IMPACT: Driving Drunk, Driving High

Synopsis
Open and candid interviews with family members of victims of drunken driving, compellingly present examples of the human toll, regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic level, that driving under the influence exerts on society.

Among these interviews are interwoven five video segments that include statements and facts by a law enforcement officer, a trauma outreach specialist, and an addiction specialist. Each of the five segments is introduced by statistics about the impact of impaired driving has on society, such as the number of people who are killed each year in the United States in alcohol related accidents, the incidence of drug and alcohol use by high school seniors and those in prison or on parole.

The Crash: This segment is largely devoted to the stories of six families and how they lost a loved one to the reckless and illegal behavior of an impaired driver.

The Aftermath: This segment discusses the impact of these crashes on the surviving family members. These survivors movingly describe deep and far-reaching changes in their attitudes, behavior and personal relationships.

Driving and Drugs: The third segment describes how drugs and alcohol temporarily affect one's mental functioning and the long-term impact their use has on the body.

Killer on the Road: This segment focuses on some of the legal issues and consequences of drivers driving under the influence.

Just Don't Do It: This brief and final segment suggests that viewers learn all they can about drug and alcohol use, talk about it with friends and family members. It also discusses the need for punishment and rehabilitation for the impaired driver.

Questions to ask before viewing
1. What do you know about the organization MADD? (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
2. Do you know someone who has been affected by a driver who drove under the influence? Explain how.
3. What impact do you think those who drive under the influence have on society?
4. Do you think that you can drink and drive responsibly? Explain.

Questions to ask after viewing
1. What percent of traffic deaths in the United States is alcohol related? (41%)
2. Describe two ways in which drivers under the influence were assessed by law enforcement personnel in this video? (They were given Breathalyzer tests; made to walk in a straight line or had to follow an object with their eyes.)
3. According to the testimony of family members who lost someone to a driver under the influence, what are some of the things that can be affected for the survivors? (Their attitudes about drinking, how they feel about holidays, attitudes about friends and others who drink and drive, an appreciation of how fragile life can be, relationships with family members)
4. What is a possible effect on the viewer of showing a happy, smiling person in one image and is followed by one of the crash site or an injury? (Responses will vary. Possible responses: It shows that an auto death is more than a statistic. It humanizes the event and is more real to the viewer. It emphasizes the loss for surviving family members and how fragile life can be.)
5. What are some alternatives to driving under the influence that one might choose? (Bring extra money for a cab ride home, have a sober friend drive, call 911, call a tow truck, if one must drink, to do it at home)
6. What strategy did the police officer feel was the strongest deterrent to drivers operating a vehicle under the influence? (roadway sobriety checks)
7. What is the leading cause of death for people 6-27 years old? (automobile crashes)
8. What is the socioeconomic profile of someone who drives under the influence? (It crosses every socioeconomic level.)
9. How do drugs and alcohol affect the brain? (They slow reaction time and reflexes, impair judgment, vision and perception.)
10. Describe the categories of into which people who drink and drive can be placed. (Social drinker -
someone who may occasionally drink too much, alcohol abuser- someone who drinks more regularly, binge drinker- someone who drinks infrequently, but drinks to intoxication, the alcoholic - someone who regularly drinks to excess)

11. Is it unusual for someone who drives under the influence to be caught early in his or her driving history? Explain. (No, someone has usually driven 200-2000 times under the influence before he or she is caught.)

Discussion Guide

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Objectives
• To illustrate the impact on society of driving under the influence
• To illustrate the consequences of choosing to drive under the influence
• To provide statistics on the incidence of driving under the influence
• To become familiar with the ways in which drugs and alcohol can affect one's ability to drive

11. Is it unusual for someone who drives under the influence to be caught early in his or her driving history? Explain. (No, someone has usually driven 200-2000 times under the influence before he or she is caught.)