

RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CANNABIS

DID YOU KNOW?

It is illegal and unsafe to drive under the influence of cannabis. Using even a small amount of cannabis product can alter brain function and negatively affect your ability to drive safely. Both the onset and duration of the effects of cannabis depend on the method of consumption.

HOW CAN CANNABIS IMPACT DRIVING?



Cannabis use can negatively impact brain function and cognition, harming a person's driving performance. Cannabis users can experience impairments in spatial awareness and decision making. Working memory, a key function in driving, can also decrease with cannabis use. Cannabis use can affect a person's ability to drive safely by slowing reaction time, impairing coordination, and disrupting perception. Although more research is needed on the effects of cannabis on driving performance, cannabis use and driving can lead to an increase in car crashes.

HOW LONG SHOULD A PERSON WAIT BEFORE DRIVING?

The length of time cannabis effects can last depends on several factors, including product type, method of consumption, and amount of THC - the main psychoactive compound in cannabis - in a product. Although detectable amounts of THC can last weeks after use, noticeable effects generally last 1-3 hours for

smoked cannabis and several hours for edibles. You may not feel the effects of a cannabis product immediately upon consumption but rather, much later. You should not assume it is okay to drive if you have yet to show obvious effects of use. Be safe and wait.

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CANNABIS?

It is illegal to consume cannabis while operating a motor vehicle or while traveling as a passenger in a motor vehicle. Driving under the influence (DUI) of cannabis is a Class 1 Misdemeanor. A first-time DUI charge can result in up to one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500, with a mandatory fine of \$250. In addition, a first-time offense results in the loss of driving privileges for one year.

TIPS FOR PLANNING A SOBER RIDE:

1

Select a designated driver who will remain sober.

2

Plan on calling a taxi or rideshare service.

3

Discourage friends and family from driving immediately after cannabis consumption.

4

Consume at home and wait it out.

5

Walk home if it is safe to do so.