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One in 61 drivers on drugs, police figures reveal

Anhar Khanbhai

July 15, 2010 - 12:27PM

One in every 61 drivers have tested positive to illicit drugs in Victoria, new police figures reveal.

Since the random drug testing program was introduced in early 2005, more than 122,000 drivers have been tested and of those 2000 were found to have used drugs.

The results showed speed was the most frequently detected drug with 83 per cent of the drug-using drivers tested having consumed it.

Cannabis (29 per cent of drug-using drivers) and ecstasy (15 per cent of drug-using drivers) were the other most common substances detected.

Drug driving was as life-threatening as drink driving or speeding, Inspector Martin Boorman said.

"Drivers who have recently consumed cannabis or an amphetamine-based substance are at the same risk as having a crash as a driver with a blood alcohol concentration level above 0.05," he said.

Almost a third of the drug-affected drivers were detected in rural Victoria.

"We know that some country drivers have the attitude that they won't get caught - but we have the capacity to test drivers anywhere, at any time." Inspector Boorman said.

In the past six months 22,473 drivers were tested for drug use and 336 drivers registered a positive result for illicit drugs.

Of the drivers who tested positive, 87 per cent were male and 35 per cent were under the age of 26.

Tough enforcement, however, may be curbing the problem.

"We have taken 2000 dangerous drivers off the roads with this program, and we'll continue

coming up with new ways to catch more," Inspector Boorman said.

Victoria was the first jurisdiction in the world to begin testing drivers randomly for illicit drug use.

"Our drug testing program continues to expand across the state and motorists can expect to be drug tested by Double-Trouble Buses or police cars - marked or unmarked." he said.

*This story was found at:
[http://www.theage.com.au/
victoria/one-in-61-drivers-
on-drugs-police-figures-
reveal-20100715-10bnt.html](http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/one-in-61-drivers-on-drugs-police-figures-reveal-20100715-10bnt.html)*