixmag* on 15 March 2012.

Competing interests: ARW is founder and director of Global Drug Survey, an independent drug use data mapping exchange hub.

- 1 Hall W. Driving while under the influence of cannabis. *BMJ* 2012;344:e595. (9 February.)
- 2 Asbridge M, Hayden JA, Cartwright JL. Acute cannabis consumption and motor vehicle collision risk: systematic review of observational studies and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2012;344:e536. (9 February.)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;344:e2133

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Table

Table 1 | Current cannabis users' responses to the question: "If you got pulled over by the police within 2 hours of smoking a joint (but no alcohol) do you think the police could tell you were intoxicated?"

Country	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Not sure	Probably not	Definitely not
UK (n=5265)	2.7%	22.9%	15.2%	46.3%	12.9%
US (n=2360)	1.4%	11.2%	10.1%	49.6%	27.8%
Australia (n=249)	8.0%	24.1%	18.1%	39.4%	10.4%