

PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: Marijuana

Prevention
Action Alliance

Road and Traffic Safety

- Marijuana is the most frequently detected drug (other than alcohol) in crash-involved drivers.¹
- Evidence has shown that marijuana impairs almost every aspect of performance associated with safe driving. Recent epidemiologic studies have found that marijuana use may double the risk of car crash involvement.²
- Legalized recreational marijuana use was associated with a 6.6% increase in injury crash rates and a 2.3% increase in fatal crash rates.³
- About one-quarter of fatally injured drivers test positive for marijuana.⁴
- Currently, there are no evidence-based methods to detect marijuana-impaired driving.⁵

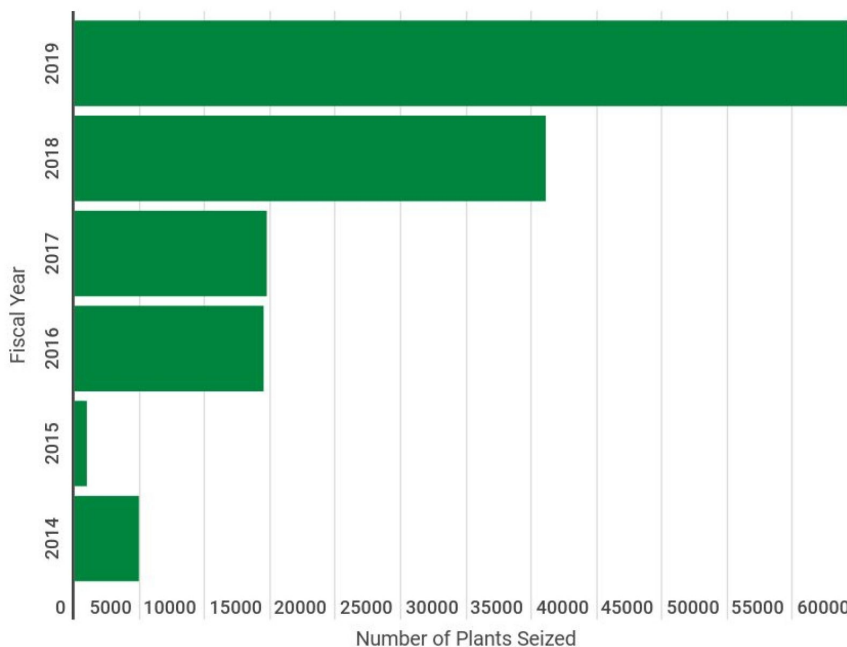
Sources

- 1 Terhune, 1982; Terhune et al., 1992; Lacey et al., 2009; Walsh et al., 2005; Berning, Compton & Wochinger, 2015) www.nhtsa.gov
- 2 Lenné et al. 2010; Bosker et al. 2012; Downey et al. 2013; Hartman et al. 2015) (Li et al. 2012, Asbridge et al. 2012).
<https://injepijournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40621-017-0105-z>
- Image: Tefft, B.C. & Arnold, L.S. (2020). Cannabis Use Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes in Washington State Before and After Legalization (Research Brief). Washington, D.C.: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.
- 3 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Marijuana Impaired Drivers: A Report to Congress. July 2017. U.S. Department of Transportation Report No. DOT HS 812.440. www.nhtsa.gov
- 4 (IIHS. 2021, June 17. Crash Rates Jump In Wake of Marijuana Legalization. <https://www.iihs.org/news/detail/crash-rates-jump-in-wake-of-marijuana-legalization-new-studies-show>)
- 5 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). Drug-Impaired Driving: Marijuana and Opioids Raise Critical Issues for States. Washington, DC: Governors Highway Safety Association; 2018.

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Increased Crime

- Illicit markets have thrived in every “legal” state, such as Oregon, where illegal marijuana makes up more than 70% of the market.⁶
- Legalization has led to greater black-market activity than ever before.⁷



Data from the Denver division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

This fact sheet was created by the Marijuana Task Force, a collaboration of the Ohio Prevention Professionals Association and Prevention Action Alliance. Members of the Marijuana Task Force include:

- PreventionFirst!
- Jennifer’s Messengers
- Empower Tusc
- Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County
- Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention
- Westshore Enforcement Bureau
- Westshore Young Leaders Network
- Summit County Community Partnership

Prevention Action Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Columbus, Ohio. We’re dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. Learn more at preventionactionalliance.org.

If you have concerns about your own use of marijuana or of a loved one and wish to seek help, please visit: findtreatment.samhsa.gov/

For more information about marijuana and health, contact Prevention Action Alliance at:
(614) 540-9985
contact@preventionactionalliance.org

Sources

6 [HTTPS://WWW.RESEARCHGATE.NET/PUBLICATION/342369555_CHANGE_IN_TRAFFIC_FATALITY_RATES_IN_THE_FIRST_4_](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342369555_CHANGE_IN_TRAFFIC_FATALITY_RATES_IN_THE_FIRST_4_)

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