License State News

WA: Commentary: State health survey is a call you should take (Opinion)

International News

Finland: Looser alcohol laws increase police workload, personnel costs

United Kingdom: Areas with more pubs are likely to see higher hospital admissions for alcohol-related illness such as vomiting and liver disease, study claims

Portugal Wants Alcohol Warning Labels To ‘Show The Benefits Too’

United Kingdom: Raise prosecutions to lower alcohol-related violence on planes, pleads Civil Aviation Authority.

Africa: WHO report: Botswana in top 10 alcohol consumers in Africa

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NIAAA Alcohol Treatment Navigator helps find quality treatment of alcohol use disorder

Industry News

ThaiBev brews biggest baht bond

The Great Wine Industry Shake-up

Daily News

States with the Most Impaired Driving Deaths

1 in 7 Canadian cannabis users has driven high at least once in the past 3 months

Gen Z Is Set to Outnumber Millennials Within a Year
In a world of big tech and data breaches, we don’t typically advise people to give out personal information over the phone, but we’ll make an exception when it comes to the state’s health and well-being.

Since 1987, Washington’s Department of Health has conducted a 25-minute phone survey called the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, or BRFSS. There’s only one problem: Most people don’t answer the agency’s call.

In 2017 the state randomly called 225,000 adults over the age of 18 to ask about everything from mental health to dental health, seatbelt use to fire alarms. It even inquired about gambling habits. The effort yielded only about 13,000 complete responses.

State epidemiologist Mark Serafin reports the responses are shrinking, but are still enough to give the state a statistical snapshot. But like any good scientist/statistician, Serafin would like more information. And that begins with reassuring the public that information obtained by BRFSS is confidential. Data, he says, is immediately separated from names and phone numbers.

Part of the problem may also lie with caller ID. When people are randomly selected for BRFSS, they don’t see Washington Department of Health on their phone screen. They see a 206 area code and ICF International, the survey company working on the state’s behalf.

The Department of Health might want to consider an online survey, but until then, we encourage Washingtonians to pick up the phone and start talking. The core questions are provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and relate to high-priority health issues. It’s the largest health survey system in the world.

And because Washington adds its own survey module, state health officials can compare our health status with other states. They can identify what communities and occupations are associated with higher-risk behavior such as tobacco, drug and alcohol use.

But Serafin says the strongest argument for taking the BRFSS comes from the state’s ability to cross-reference information. For example, recent data revealed that 5 percent of respondents 65 and older reported both cognitive decline and access to unlocked and loaded guns.

BRFSS also spotlights racial and economic disparities. Survey data shows, for example, that black adults have a significantly higher rate of diabetes compared with non-Hispanic whites.

Why is this important? Because an accurate picture precipitates change.

BRFSS reveals a disproportionately high rate of smoking in certain populations. One-in-four adults with an annual income of less than $35,000 smoke cigarettes, compared to 1 in 12 who smoke in households making $75,000 or more. Consequently, poorer people have more exposure to secondhand smoke and fewer resources to quit smoking.

All this information is invaluable to health care professionals, researchers, policy makers and community leaders who want to improve our health and quality of life.

But first, Washingtonians need to answer their phones.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Finland: Looser alcohol laws increase police workload, personnel costs

Police have seen a rise in disturbances reported between 5.00 and 6.00am since new alcohol laws took effect at the beginning of March.

Uutiset
August 20, 2018

Police responded to over 12,000 more callouts between January and July than they did in previous years, according to the National Police Board.

The administrators are drawing a straight line between the increase in reported disturbances and new alcohol law reforms which took effect from 1 March this year.

One of the measures in the reform package allows bars and restaurants to continue serving alcoholic beverages until 4.00am, while customers can remain on the premises to enjoy their last rounds until 5.00am.

The police board said on Monday that the largest increase in calls occurred between 5.00 and 6.00pm, with a 65 percent increase in calls relating to assault compared to last year.

More resources for extra pay hours

Head of the police board Sanna Heikinheimo said that local police departments have already begun to adjust their operations to adapt to the changing situation.

"Police departments have had to re-allocate resources to late at night and the early hours of the morning, which increases costs and workloads," she commented.

She added that correspondingly, police have faced greater resistance while performing their duties.

"Violence towards police has risen by more than one fifth (21.4 percent) compared to last year," Heikinheimo noted.

Last year the daily Keskisuomalainen reported that the Interior Ministry planned to add 200 officers to the ranks of the police force in anticipation of more disorderly behaviour caused by the legal reform.

United Kingdom: Areas with more pubs are likely to see higher hospital admissions for alcohol-related illness such as vomiting and liver disease, study claims

The Daily Mail
By Kate Pickles Health Reporter for The Daily Mail
August 20, 2018

Hospital admissions for alcohol-related emergency care and chronic illness are significantly higher in areas with the most pubs, bars and clubs, research reveals.

The density of restaurants and other outlets selling alcohol is also linked to admission rates in England, according to a study published in the journal Addiction.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield analysed data from more than one million hospital admissions attributable to alcohol over a 12-year period.

Areas in England with the most pubs, bars and nightclubs had 22 per cent higher hospital admission rates for chronic conditions linked to drinking, such as liver disease, compared with those with the lowest density of alcohol vendors. They also had 13 per cent higher admission rates for acute conditions, such as vomiting, caused by alcohol.
Areas in England with the highest density of licensed restaurants had 9 per cent higher rates of patients needing treatment for acute and chronic conditions. There was a small link between supermarkets and hospital admissions but rates of those needing emergency treatment were 10 per cent higher in places with many convenience stores.

Dr James Nicholls from Alcohol Research UK, which funded the study, said: ‘Local licensing authorities need to factor this information into their decisions.’

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Portugal Wants Alcohol Warning Labels To ‘Show The Benefits Too’

The Drinks Business
By Edith Hancock
August 21, 2018

Portuguese and Italian officials have hit out at Ireland’s plans to include health warnings on alcohol products which link drinking to a higher risk of developing cancer, with Portugal suggesting they should “show the benefits too.”

Health warnings about alcohol, its ingredients, calories and links to cancer were set to take up a third of the space on alcohol labels last year when Simon Harris — Ireland’s minister for Health — accepted amendments to the country’s alcohol labelling laws back in December. The country had to notify the European Commission of the change back in January.

But a new submission to the Commission said that warning consumers about the negative impact of drinking without highlighting its potential positives could “distort reality”, while Italian officials warned that more severe warnings would raise the cost of exporting wine to the country, reports the Times.

It argued that including a link to cancer on warning labels creates an inherently biased viewpoint for the consumer, making it more difficult to make an informed choice.

“It should be noted that labels about cancer do not enable consumers to have a proportionate perspective of the effects of moderate alcohol consumption, thus it is considered that consumers must have complete information about the impact of alcohol consumption on health,” it said.

The submission also said that a number of other everyday products and lifestyles raise the risk of cancer, including red meat, proseccoed meat, and “long shift work.”

However, government-funded charity Alcohol Action Ireland said that the changes to legislation would not affect exports from Portugal as it “only prescribes what warnings, regulated by law, should be placed on products sold within Ireland.”

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United Kingdom: Raise prosecutions to lower alcohol-related violence on planes, pleads Civil Aviation Authority.

Transport Security World
August 20, 2018

Passengers need to know they will face the full weight of the law should they be found guilty of disorderly behaviour.”

The head of the UK civil aviation regulator has called for urgent action to be taken by authorities to stop alcohol-fuelled violence and intimidating behaviour on planes, a worsening trend that ‘jeopardises the safety of flights and passengers’. Figures released by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) show that reported incidents involving alcohol have got significantly worse over the last three years, with a 112% jump between 2015 and 2016 – rising from 195 incidents to 415.

The latest set of figures also showed that 202 incidents had already taken place this year, even before the busiest flying season has finished when the CAA predicts more will take place. There were 93 reported incidents in 2013.
The appeal from the CAA has been joined by a major study that revealed more than half (51%) believed there was a serious problem with excessive alcohol consumption on flights today. Compiled by the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the European Alcohol Policy Alliance, the Fit to Fly report found that 24% of UK adults drink at the airport, but it appeared to show that the vast majority were doing so in moderation: only 2% of those polled said they had more than four alcoholic drinks.

Richard Stephenson, director of the CAA said that although existing regulations were in place they should be used more often to convince others that drunken and abusive behaviour on planes “is totally unacceptable” and jeopardises safety. “Criminal charges should be brought against offenders more often to act as a deterrent,” said Stephenson. “Passengers need to know they will face the full weight of the law should they be found guilty of disorderly behaviour.”

The following five offences are listed in the CAA’s Air Navigation Order and can be later used by UK courts to bring criminal charges:

- endangering safety of an aircraft;
- drunkenness in aircraft;
- smoking in aircraft;
- authority of pilot in command of an aircraft;
- acting in a disruptive manner.

In July, a separate survey carried out on around 2,000 people by the UK-based market research company, YouGov, showed there was broad support for more stringent drinking regulations at airports. More than three-quarters (86%) said shops and bars should be subject to the same regulations found on UK high streets; currently, airports aren’t bound by the Licensing Act 2003 that places restrictions on the time of day when alcohol can be served. 74% supported the restriction of alcohol consumption at airports to bars and restaurants only, meaning that alcohol bought at duty free cannot be consumed in the airport. A copy of the Fit to Fly report can be downloaded here.

Jennifer Keen, Head of Policy at the Institute of Alcohol Studies, said the government needed to do more protect passengers. “There is no clear reason why shops and bars in airports should be exempted from normal licensing rules when drunk people in the air are a much bigger safety risk to others than drunk people in the high street.”

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**Africa: WHO report: Botswana in top 10 alcohol consumers in Africa**

**Weekend Post**
**August 20, 2018**

The report contains country profiles for WHO Member States and provides a global overview of alcohol consumption in relation to public health as well as information on the consumption of alcohol in populations; the health consequences of alcohol consumption; and policy responses at national level. It is understood that an intervention by former President Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama through the alcohol levy that raked 2.2 billion pula only decreased the consumption by a paltry 0.2 liters during his era.

According to the report Botswana alcohol consumption, as recorded and unrecorded, and for both sexes, was one of the highest in both the region, Africa and the world. The report posits that, while Botswana consumes 8.4 liters per capita, other countries in the South African Development Corporation (SADC) region like Madagascar are at 1.8 liters per capita; while Malawi sits at 2.5 and 2.3 liters for Mozambique.

In addition Swaziland consumes 5.7 liters per capita with Zimbabwe drinking 5.7 and Zambia 4.0 liters including Tanzania at 7.7 liters per capita. Report indicates that it is only South Africa and Tanzania, in the region, which are ahead of Botswana at 11.0 liters and 10.8 liters per capita, respectively. WHO report states that the total consumption in Botswana account to 2.2 Liters of pure alcohol and the average daily intake is 43.8 grams of pure alcohol in Botswana.
It further states that a projection of alcohol consumption for Botswana in 2020 is expected to be 7.4% and 7.3% in 2025. The report indicates that the alcohol attributes to 3.9% deaths from all causes in Botswana. In terms of the report, the total population for Botswana is 1 969 000 who are aged 15 years and older; with 66% population in urban areas; and 61% income group upper middle income, according to the World Bank.

In the world sphere, Botswana still has the highest alcohol consumption per capita sitting at position 58. The top 10 countries by alcohol consumption per capita in the world are: Russia, Romania, Ukraine, Andorra, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belarus, Moldova, and Lithuania.

The report acknowledged some of Botswana’s interventions like having in place on an excise tax on beer, wine and spirits (alcohol levy); and national legal minimum age for off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits).

It also took into note a national legal minimum age for 18 years on-premise sales of alcoholic beverages; restrictions for on/off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages: hours, days/places, density National maximum legal blood alcohol concentration when driving a vehicle (general/young/professional).

Meanwhile, the then Assistant Minister of Health, Dr Alfred Madigele has previously told Parliament in the evaluation of the levy indicated that the per capita alcohol consumption in Botswana was higher than the regional average of 6.2 litres, which was reported by the World Health Organisation in 2011. Madigele stated then that: “my ministry’s objective is to see the per capita consumption of alcohol in Botswana drop well below this regional average.”

Mogoditshane MP, Sedirwa Kgoroba had asked the minister to give statistical data indicating that the introductions of alcohol levy decreased consumption of alcohol. Also, he wanted him to state the reason behind the latest increase in alcohol consumption.

**Report indicate 3.3 million deaths in the world linked to alcohol**

According to the report, 3.3 million deaths in the world recorded in 2012 were due to harmful use of alcohol. It stated: “alcohol consumption can not only lead to dependence but also increases people’s risk of developing more than 200 diseases including liver cirrhosis and some cancers. In addition, the report says that harmful drinking can lead to violence and injuries.” The report also finds that harmful use of alcohol makes people more susceptible to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and pneumonia.

The report also alludes to the fact that a higher percentage of deaths among men than women are from alcohol-related causes; in particular 7.6% of men’s deaths and 4% of women’s deaths; though there is evidence that women may be more vulnerable to some alcohol-related health conditions compared to men. In addition, the report notes that there is concern over the steady increase in alcohol use among women.

Report also states that globally, Europe is the region with the highest consumption of alcohol per capita, with some of its countries having particularly high consumption rates. The alcohol consumption in 2010 was equal to 6.2 litres of pure alcohol consumed per person aged 15 years or older, which translates into 13.5 grams of pure alcohol per day throughout the world.

In addition 61.7% of the population aged 15 years or older (15+) had not drunk alcohol in the past 12 months. In all WHO regions, females are more often lifetime abstainers than males, the reports states that adding that there is a considerable variation in prevalence of abstention across WHO regions.

“Worldwide about 16.0% of drinkers aged 15 years or older engage in heavy episodic drinking. In general, the greater the economic wealth of a country, the more alcohol is consumed and the smaller the number of abstainers. As a rule, high-income countries have the highest alcohol per capita consumption (APC) and the highest prevalence of heavy episodic drinking among drinkers,” report further points out.
PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

NIAAA Alcohol Treatment Navigator helps find quality treatment of alcohol use disorder

Described as a “game-changer” by individuals in the alcohol treatment community

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIH)

August 2018

An important new online resource is now available to help people recognize and find high quality treatment for alcohol use disorder (AUD), which affects more than 15 million adults in the United States. The NIAAA Alcohol Treatment Navigator helps individuals and their loved ones negotiate the often-complicated process of choosing treatment for alcohol misuse by telling them what they need to know, and what they need to do, to recognize and choose quality care.

The landmark Navigator website is comprehensive, yet easy-to-use -- guiding users through a step-by-step process to find highly-qualified treatment professionals. It helps create informed consumers by describing AUD and the various treatment options available, explaining the importance of “evidence-based” practices, providing tips on how to recognize five signs of quality care, and recommending specific steps to find quality treatment, including 10 questions to ask potential providers. It also features online directories of treatment providers, with instructions on how to use the directories, and a downloadable toolkit to help organize and simplify the search process.

In development for more than two years, the Navigator is based on decades of scientific research on clinical interventions and health services, with input from treatment providers, researchers, people seeking treatment, and their families. Individuals can use this comprehensive resource to better understand treatment options; families can get information that will empower them to help an adult loved one; and health professionals can use it as a tool to share with patients/clients who need a referral.

The NIAAA Alcohol Treatment Navigator: https://AlcoholTreatment.niaaa.nih.gov

INDUSTRY NEWS

ThaiBev brews biggest baht bond

Today

August 20, 2018

SINGAPORE (IFR) - Thai Beverage is returning to the baht market with an ambitious plan to raise at least Bt70bn (US$2.1bn) in Thailand’s largest corporate bond issue, just five months after its latest Bt50bn financing.

While it found robust demand in March, the Thai beer maker’s latest financing will test the limits of a local institutional investor base that is steeped in Buddhism, which discourages drinking alcohol.

“There will be some institutional investors which can take exposure to Thai Beverage, but we are not interested in the credit,” said one investor at a mutual fund. “Its liquor business does not comply with our social and responsible governance standards.”

The investor said such compliance became a larger factor for his fund after the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand provided more guidelines last year to institutional investors on responsible and sustainable investment management.

Religion was a major hurdle for Thai Beverage when it twice sought to float shares on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, before eventually cancelling its plans in the face of intense protests. The company listed in Singapore in 2006.

This time around, however, Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi’s drinks giant will not offer the securities to retail investors, even though individual buyers make up as much as half of the Thai corporate bond market.
Instead, ThaiBev is leaning heavily on its seven joint lead managers to reach out to institutional investors and high-net-worth buyers. Bangkok Bank, Bank of Ayudhya, Kasikornbank, Krungthai Bank, Phatra Securities, Siam Commercial Bank and Standard Chartered Bank will reprise their roles from the March deal as leads. The banks are believed to be underwriting a large portion of the bonds.

“We took into consideration in the last deal that some institutional investors, especially the government-owned pension funds, cannot invest in liquor assets,” said a banker on the deal. “The same will apply in this case but we will have to work ever harder to meet the larger target size.”

Tenors of two years to 10 years are being explored with bookbuilding tentatively scheduled for early September, when no other large bond offerings are currently planned.

At a minimum size of Bt70bn with an undetermined greenshoe, the new deal will surpass the largest corporate offering from Berli Jucker, which raised Bt54bn in August 2016 to support its acquisition of Big C Supercenter.

SABECO STAKE

Proceeds from the new offering will refinance US$5bn of bridge loans backing ThaiBev’s US$4.84bn acquisition of a 53.59% stake in Vietnam’s Saigon Beer-Alcohol-Beverage Joint Stock Corporation (Sabeco), which produces Saigon Beer and 333.

The bridge loans, including a US$1.95bn 12-month bank loan obtained from Mizuho Bank and Standard Chartered, were extended in January this year.

The purchase of Sabeco had prompted rating agencies to downgrade ThaiBev’s corporate ratings. Moody’s demoted ThaiBev in February from Baa2 to Baa3 with a negative outlook, citing a “significant shift in the company’s financial risk appetite”, while Tris lowered its rating to AA from AA+.

Financial results released for the third quarter ending June 30 2018 saw earnings fall 61% year-on-year while core profit eased 11% to Bt6bn, despite a 34.1% rise in group revenues to Bt60.7bn following Sabeco’s inclusion.

Despite the weak results, several equity analysts have a buy recommendation on the company as they believe that Sabeco’s business will be a long-term positive addition to the group. REUTERS

The Great Wine Industry Shake-up

*Climate change and real estate are creating under-the-radar opportunities in wine, Kathleen Willcox reports.*

Wine-Searcher
By Kathleen Willcox
August 20, 2018

Consolidation has put small and medium-sized wineries in a vise. Climate change and soaring real estate prices have tightened the screws. Cult labels, of course, will do just fine, but the small-batch winemakers who may make a great product, but don’t have international acclaim, may struggle.

Meanwhile, the market for wine drinkers continues to grow just as circumstances conspire to make it more difficult for them to snap what they want. Which, by the way, is still primarily wine made by families who grow their own grapes in lauded, classic wine-making regions.

"The trade and the consumer are still focused on historic wineries, and wines that are made by the same people who grow their grapes," says Dennis Kreps, co-founder of Quintessential Wines, an import and marketing company headquartered in Napa. "The interest in grower-producers is not going away."

But let’s take a quick look at the reality on the ground. Is the wine industry in the position to tell the story of small-batch organic grape-growers whose family members, say, have been harvesting their grapes when the moon is descending on the rocky hillside of Montalcino for 200 years? And what happens when a searingly hot summer zaps their harvest?
What's happening in the US, being the largest market for wine in the world (guzzling 13 percent of the planet's supply at the Wine Institute's last count), and arguably the noisiest customer in the room, often dictates trends and consumption patterns. The consolidation of top US wine producers has changed the landscape for small-and-mid-sized wineries, simply from a logistical perspective. M&A activity has been rampant in recent years, with the number two distributor (Republic National Distributing Co., with about $6.5 billion in assets, according to Forbes) and the number three distributor (Breakthru, with $5.4 billion in revenues) announcing their intention to merge late last year. Combined, they will be able to rival Southern Glazer's $16.5 billion in estimated revenues, according to Forbes.

"All of the market consolidation has led to salespeople with bigger and bigger portfolios," notes Kreps. "Small and mid-sized wineries are struggling to get traction in the market because they don't have a strong advocate in their distributors. We are seeing more people turn to us to get the word out, or banding together with other wineries in their region to hire us or other marketers."

Sales growth of wine overall in the US is expected to continue its steady ascent of between two percent and four percent, according to the closely watched State of Wine Industry 2018 report from Silicon Valley Bank's Wine Division. But the premium sector is headed for a softening, with growth between four percent and eight percent this year, down from 2017's growth of 10-14 percent. Growth is growth, but the report cautions that a number of demographic and economic factors will prevent the routine volume and price increases that have occurred over the past 20 years from automatically taking place moving forward.

Compounding the concerns about flattening revenue and market traction are the intangible, but all too real, realities of climate change and real estate prices.

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**DAILY NEWS**

**States with the Most Impaired Driving Deaths**

**Safewise**  
By Rebecca Edwards  
August 14, 2018

The days are getting shorter, school bells are ringing, and Labor Day weekend festivities are almost upon us. Along with the last BBQs of the season, Labor Day also brings more impaired drivers to our nation's roads. The number one cause of death for Americans aged five to twenty-four is car crashes—and nearly one-third of fatal crashes in 2016 were caused by impaired driving. In fact, there was one alcohol-related driving fatality every 50 minutes.

This is why our team decided to find out which states may have the most dangerous roads this Labor Day weekend. We used National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and census data to identify which states have the most (and fewest) fatalities due to impaired driving crashes.¹

**States with the Most Impaired Driving Fatalities**

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<th>State</th>
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States with the Fewest Impaired Driving Fatalities

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A Closer Look at Impaired Driving in the Worst States

- A higher population doesn’t mean more impaired driving deaths—New York state (population 19,836,286) had the fewest deaths in 2016, and Montana (population 1,038,656) had the most.
- MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) has rated Montana as the state with the most work to do when it comes to cracking down on drunk driving.²
- South Carolina had the highest total number of impaired driving deaths, with 396.
- North Dakota is the fourth least-populous state in the country, but still had the third-highest rate of impaired driving deaths.
- Three of the five worst states for impaired driving fatalities don’t require ignition interlocks for drivers convicted of DUI.
- Multiple studies have shown a correlation between the use of ride-sharing services (like Lyft and Uber) and a decrease in DUIs and impaired driving crashes.³

Impaired driving is a real threat, but the good news is there’s something we can do about it. Always have a designated driver, call a cab, or use a ride-sharing service to take you home. To help you enjoy this Labor Day weekend safely, SafeWise is sponsoring $1,000 in Lyft gift certificates. If you live in one of the worst states for impaired driving, you could receive a $10 gift card to help you get a safe, sober ride home over Labor Day weekend.

Check out our Safe Rides Home campaign, and apply today. If you don’t live in one of the worst states, you can still contribute by sharing on social media or sending to any friends and family who call those states home.

Impaired Driving Fatalities By State

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**Methodology**

To identify the states with the highest numbers of impaired driving deaths per capita, we started with NHTSA data on impaired driving deaths in each state. Then we normalized that data using state population numbers from the US Census Bureau.⁴

**Sources:**

2. MADD, “2018 Report to the Nation”
1 in 7 Canadian cannabis users has driven high at least once in the past 3 months

The Washington Post
By Amanda Coletta, Reporter
August 17, 2018

TORONTO – With two months to go before recreational cannabis is legalized in Canada on Oct. 17, new data from the country’s national statistics agency is stoking fears about drugged driving and raising questions about the ability of law enforcement officials to detect impairment.

According to Statistics Canada data released last week, 1 in 7 cannabis users with a valid driver’s license has hopped behind the wheel within two hours of consuming the drug at least once within the past three months.

Other surveys from Health Canada and Public Safety Canada in 2017 also revealed that large percentages of Canadians are driving after consuming marijuana. In fact, 1 in 10 respondents of the latter survey said they believed cannabis makes a person “a more careful driver” — a conviction refuted by science.

But while Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada described the Statistics Canada numbers as “alarming,” others say the survey data tells only part of the story since it does not indicate that those who drove after smoking were actually impaired.

Identifying marijuana impairment is a major issue that has beguiled Canadian lawmakers since the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau first introduced legislation to legalize the drug in April 2017.

Their attempt to do so is represented by Bill C-46, which overhauled Canada’s impaired driving laws. Under the legislation, drivers with two to five nanograms of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis — per milliliter of blood will face charges, which could result in hefty fines. Drivers exceeding the five-nanogram limit, or with both THC and alcohol in their systems, will face stiffer penalties, including up to 10 years in prison.

The problem, according to Rob De Luca, the director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association’s public safety programs, is “that the link between THC levels and impairment is quite loose.”

Cannabis is unlike alcohol, which can be easily and accurately measured by a person’s blood alcohol content levels, experts say. Cannabis metabolizes differently, and factors ranging from body fat levels to personal history with the drug to how it was ingested affect whether a driver is impaired by it.

“Peak impairment does not occur when THC concentration in the blood is at or near peak levels,” a U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report to Congress in 2017 found. “In contrast to the situation with alcohol, someone can show little or no impairment at a THC level at which someone else may show a greater degree of impairment.”

An annex to Bill C-46 made the same point, noting, “the science is unable to provide general guidance to drivers about how much cannabis can be consumed before it is unsafe to drive or before the proposed levels would be exceeded.”

Habitual users of the drug and those who ingest it for medicinal purposes are likely to have high THC levels days or even weeks after they last consumed marijuana and long after experiencing its psychoactive effects, De Luca said. Some studies show that even people exposed to second-hand marijuana smoke can test positive for THC.

“There is a very real danger that someone who is not impaired will get caught up in the criminal justice system,” said De Luca, who anticipates Bill C-46 will face a barrage of legal challenges.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould defended the rules earlier this year. “Until we have definitive scientific evidence around what is a safe level, we’re proceeding on a precautionary basis, saying there is no safe level,” she told the Globe and Mail.

Bill C-46 also grants police officers with reasonable suspicion that a driver is impaired new powers to administer roadside saliva tests, which determine whether a specific drug may be present in a driver’s system. The results are not admissible in court, but failing a test will spur arrest and further examinations at a police station.
Experts say that these tests and the devices used to carry them out are also riddled with problems. The NHTSA report found that “the accuracy and reliability of these devices has not yet been clearly established.”

A bill that would allow police in Vermont to use roadside saliva tests failed earlier this year because of these concerns.

Questions also have been raised about the ability of the devices, which require internal temperatures of at least 4 degrees Celsius (about 39 degrees Fahrenheit) to work, to function given Canada’s climate. A Public Safety Canada pilot study that tested some of these devices found that in 17 percent of cases where the device malfunctioned, temperature was responsible.

De Luca said the federal government should focus more on training drug-recognition experts — officers with specialized training to spot impaired drivers — than on THC limits.

Last month, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police said that it is unlikely to reach its goal of having 2,000 trained drug-recognition experts when cannabis becomes legal in October.

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Gen Z Is Set to Outnumber Millennials Within a Year

Bloomberg
By Wei Lu and Lee J Miller
August 20, 2018

Millennials are about to be surpassed by Generation Z.

Gen Z will comprise 32 percent of the global population of 7.7 billion in 2019, nudging ahead of millennials, who will account for a 31.5 percent share, based on Bloomberg analysis of United Nations data, and using 2000/2001 as the generational split.

People born in 2001 will turn 18 next year, meaning many will enter university, be eligible to vote and, depending on their citizenship, smoke or drink alcohol without breaking the law. Gen Zers have never known a non-digital world and have grown up amid events such as the "war on terror" and Global Recession.

"The key factor that differentiated these two groups, other than their age, was an element of self-awareness versus self-centeredness," according to “Rise of Gen Z: New Challenge for Retailers,” a report by Marcie Merriman, an executive director at Ernst & Young LLP. Millennials were "more focused on what was in it for them. They also looked to others, such as the companies they did business with, for solutions, whereas the younger people naturally sought to create their own solutions."

For the full list, click HERE

The demographic handover is good news for delivery services, gadget makers and the so-called gig economy. Meanwhile, it presents new challenges to educators, event planners, luxury brands and even golfers -- a game where the average age of U.S. participants now exceeds 50.

"Each generation comes with a unique set of behaviors and presents a unique set of challenges for those looking to reach them," according to a report by research firm Nielsen Holdings Plc. "Gen Z are bombarded with messages and are a generation that can quickly detect whether or not something is relevant to them."

For this Bloomberg comparison, millennials were defined as people born in 1980 through 2000, with Gen Z classified as anyone born starting in 2001 -- at least until the next meaningful cohort emerges. The U.S. Census Bureau also bookends the generations at the end of 2000.

William Strauss and Neil Howe, American historians and authors who first coined the term "millennials," use 1982 and 2004 as the cutoff years. The Pew Research Center defines those born in 1981 through 1996 as millennials, a time-frame also used by Ernst & Young in the survey Merriman wrote about.
Crossing the Threshold

Even using Bloomberg’s 2000/2001 demarcation, demographics differ depending on location.

Millennials will continue to represent the bigger proportion in the world’s four largest economies: U.S., China, Japan and Germany. The combined population just shy of 2 billion in those four countries will have a ratio of 100 millennials for every 73 in Gen Z next year.

India, which has about 1.3 billion people versus China’s 1.4 billion, will see its Gen Z population rise to 472 million next year, 51 percent more than China’s projected 312 million.

According to an annual survey of young people by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd., "Gen Z respondents anticipate being slightly happier than their millennial counterparts," with those in emerging markets in both groups more optimistic about economics and social progress than counterparts in developed nations.

"In China and India, 70 percent of the younger group expects to be happier than their parents," according to the report, which surveyed about 10,000 millennials and 2,000 Gen Zers. "However, across Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States (39 percent), the outlook is much less optimistic."

In Sub-Saharan Africa, where Gen Z already outnumbers millennials in all but two of about 50 nations thanks to reductions in early-childhood mortality or higher birthrates, growth comes with challenges. The World Bank estimates that one in seven youth in the region actively seeking work can’t find a job. In South Africa, the unemployment rate for those aged 15-24 is about 57 percent.

METHODOLOGY: UN population division data reports population by five-year age groups. Headcounts for less than five full-year groups (i.e., Gen Z population ages 15-18) were extrapolated based on general distribution pattern. The 2019 Gen Z population was calculated by estimating crude births in 2019, adjusted for infant mortality (death per 1,000 live births for those under age 1), adding 2018 total Gen Z, adjusted for those affected by under-five/child mortality not yet counted, millennial population in 2019 adjusted by the general adult mortality rate.