

Article: Suitability of SoToxa oral fluid screening over time: Re-examination of drugged driving in Wisconsin

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Key Points:

- Drug detection from oral fluid is useful for roadside impaired driver detection.
- Roadside oral fluid drug screening devices considered (SoToxa[®] and Quantisal[™]) were easy to use, non-invasive, and provides consistent results.
- Changing patterns of drug use impact the accuracy of drug detection tests.

Glossary:

Impaired driver = operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Oral fluid = clear liquid secreted in the mouth.

THC = the chemical in cannabis that causes a “high”.

Why this article matters: Law enforcement officers need accurate and reliable roadside tools to screen for the presence of drugs. This work assessed two oral fluid drug screening approaches and compared results to prior work.

Description of the Study: Oral fluid samples were screened by the SoToxa[®] roadside device for the presence of amphetamine, benzodiazepines, cocaine, methamphetamine, opioids, and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Results were compared to drugs detected in blood and another oral fluid sample collected using a Quantisal[™] device.

Research Questions: Are devices used to detect the presence of drugs in oral fluid from suspected impaired drivers accurate and reliable? What are the impacts of changing drug patterns over time and across different regions?

Important Results: The SoToxa[®] roadside oral fluid screening device can help law enforcement officers identify people driving under the influence of drugs and establish probable cause for an arrest.

How the results will be used: Law enforcement and traffic safety officials will use results to decide which tools are best for detecting drug-impaired drivers.