





# Drug Impairment or Medical Rule-Out?

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Roanoke County Police Department

**60%**  
Straight from the  
CDC...

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Heart disease

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Cancer

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Lung disease

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Kidney disease

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**Stroke**

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**Alzheimer's**

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**Diabetes**

**20%**

And from the  
National Alliance  
on Mental  
Health...

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Schizophrenia

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Bipolar Disorder

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Personality disorders

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PTSD

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Anxiety Disorders

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Depression

## National Survey on Drug Use and Health

- 22% binge drinkers (alcohol)
- 21% illicit drug use







So... how do we tell the difference?

- 3 goals of the DRE evaluation
- Preliminary exam
- The eyes!
- Psychophysical tests
- Vital signs

# Straight from the DREs... #1

## Driving behaviors

- Fail to maintain lane
- 10mph below posted speed limit

## Officer observations

- "Complete lack of cognitive attention to the tests"
- Unusual pupillary movement on HGN
- Unequal pupils
- Left side started to droop

## Drugs/meds/injuries

- Denied any drug use
- No medical or psychological hx reported

# Straight from the DREs... #2

## Driving behaviors

- Lookout for drunk driver
- No lights
- Crossing into oncoming traffic / driving in median
- Struck bridge barriers

## Officer observations

- Driver didn't realize he was stopped - still driving
- Shaking / disoriented
- Bandaged leg
- Refused SFST

## Drugs/meds/injuries

- Hx of diabetes / high blood pressure / cholesterol issues
- Complained of leg pain - bandaged
- Taking antibiotics



# Straight from the DREs... #3

## Driving behaviors

- Left turn from straight lane
- Passed four open lots and stopped in a ditch

## Officer observations

- Poor balance / coordination
- Red / glassy eyes
- 6 clues HGN
- Thought saw resting nystagmus

## Drugs/meds/injuries

- Needles / spoon / empty wax paper with residue
- Admitted heroin and kratom use
- Taking amoxicillin and other meds for double ear infection

# Straight from the DREs... #4

## Driving behaviors

- "T-Bone" fatal crash
- Tractor trailer turning left (with green light)
- Mini-van disregarded red light and struck TT

## Officer observations

- TT driver anxious but not injured
- Body/hand tremors
- Some impairment on psychophysical tests
- BP (192/122)

## Drugs/meds/injuries

- Various prescription bottles located in TT
- Lower back injury
- HX of high blood pressure



# Conclusion

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