

# The Facts About Marijuana-Impaired Driving



## Colorado lost 763

people on state roadways in 2022.

# 101

## Fatalities

involved a vehicle operator with Delta-9 THC, the impairing substance in cannabis, above the legal limit of 5ng at the time of the crash.



## Any amount of Delta-9 THC

in your blood puts you at risk for a DUI.



## How high is too high to drive? Under Colorado law:

The main factor leading to a DUI arrest is the law enforcement officer's observation of impairment by the vehicle operator. If the officer determines that the driver's ability to drive is impaired by alcohol and/or drugs to the slightest degree, then an arrest can be made. One or more of the following specific factors can lead to an arrest:

- Observed impairment of the vehicle operator
- Initial traffic offense for which the operator is stopped
- Driver's reaction to an officer's command to stop
- Driver's action while exiting the vehicle
- Performance during roadside standard field sobriety testing (roadside test)
- Results of any approved roadside testing device

In 2021

**25% of vehicle operators**  
involved in fatal crashes tested positive for more than one drug.

In 2020

**17% of marijuana consumers**  
reported driving within 2 to 3 hours of consuming marijuana.

# How does marijuana impair driving?

Multiple independent studies have shown that marijuana impairs the critical abilities needed to drive safely, resulting in:

- Difficulties in road tracking and maintaining lane position.
- Decreased and divided attention.
- Relaxed inhibitions.
- Impaired cognitive skills, including route planning, decision making and/or risk taking.
- Altered perception of time and distance.
- Slowed reaction time.
- Impaired cognitive performance.



## Can medical marijuana consumers be arrested for driving impaired?

Yes. If you are impaired while driving, even as a medical cardholder, you are at risk of getting a DUI.

## What are the consequences of a DUI for marijuana-impaired driving?

The same DUI laws apply for marijuana as they do for alcohol or any combination of impairing substances. Penalties vary, and fines range from \$200 to \$1,500 and can even exceed a total financial cost of \$13,500. Other consequences include jail time, loss of license and more.

For more information on DUI consequences, visit [NoDUIColorado.org/court](https://NoDUIColorado.org/court).

## Mixing cannabis and alcohol significantly amplifies impairment.

Even if the vehicle operator is below both the BAC and Delta-9 THC legal limit, mixing cannabis and alcohol significantly impairs driving abilities and can still put you at risk of getting a DUI.

For more information on DUI consequences, visit:

[DriveHighDUI.com](https://DriveHighDUI.com)

[FeelDifferentDriveDifferent.org](https://FeelDifferentDriveDifferent.org)

[Colorado.gov/CDPHE](https://Colorado.gov/CDPHE)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation