

What You Need To Know About Cannabis Use and Driving

Operating under the influence (OUI) laws are not just for alcohol. Driving under the influence of drugs, including marijuana (also known as cannabis, pot, weed, THC), is also dangerous and illegal. Driving is a complex task that requires your full attention to stay safe and alert.



People who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience dangerous effects: slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.

FAST FACTS

- Marijuana, although illegal at the federal level, is legal to purchase and consume in Michigan since 2018.
- After alcohol, marijuana is the substance most often associated with impaired driving.
- In 2017, about 1 in 8 high school drivers reported driving after using marijuana at least once during the past month.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT IMPAIRED DRIVING

If you intend to drive, the safest option is not to use any marijuana/cannabis. Here are steps you can take to help prevent impaired driving if you plan to use, are using, or have used marijuana or any other substance:



- Choose not to drive and remind your friends and family to do the same.
- Assign a trusted designated driver who will not drink or use drugs when you are going out with a group of people you know.
- Plan on getting a ride home from someone who has not been drinking alcohol and/or using drugs, using a rideshare service, or calling an Uber.



You cannot drive under the influence of marijuana regardless of whether it was consumed on a recreational or medical basis. This also applies to passengers.

References:

1. National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine, "The health effects of cannabis and cannabinoids: Current state of evidence and recommendations for research," Washington, DC, 2017
2. Compton R. (2017, July). Marijuana-Impaired Driving - A Report to Congress. (DOT HS 812 440). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2020). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States
4. [cdc.gov/marijuana](https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana)