

DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING



WHAT IS IMPAIRED DRIVING?

Any amount of a substance that impairs one's judgment and impairs one's ability to operate a motor vehicle and react in a timely manner. The most common substances detected in impaired drivers are alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, and over-the-counter medications.

WHY IS DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING SO DANGEROUS?

Drugs alter perception, mental processes, attention, balance, coordination, reaction time, and other abilities required for safe driving. With less reaction time and impaired judgement, crashes are more likely to occur, which can result in injury or even death.

WHAT SUBSTANCES ARE USED THE MOST WHEN DRIVING?

After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often linked to car crashes, including those involving deaths. Almost 42% of deceased drivers tested positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

Source: American College of Surgeons Research News Press Release.





HOW DANGEROUS IS MARIJUANA-IMPAIRED DRIVING?

38% of fatally injured drivers tested positive for marijuana in states that have legalized recreational marijuana, compared to 31% and 33% in states with no legislation or recreational use legislation.

Source: Leavitt TC, Chihuri S, Li G.

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 14.2 million people drove under the influence of alcohol and 12.6 million people drove under the influence of illicit drugs.

Source: 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

- In 2023, 34 people in the U.S. died per day in alcohol-related vehicle crashes - that's one person every 42 minutes.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- The combined effect of legalization of marijuana and retail marijuana sales was a 5.8% increase in injury crash rates and a 4.1% increase in fatal crash rates.

Source: Farmer CM, Monfort SS, Woods AN.

FOR DRUG USE PREVENTION INFORMATION, VISIT DEA'S WEBSITES:

For parents, caregivers,
and educators
[GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)

For teens
[JustThinkTwice.com](https://www.justthinktwice.com)

For college and university
campuses
[CampusDrugPrevention.gov](https://www.campusdrugprevention.gov)