

**ADECA/LETS Office of Highway Safety** 

# ANALYSIS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING IN ALABAMA 2012-2016 DATA

For more general information from NHTSA and other sources, see:

http://www.safehomealabama.gov/tag/distracted-driving/

**June 2017** 



### **Summary of Recommendations**

#### Major PI&E Effort

- ✓ Consequences of the current situation
  - · The mounting death and injury toll
  - Everyone thinks they are the exception
  - Focus of effort: no exceptions no use of cell phones by drivers
  - Like smoking, it must become socially unacceptable
- Drivers need understanding of cognitive effects of any and all cell use
  - Not just a matter of hands on/off the wheel or eye misdirection
  - Uses areas of the <u>brain</u> that are essential to safety
  - Especially true if any level of alcohol/drugs or emotional distress are involved
- ✓ Publicize changes in legal and IT countermeasures (see below)

#### Major Enforcement Effort

- Develop and apply better methods for cell phone use detection
- Stronger penalties when detected
- Training for better identification and recording

#### Legal and IT Countermeasures

- ✓ Legislation enabling checking for cell phone use for ALL crashes
- ✓ Burden or proof shift to cell phone users
- Per se assumption of responsibility
- Get data from detection back into the crash records







- General Introduction
  - ✓ NHTSA Distracted Driving 2015 Traffic Safety Facts
  - ✓ General national findings (FARS, etc.)
- IMPACT Comparative Analyses
  - ✓ Will consider only electronic device distractions
  - Distracted Driving by Electronic Devices (DDED)
  - ✓ Compare DDED (red) with non-DDED (blue)
  - Many results are unique to Alabama
  - Presented as Q & A

### **Summary of NHTSA DA 2015**



- DA = Distracted-Affected (NHTSA term)
  - Causal driver identified as distracted
  - Essentially same as our Distracted Driving (DD)

#### 2015 Statistics

- ✓ DA in 10% fatal, 15% injury and 14% overall crashes
- √ 3,477 killed; 391,000 non-fatal injuries
- √ 551 non-occupants (ped, bic, etc.) killed

### Distracted by Cell Phone Use

- √ 476 fatalities 2015 nationally = 14% of all distractions
- √ 16 DDED fatalities/year in Alabama

### **IMPACT Analyses**



- From Data 2012 thru August 2016
- Compare and Contrast the Following:
  - ✓ Driving Distracted by Electronic Device (DDED)
  - Compared to: All Other Records (non-DDED)

### Subjects Covered:

- Severity
- Driver Behavior (including Impaired Driving)
- Driver Demographics
- Geographical Considerations
- ✓ Time Factors
- Crash Aspects
- Vehicle Characteristics

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### **Interpretation of IMPACT Results-1**

- Distracted Driving by Electronic Device
  - ✓ DDED defined by C015, C020, C202
  - ✓ Attribute = cell phone or other electronic device
- IMPACT Comparison Chart
  - √ Red=DDED; Blue=nonDDED
  - Chart compares proportions
- IMPACT Comparison Table
  - ✓ "Subset" = DDED Frequency and PerCent
  - ✓ "Other" = nonDDED Frequency and Percent



### **Interpretation of IMPACT Results-2**

- Odds Ratio (OR) = DDED %/nonDDED %
  - ✓ OR > 1 indicates over-representation for value
  - ✓ OR < 1 indicates under-representation for value</p>

### Max Gain

- **√** F(both frequency and over-representation)
- ✓ Equals crashes saved by forcing the OR to = 1.0
- ✓ Generally, worst cases have the highest Max Gains

### Value of Taking the Test



- Two Step Process:
- 1 Think Through the Question
  - ✓ Take your best guess
  - ✓ Consider the reason for the guess
- 2 Evaluate the Correct Answer
  - ✓ Why did you get it right? Important:
    - Just a lucky guess? or
    - Conclusion based on premises presented or known?
  - ✓ Why did you get it wrong? Even more important.





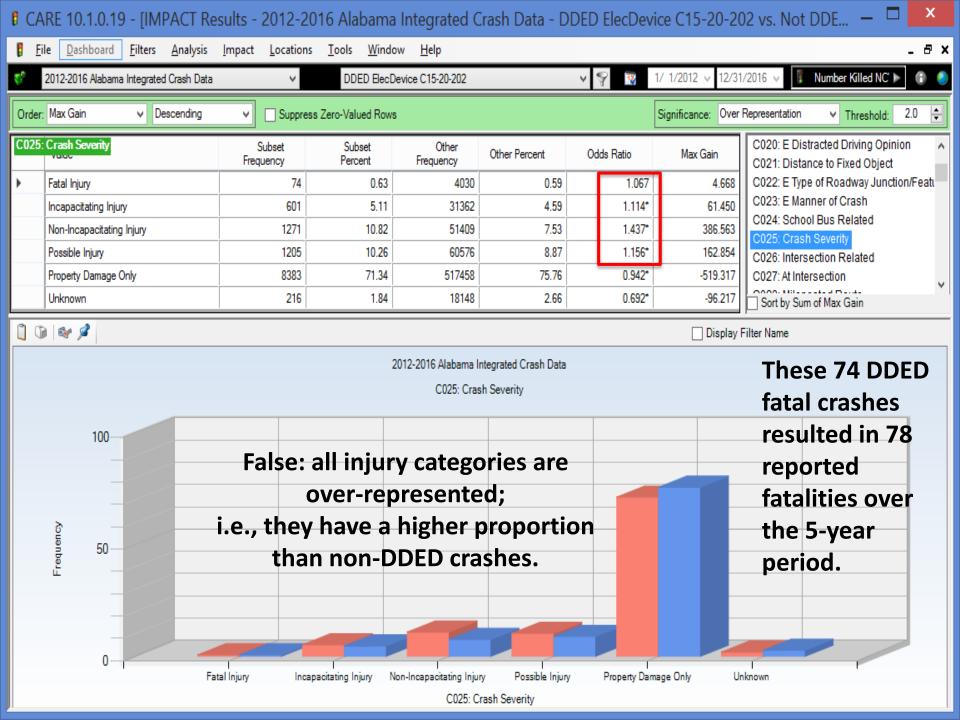
# **Crash Severity**



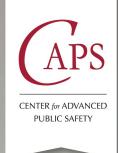


DDED crashes are generally less severe than non-DDED crashes.









## **Driver Behavior**

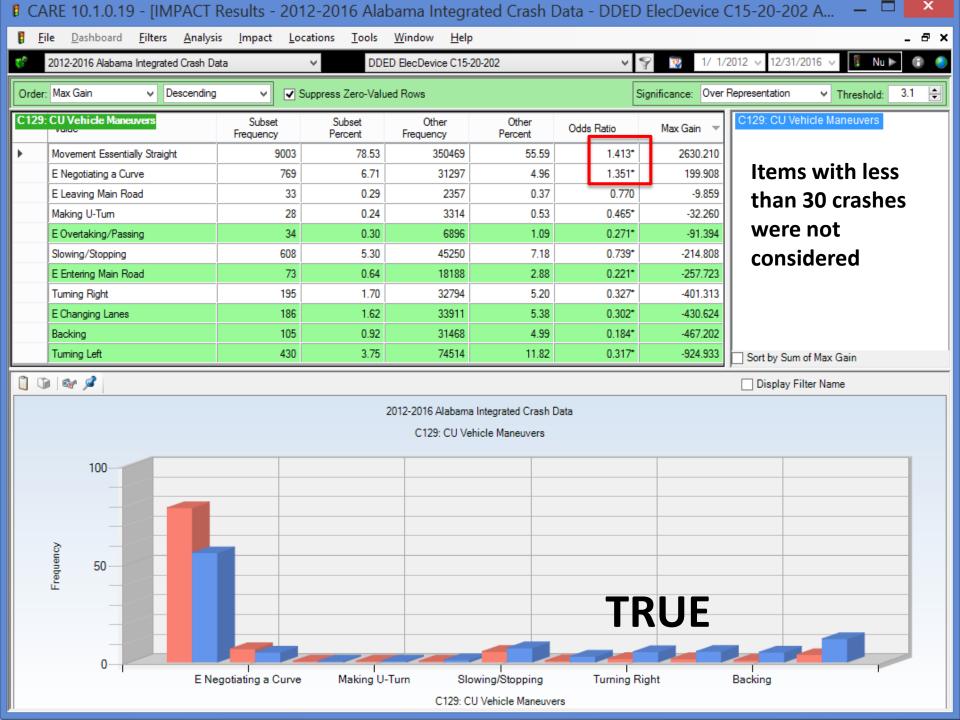




Other than for curves

DDED drivers tend to put their EDs aside
in more complex driving situations.





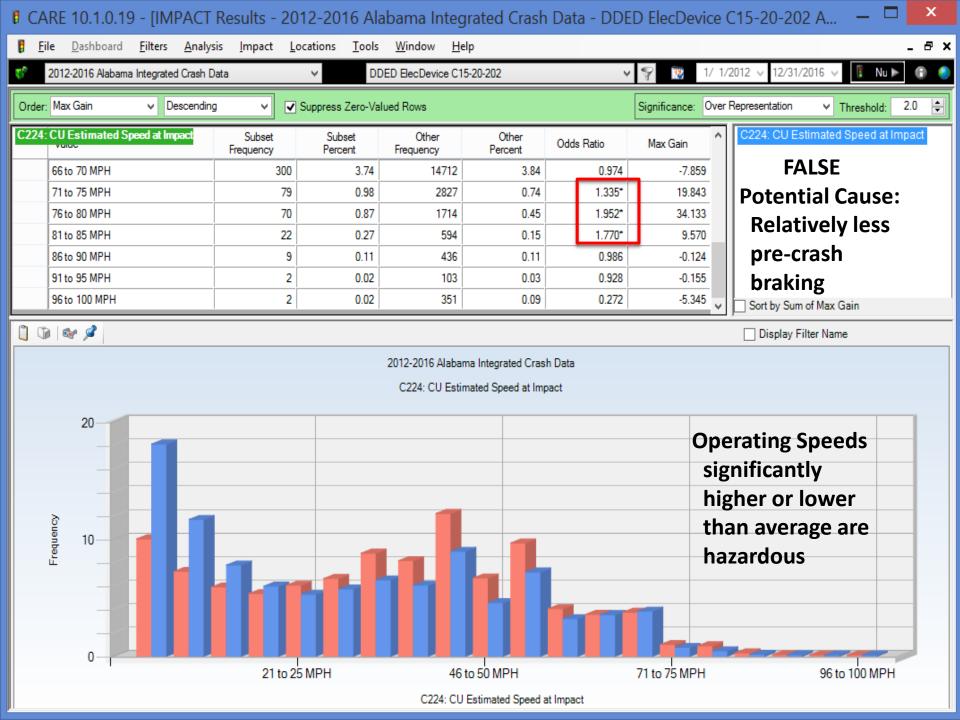


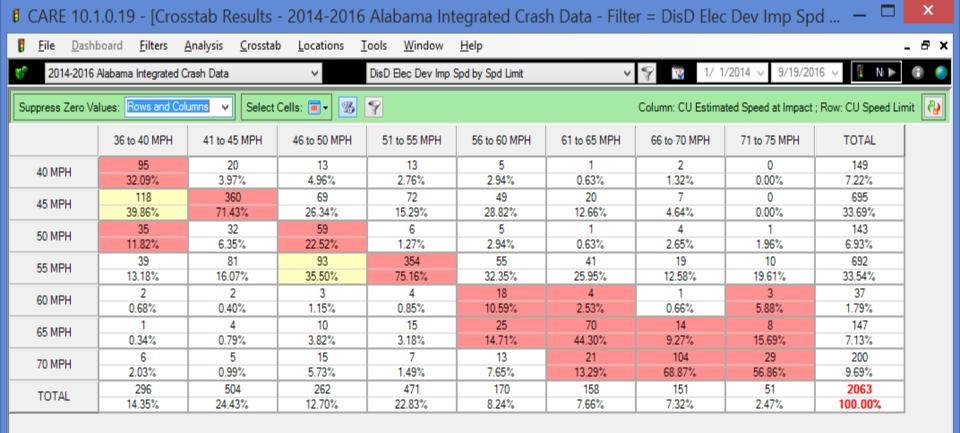
### QUESTION: ESTIMATED SPEED AT IMPACT

True or False:

The proportion of DDED involvement goes down as drivers exceed the speed limit.







Impact Speeds are Highly Correlated to the Speed Limits
See red right on down the diagonal of approximately equal speeds
Potential reasons: (1) not higher because drivers are trying to go
with the flow; (2) not lower because drivers caught unaware.

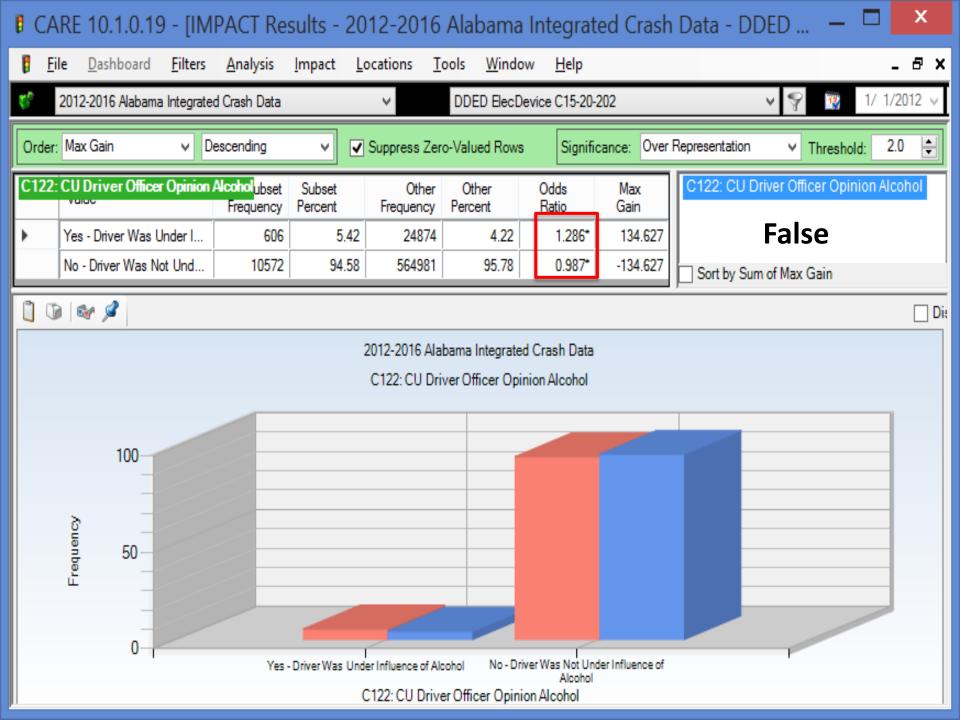


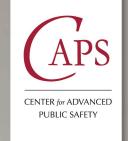
### QUESTION: ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT

True or False:

The proportion of DDED involvement goes down as drivers are under the influence of alcohol.





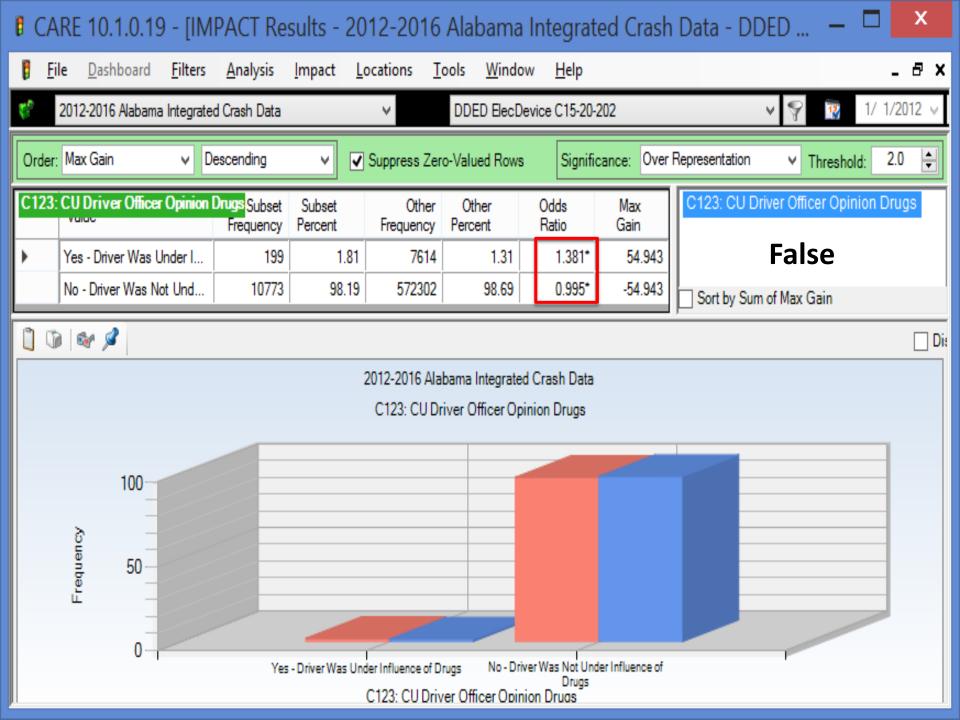


### QUESTION: DRUG INVOLVEMENT

True or False:

The proportion of DDED involvement goes down as drivers are under the influence of drugs.





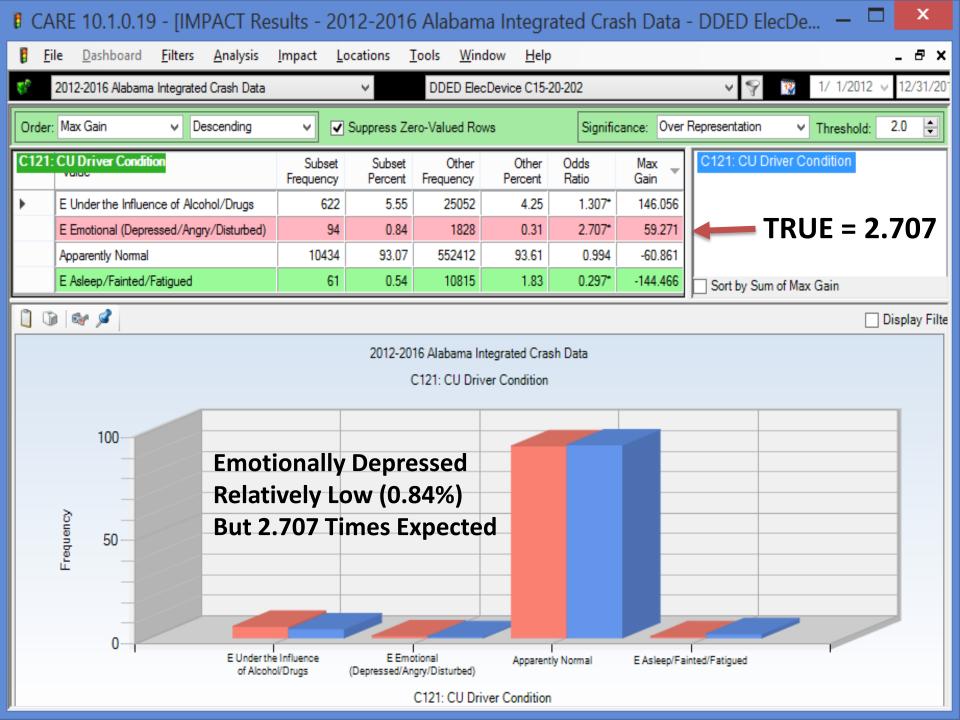


### QUESTION: DRIVER CONDITION

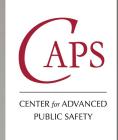
True or False:

While relatively few in number, the proportion of DDED drivers who are "Emotional (Distressed, Angry, Disturbed)" is almost three times that of non-DDED drivers.



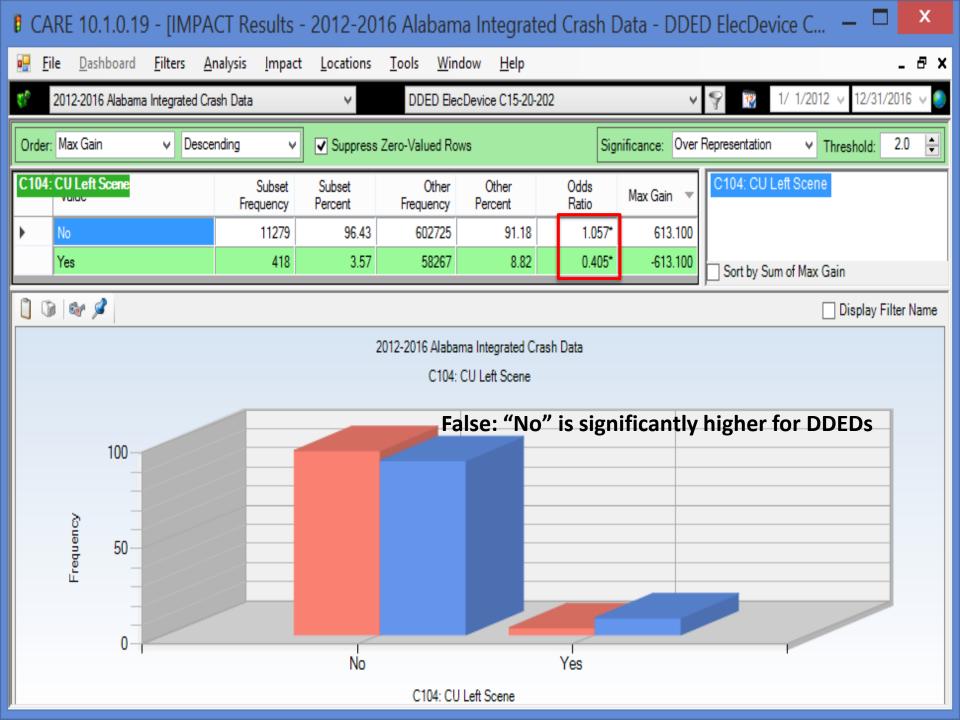






Causal drivers who are DDED have a greater tendency to leave the scene of the crash.



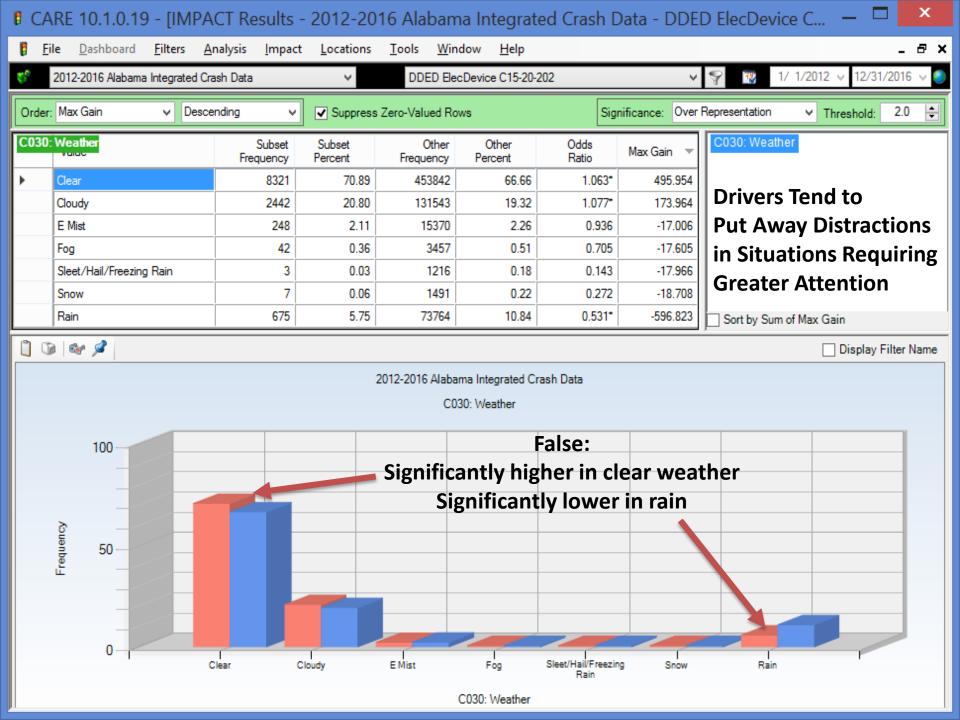






The data indicates that people tend to use their cell phones and text as much in rainy weather as in clear weather.

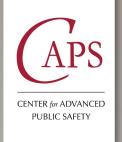






### **General Data Category**

# **Driver Demographics**



### QUESTION: AGE OF CAUSAL DRIVERS

True or False:

Causal Drivers aged 18 and 19 are obviously the worst DDED offenders from a crash proportion point of view.



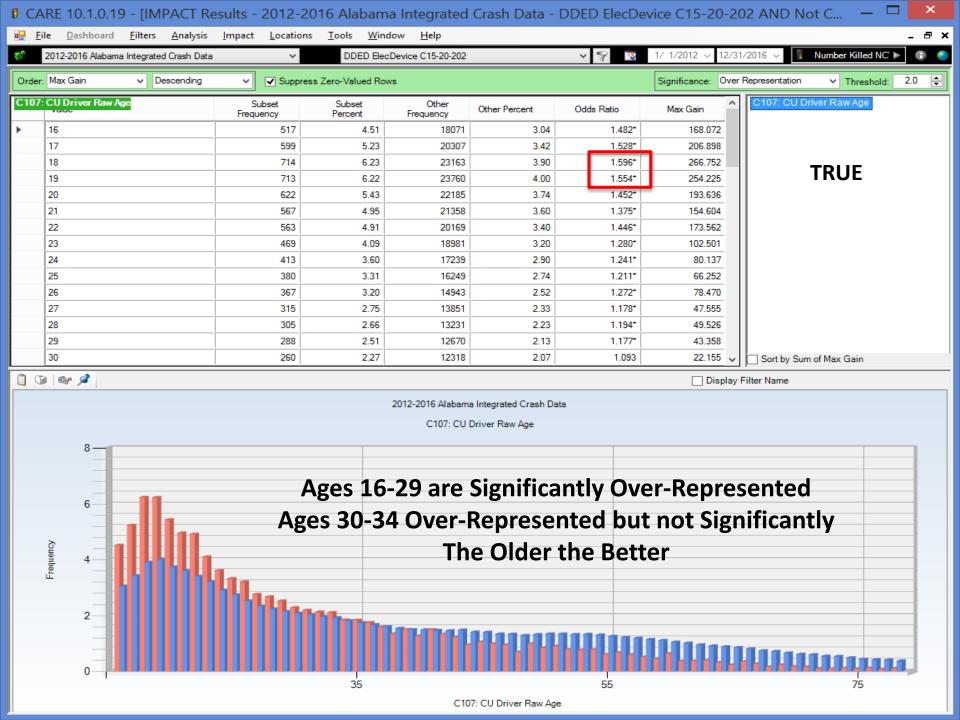


### QUESTION: AGE OF CAUSAL DRIVERS

True or False:

All causal drivers 43 and above have less than expected DDED involvement from a crash proportion point of view.



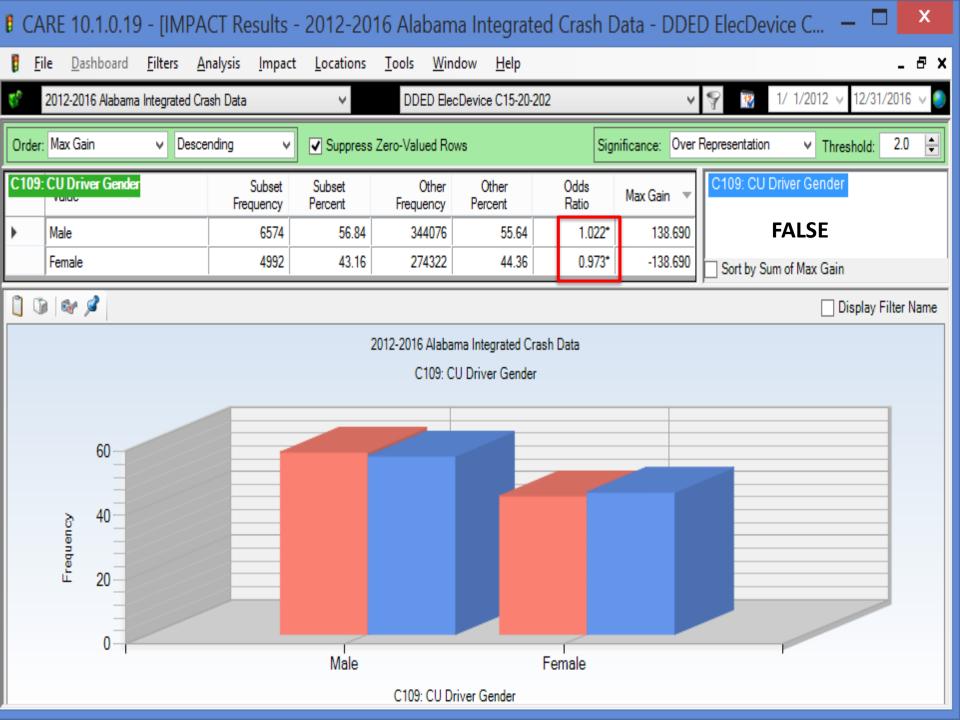






From a relative proportion point of view female drivers have a larger problem with DDED than do male drivers.





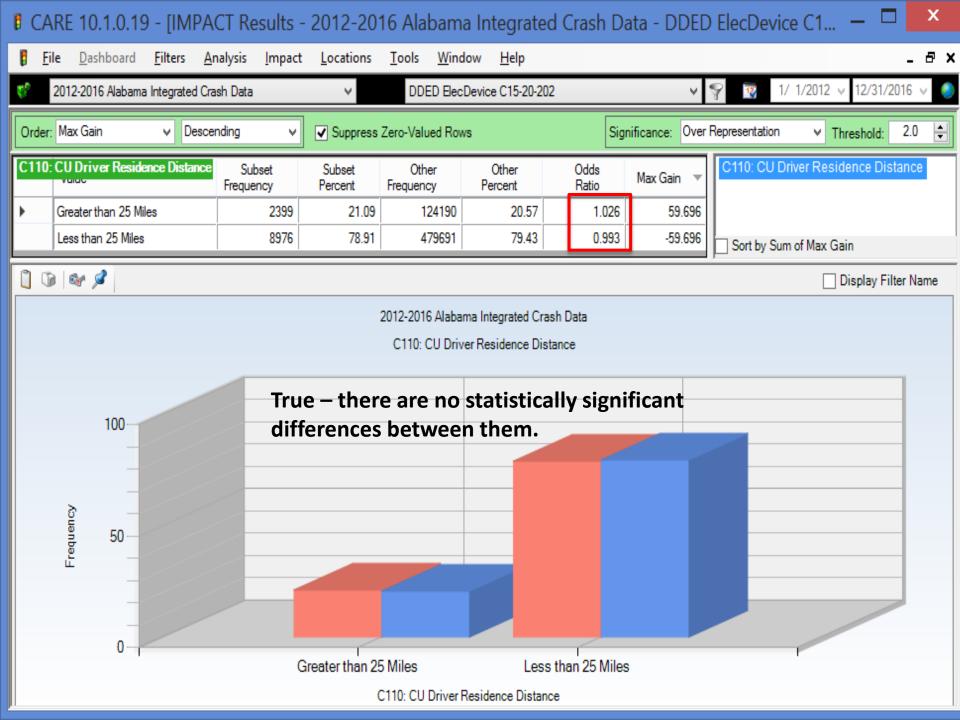


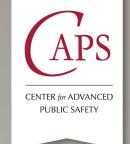
### QUESTION: DISTANCE FROM HOME

True or False:

Those further away from home have relatively the same problem with DDED as those closer to home.







### **General Data Category**

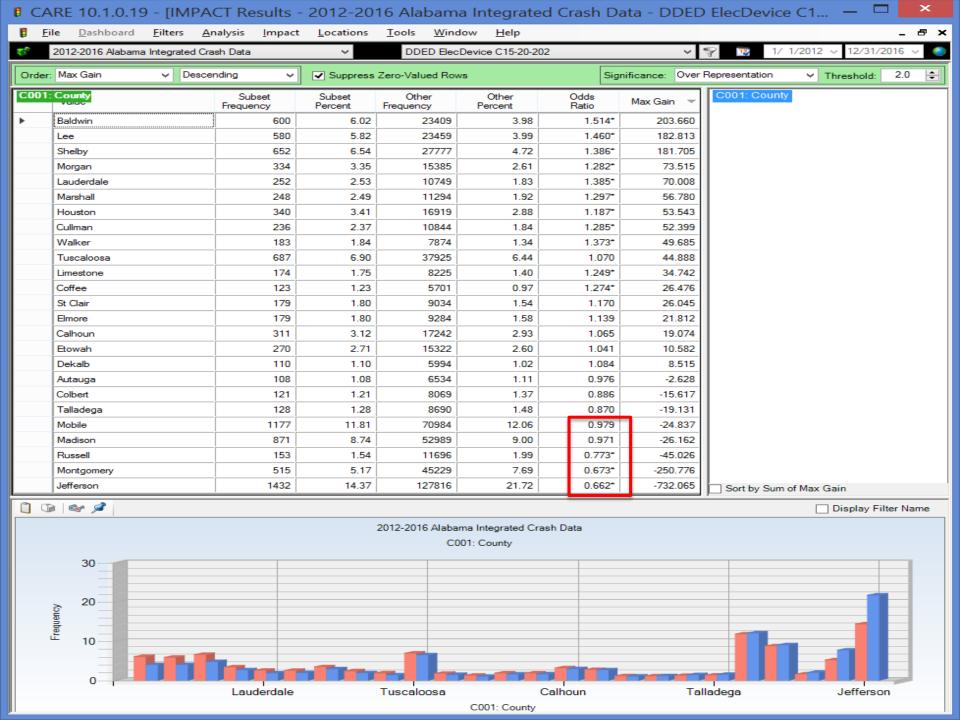
# Geographical Characteristics





The most under-represented areas for DDED caused crashes tend to be those counties that include our largest cities.



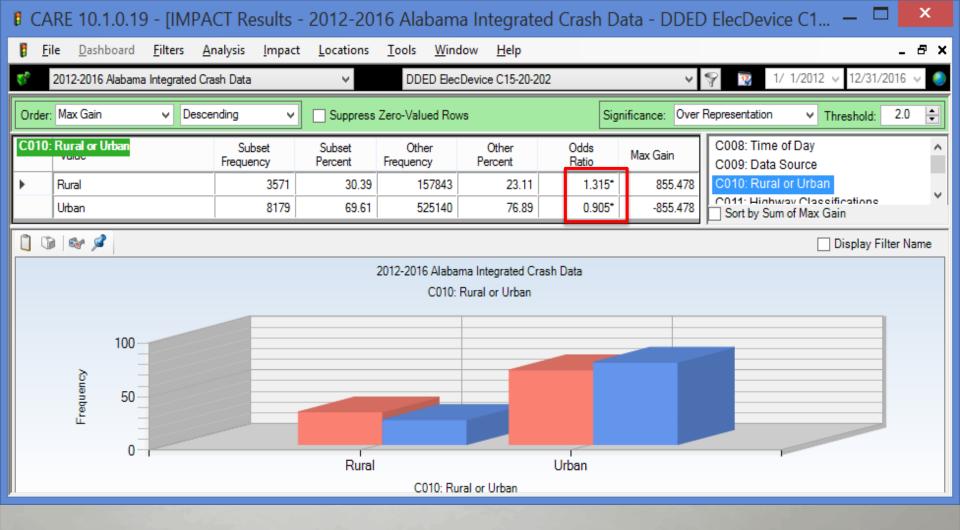




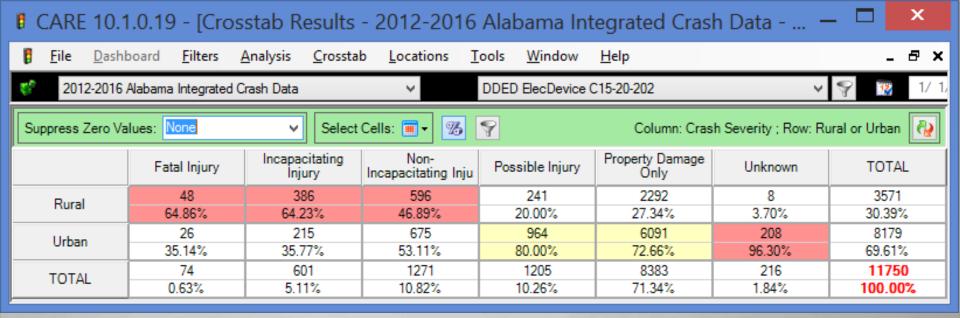


DDED caused crashes are over-represented in urban areas.





The significant (31.8% higher than expected) rural DDED crash frequency indicates that the higher speeds on rural roadways are less forgiving than is DDED in urban areas.



#### **Probability of a DDED Crash being Fatal:**

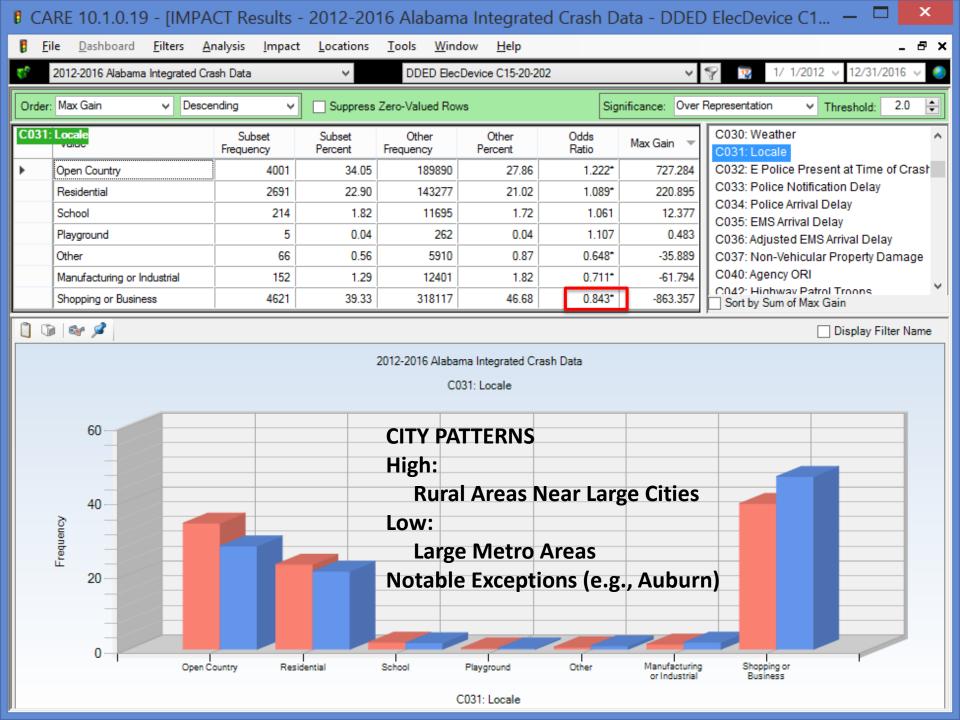
- Rural = 48/3571 = 1.34% = 1 in 74
- Urban = 26/8179 = 0.32% = 1 in 315
- Crash being fatal in rural area is over four times more likely
- increased probabilities also with the higher injury severities





Of all of the locale types, drivers seem to put their electronic devices aside most in Business/Shopping areas.





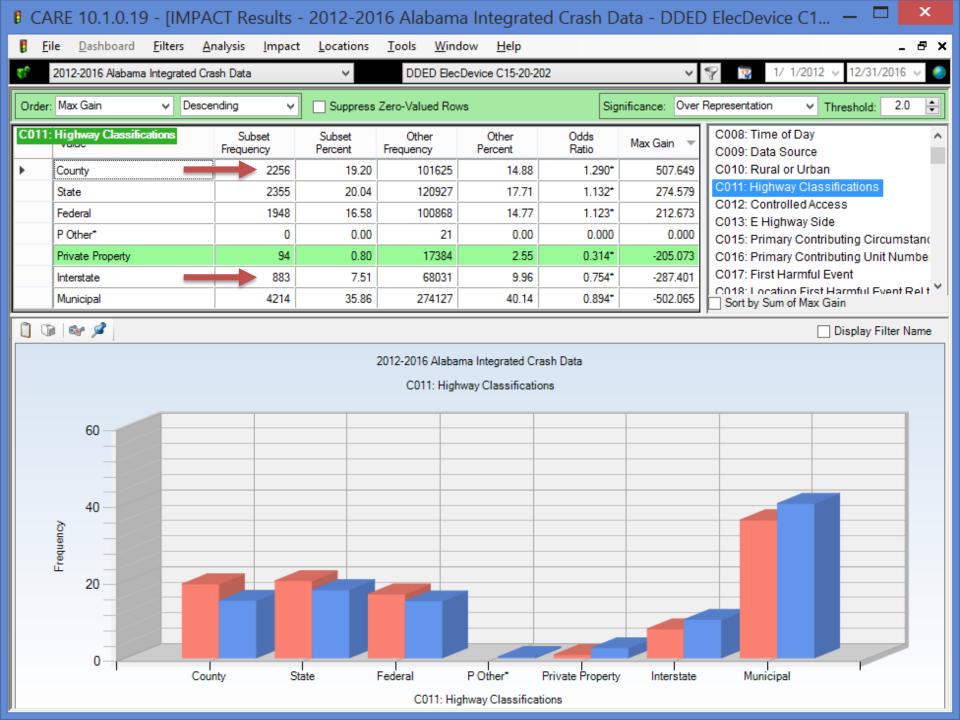


# QUESTION: ROADWAY CLASSIFICATIONS

True or False:

Interstate highways had more DDED-caused crashes than county roads.





# **Roadway Classifications**



- Roadway classifications are consistent
  - With Urban-Rural and Locale results
  - Exception of under-represented Interstates
- All other rural roads are over-represented
- County roads greatest odds ratio/MaxGain
- State & Federal comparable w/ each other
- C412: two-lane significantly over-represented
  - 3698 crashes = over 52% of the crashes
  - Validates county road over-representation
- All other lane numbers were under-represented
- Second most frequent was 4-lane





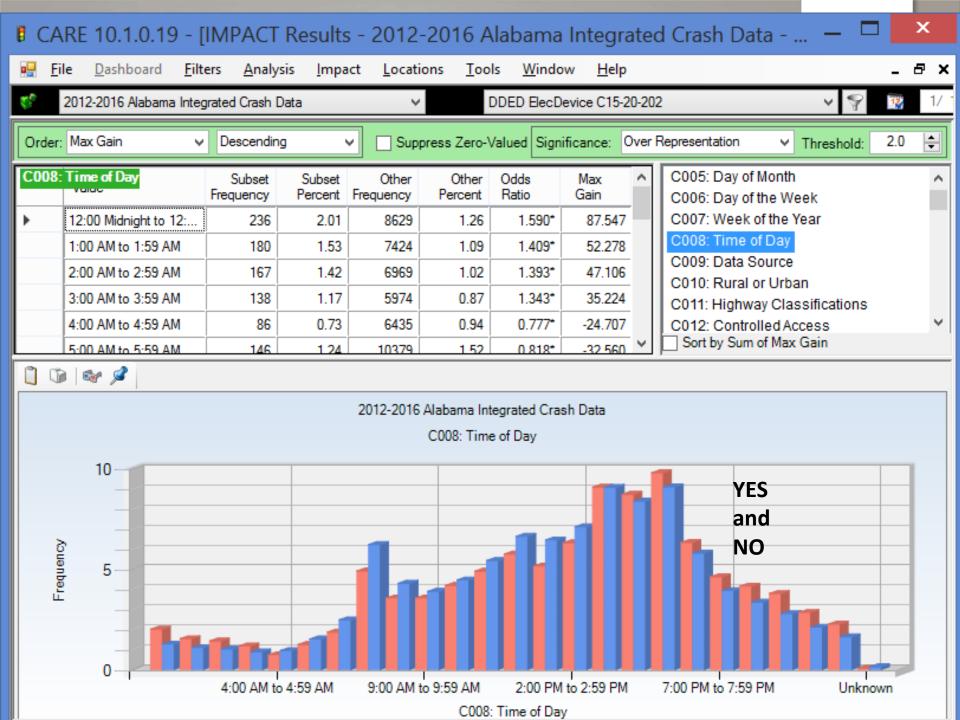
# **Time Factors**

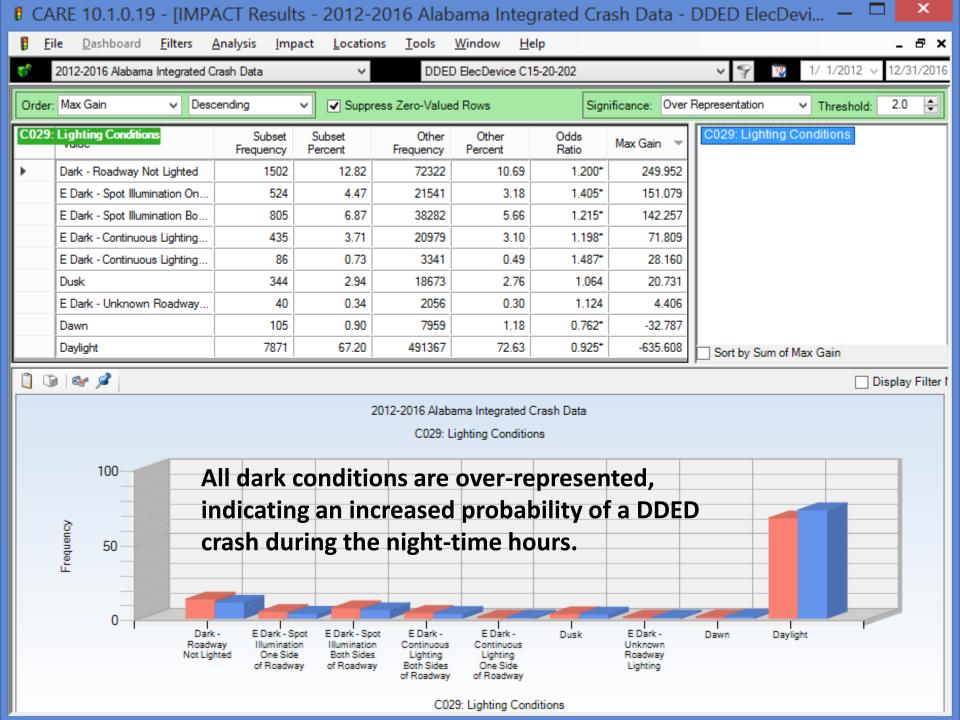




Compared proportionally to non-DDED, rush hours appear to be the worst times for DDED-caused crashes





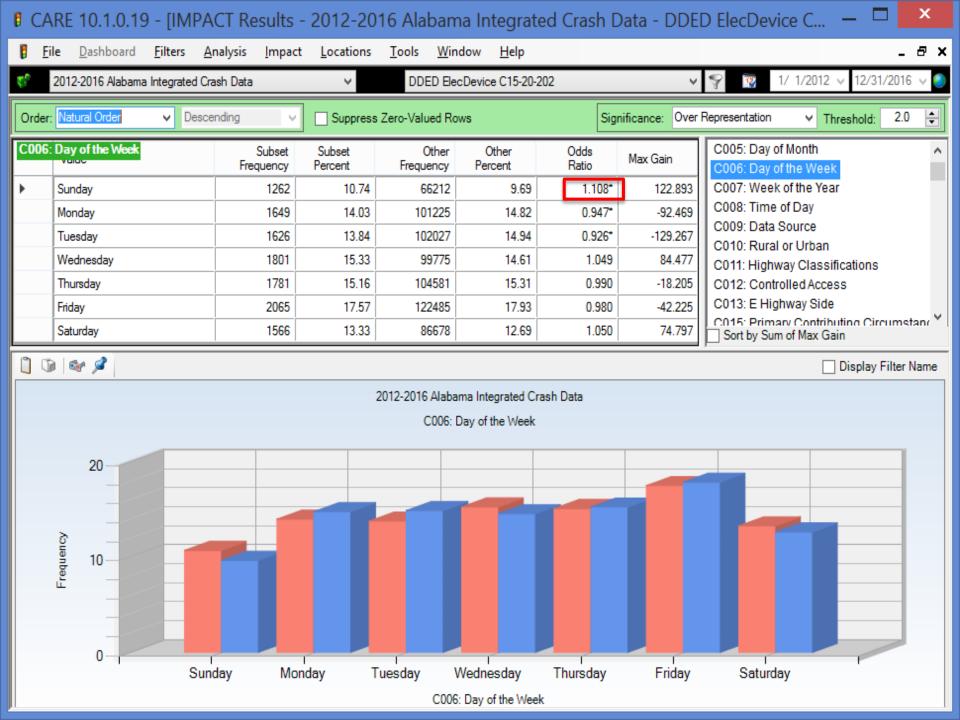


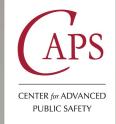




The only day that has a statistically significant greater proportion of DDED caused crashes is Sunday





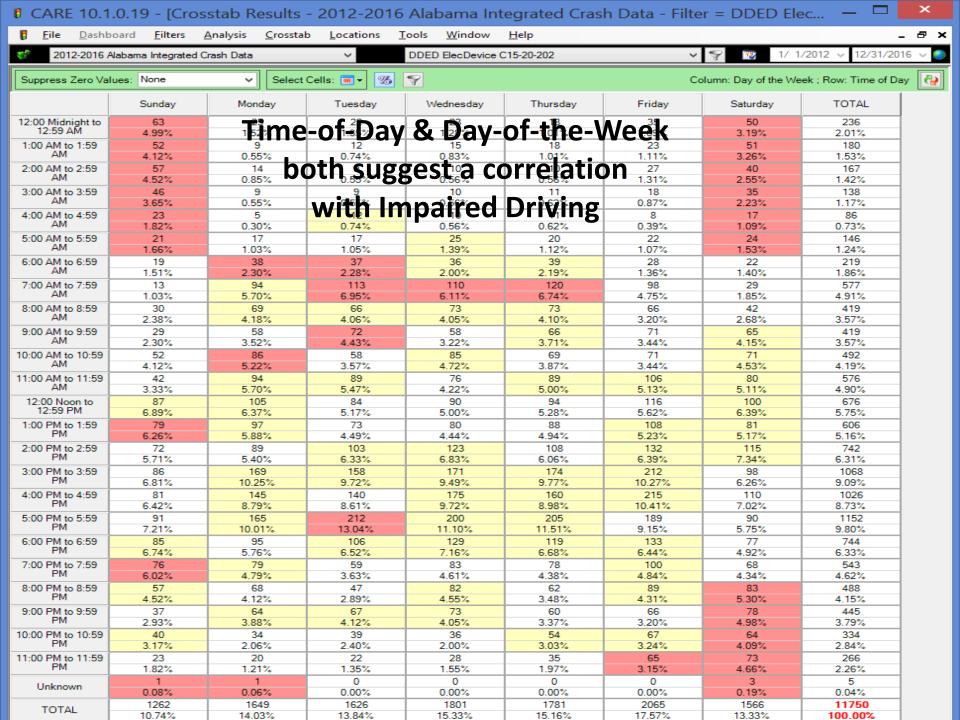


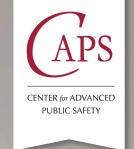
# QUESTION: TIME-OF-DAY BY DAY-OF-THE-WEEK

True or False:

The time-of-day by day-of-the-week distribution for DDED crashes is almost identical to that of DUI crashes







# **General Data Category**

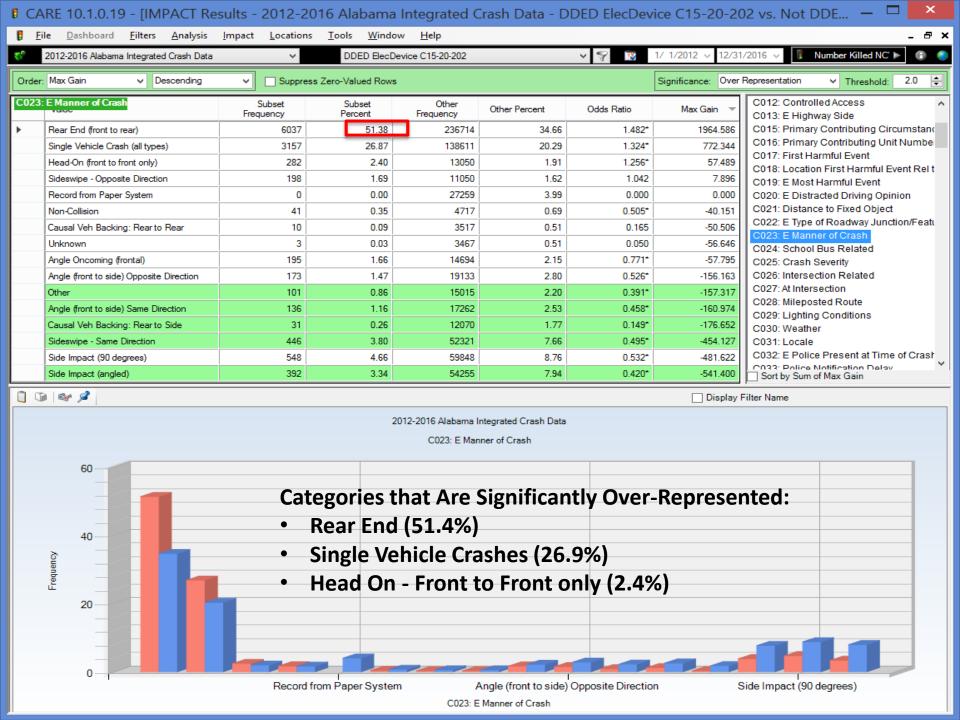
# **Crash Characteristics**





The majority of DDED caused crashes were rear-end collisions.



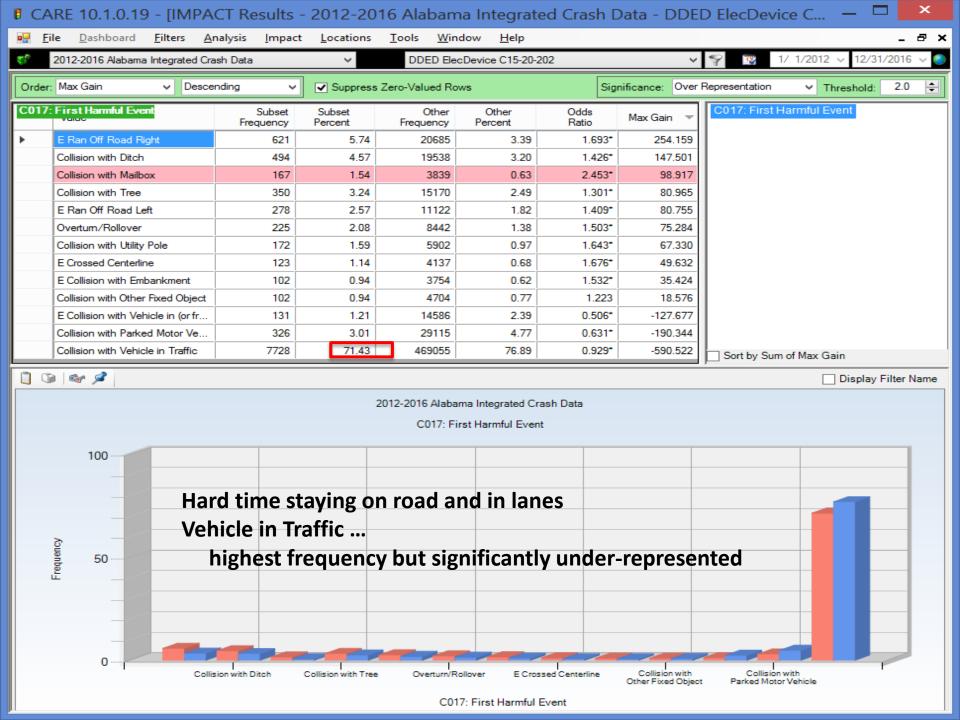






Close to 30% of DDED caused crashes involve only a single vehicle

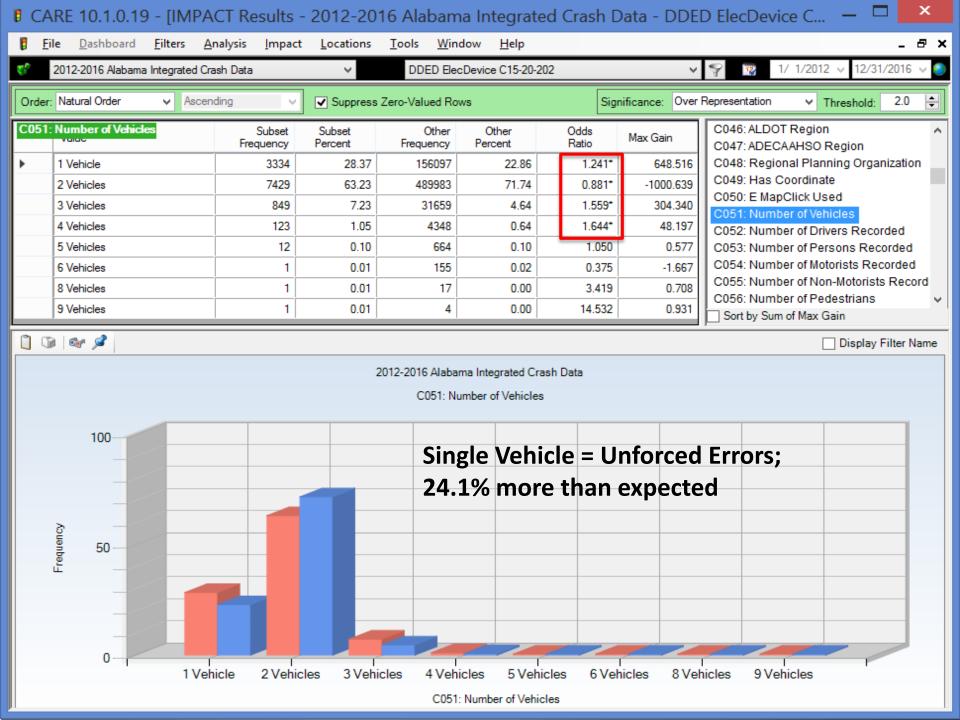


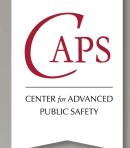




Crashes that are over-represented in DDED caused crashes:
Single Vehicle
Three-vehicle crashes
Four-vehicle crashes







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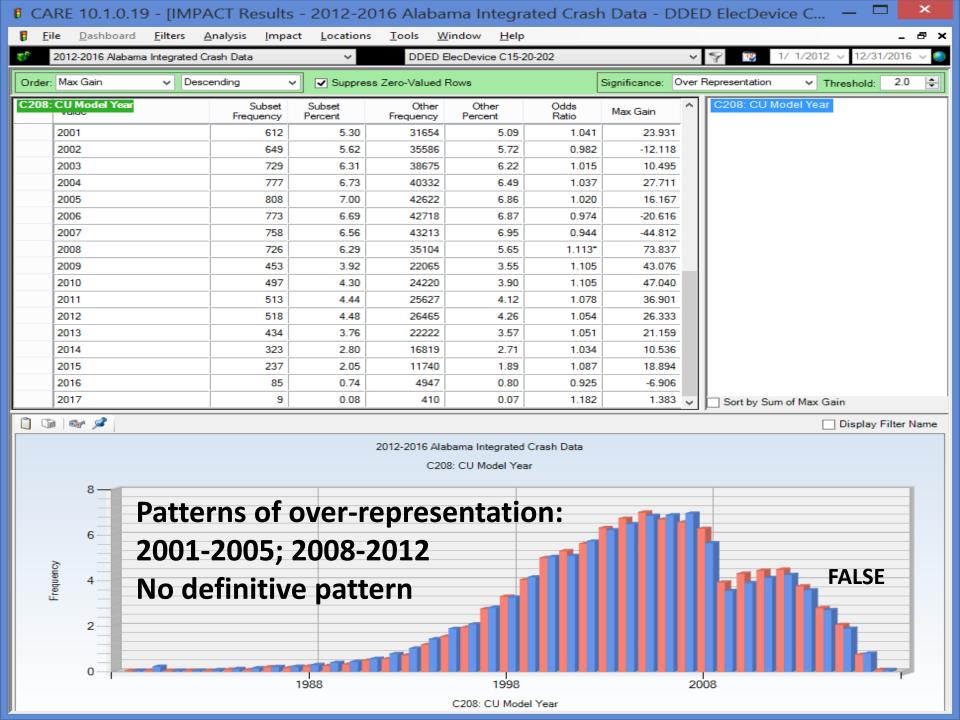
# **Vehicle Characteristics**





DDED caused crashes tend to Involve the newest vehicles.



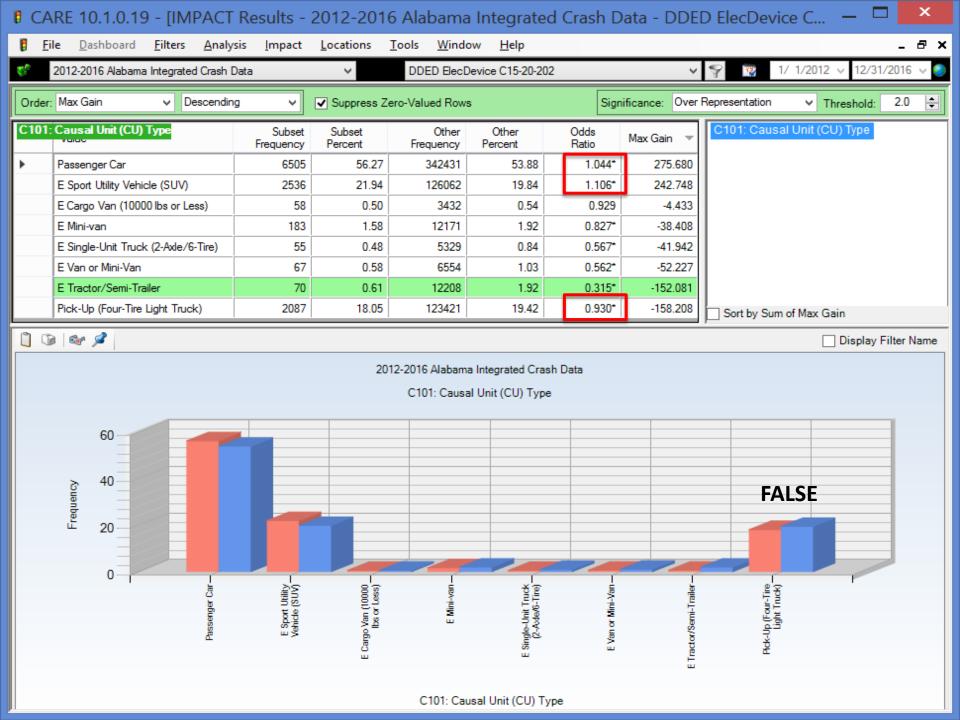




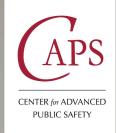


Pickup trucks have some of the highest over-representation metrics.





# **Vehicle Type Analyses**



- Causal Vehicle Type = Passenger Cars & SUVs
- Effect of Recession on Age of Fleet
  - ✓ Effect of the recession in 2009 is quite clear
  - Both in the DDED crashes & other crashes (blue bars)
  - Only year showing a statistically significance is 2009
- Collective Patterns
  - 1998 through 2004, and
  - 2008 through 2011
  - ✓ DDED is not over-represented very old or very new
  - Probable cause ...
    - Many of the older vehicle owners do not have smart phones
    - Many new vehicles have installed countermeasures

### **Summary of Recommendations**

#### Major PI&E Effort

- ✓ Consequences of the current situation
  - · The mounting death and injury toll
  - Everyone thinks they are the exception
  - Focus of effort: no exceptions no use of cell phones by drivers
  - Like smoking, it must become socially unacceptable
- Drivers need understanding of cognitive effects of any and all cell use
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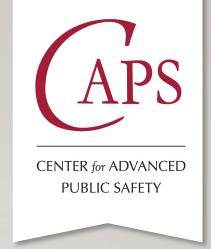
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- ✓ Legislation enabling checking for cell phone use for ALL crashes
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### **THANK YOU**

**Q&A SESSION** 

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