



# Marijuana and Driving

## 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.**



For more information about AAA Driver Training Programs, contact your local AAA club's Driver Training Department or visit [AAA.biz/DriverTraining](http://AAA.biz/DriverTraining)

## 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.<sup>9</sup>
- 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

## 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<sup>3,4,5</sup>



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%!<sup>6</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>



**Bottom Line:**  
Never ingest marijuana and drive.