Marijuana and Driving

The Dangers of Driving High

AAA

What Do You Know About Marijuana and Driving?

True False

☐ ☐ **1** Low doses of marijuana can affect driving abilities.

☐ ☐ **2** Convictions for driving after using marijuana have increased over the past few years.

☐ ☐ **3** Some people drive better when high on marijuana.

☐ ☐ **4** A driver could be charged with DWI/DUI for driving after consuming marijuana.

☐ ☐ **5** The effects of marijuana wear off after one hour.

See inside for answers.

Whether it is legal or not in your state to use, driving while impaired by marijuana is a crime and a danger to all drivers.

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For more information about AAA Driver Training Programs, contact your local AAA club's Driver Training Department or visit **AAA.biz/DriverTraining**

Driver Training Programs
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Answer Key

1 **True.** Even low doses of marijuana can affect the brain's judgment and functioning.

2 **True.** The number of "Green DUIs" has increased by approximately 47% from 2007 to 2013.[9]

3 **False.** Although it might seem that way to some users, even low doses reduce one's driving abilities. Drivers who are high are unable to accurately assess their own performance.

4 **True.** States' DWI/DUI laws apply to impairment by *any* drug, not just by alcohol.

5 **False.** Major impairment can last up to about five hours. Marijuana affects everyone differently, making it difficult to estimate the effects or predict when effects wear off.

References

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Marijuana + Driving = Danger

Many states are legalizing marijuana for therapeutic or recreational use. Whether you choose to use marijuana or not, it's important to understand how this drug can affect the ability to drive safely.

Whether you smoke, vape, or swallow edibles, getting behind the wheel when you're high on marijuana poses a risk to everyone on the road. In fact, next to alcohol, marijuana is the drug most commonly found in drivers who have been involved in collisions.[1]

When ingested, marijuana's active ingredient, THC, enters the bloodstream, rapidly if smoked, and is then distributed throughout the body. In addition to other effects, THC disrupts key parts of the brain that influence the perception of time, concentration, movement, memory and coordination—all important to safe driving.[2]

The Blunt Truth:
How Marijuana Affects
Driving Abilities

Difficulty maintaining attention

Slower reaction times

Harder to stay in traffic lane

Harder to judge distances

Slower decision-making

Reduced peripheral/ side vision

Reduced coordination

Research clearly shows that THC in marijuana negatively affects driving abilities[3,4,5]

Drivers who have ingested marijuana may not be able to accurately perceive the traffic environment, make good decisions or take appropriate actions based on their decisions. Although research results are mixed, some studies show that, for drivers using marijuana, their crash risk approximately doubles—that's an increase of 100%![6]

Plus, research shows that drivers involved in crashes who tested positive for THC were three to seven times more likely to be responsible for having *caused* the collision.[4]

10-30 min	Approximate time after the last puff until peak effects occur[3]
±2-5 hours	How long a driver is acutely impaired after ingesting marijuana[7]
2+ weeks	Length of time THC can be detected after last use[8]
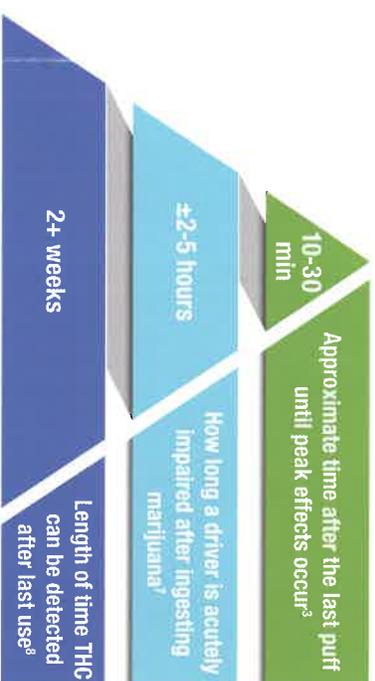
Bottom Line:
Never ingest marijuana and drive.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
2022 Judicial Statistics

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	Graphic
DC	Dissolution with Children	22	16	20	24	17	21	19	23					162	
DN	Dissolution without Children	13	6	18	16	15	14	19	9					110	
FA	Family	12	24	28	21	26	13	3	13					140	
JV	Juvenile	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	1					7	
JA	Juvenile Abuse/Neglect	5	6	6	3	9	11	4	2					46	
JD	Juvenile Delinquency	8	19	23	7	5	21	15	9					107	
OP	Order of Protection	20	33	33	37	38	27	50	26					264	
	Total Juvinelle/Family	**80**	**104**	**128**	**108**	**114**	**109**	**110**	**83**					**836**	
AD	Adoption	1	2	3	2	0	0	2	1					11	
CH	Chancery	1	1	1	0	3	5	2	4					17	
ED	Eminent Domain	0	0	0	4	12	3	4	2					25	
EV	Eviction	24	18	31	47	29	28	55	39					271	
FC	Foreclosures	12	18	31	18	32	20	27	33					191	
GR	Guardianships	9	2	6	11	4	7	2	8					49	
LA	Law	6	13	11	8	12	5	11	16					82	
LM	Law Magistrate	24	11	36	10	14	31	14	15					155	
MH	Mental Health	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0					4	
MR	Misc. Remedy	7	6	9	6	8	5	6	8					55	
PR	Probate	13	6	16	6	8	17	8	7					81	
SC	Small Claims	114	63	124	84	92	101	128	89					795	
TX	Tax	6	6	1	9	1	5	2	0					30	
	Total Civil	**219**	**147**	**269**	**205**	**216**	**227**	**261**	**222**					**1766**	
CC	Contempt of Court	2	1	0	4	0	2	1	4					14	
CF	Criminal Felony	52	29	45	25	43	55	39	44					332	
CL	Civil Law Vilolation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0					2	
CM	Criminal Misdemeanor	17	25	26	20	24	37	27	36					212	
CV	Conservation Violation	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0					6	
DT	DUI	24	22	20	21	24	26	24	20					181	
DV	Domestic Violence	18	13	13	14	8	8	8	9					91	
MT	Major Traffic	107	106	113	95	120	125	135	169					970	
MX	Misc Criminal	20	9	21	12	22	15	23	21					143	
OV	Ordinance Violation	2	0	2	3	4	4	1	2					18	
QC	Quasi Criminal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	
TR	Traffic	280	288	357	420	299	301	354	308					2607	
	Total Criminal/Traffic	**524**	**493**	**599**	**614**	**546**	**575**	**612**	**613**					**4576**	
CA	Court Administration	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1					1	
WI	Wills	22	19	10	16	17	19	13	22					138	
XX	Misc	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0					7	
	Other	**25**	**20**	**10**	**16**	**20**	**20**	**13**	**23**					**146**	
	Totals for 2022	**848**	**764**	**1006**	**943**	**896**	**931**	**996**	**941**					**7325**	
	Totals for 2021	**683**	**675**	**949**	**893**	**749**	**956**	**801**	**965**	**859**	**812**	**871**	**852**	**10065**	