



Background: There is growing concern about driving under the influence of cannabis (DUIC), especially as more states consider changing laws to legalize recreational cannabis. Information that might increase understanding and resolve debate about the effects of cannabis on traffic safety is often published across diverse sources. This inaccessibility can hinder attempts for traffic safety practitioners and policymakers to decide on appropriate policies and implement effective strategies to mitigate risk. To overcome this, a synthesis report was written by the Center for Health and Safety Culture (CHSC) to summarize key information about the role of cannabis in traffic safety.

Effect of Cannabis on Traffic Safety

There are too few valid evaluations for a limited set of states (WA, OR, CO) to support any conclusion about the effect of cannabis legalization laws on traffic safety.



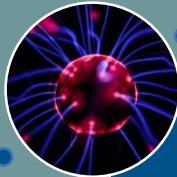
Risk of a fatal crash nearly doubles with THC – and is even higher when combined with alcohol.



More responsible for crashes and over-represented in those involving inattention and speed.



Driving behavior is impaired, resulting in more unsafe acts.



Ability to process information and pay attention is reduced.



Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) alters brain functioning.