



Resources and Tools

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is oral fluid screening and how is it used in impaired-driving investigations?

Oral fluid screening—sometimes called roadside saliva testing—is a quick, non-invasive method that allows officers to detect the presence of certain drugs within minutes during a traffic stop. It is used *after* impairment is suspected based on driving behavior and field sobriety tests, helping officers determine whether further investigation or confirmatory blood testing is warranted.

2. Does oral fluid screening replace blood testing or prove impairment?

No. Oral fluid screening is a preliminary tool, not a standalone evidentiary test. It does *not* determine exact drug concentration or establish legal impairment. Instead, it identifies recent drug use and supports probable cause decisions—helping ensure that only appropriate cases proceed to arrest or lab testing.

3. Will roadside drug screening slow down traffic stops or burden officers?

Quite the opposite. Oral fluid testing typically takes just a few minutes and allows officers to make faster, more informed decisions at the roadside—reducing unnecessary arrests, transport delays, and lab backlogs.

4. Is oral fluid testing vulnerable to racial profiling or discriminatory enforcement?

No more than any existing traffic stop—and in many ways, it reduces subjectivity. Unlike field sobriety tests that rely on officer interpretation, oral fluid devices provide objective, science-based results. When paired with policies that require uniform testing criteria (e.g., based on observed impairment, not appearance), oral fluid screening can *improve fairness and consistency* across communities.

5. Why should lawmakers support wider adoption of oral fluid screening?

Because it strengthens impaired-driving enforcement without increasing arrest volume. It protects public safety, reduces wasted resources, improves case quality for prosecutors, and provides a more objective and equitable way to determine when further testing is justified.

Additional Resources:

- 1) AAA
 - a) [Use of Oral Fluid to Detect Drugged Drivers: A Toolkit](#) (2022)
 - b) [Use of Oral Fluid to Detect Drugged Drivers - Handout](#) (2023)
- 2) NASID
 - a) [NASID: Oral Fluid Roadside Screening – A Tool for Law Enforcement Webinar](#)
 - b) [Oral Fluid Field Screening \(OFFS\) & Roadside Drug Testing](#)
 - c) [Oral Fluid Field Screening \(OFFS\) Programs – Data Checklist](#)
 - d) [Oral Fluid Field Screening \(OFFS\) Programs – Implementation Checklist](#)