

IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT

2021 Halloween *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*

FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

This Halloween, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with local officials to help remind drivers: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*. As marijuana laws change throughout the country, it's important to remember that drug-impaired driving is illegal everywhere in America. If you plan to drive, refrain from drugs, whether legally or illegally obtained. Read these scary stats and commit to sober driving. Let's stay safe this Halloween, and every day.

Know the Facts

- If you're planning to use marijuana or other drugs, do not drive. Designate a sober driver who won't be using marijuana or other drugs or use public transportation or a ride-sharing service. Someone who's affected by drugs shouldn't be making decisions about driving; that's why planning ahead is key.
- According to NHTSA, between 2009 and 2018, of those drivers killed in crashes and tested for marijuana, the presence of marijuana had nearly doubled.
- In 2018, 46% of drivers who were killed in crashes and were tested for drugs, tested positive.
- It doesn't matter what term you use: If a person is feeling a little high, buzzed, stoned, wasted, or drunk, he or she is impaired and should never get behind the wheel.
- In every U.S. state and territory, it is illegal to drive under the influence of drugs – no exceptions.
- Whether the drug is legal or not, drug-impaired driving poses a threat to the driver, passengers, and other road users.
- If you think driving while high from marijuana won't affect you, you are wrong: It has been shown that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane.
- [Local Halloween statistic if available.]

Financial Impacts

- On average, a DUI could set you back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, and more.

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- If you're caught driving under the influence of any impairing substance, you can face jail time. Imagine trying to explain that to your friends and family or your place of employment.
- Drug-impaired driving could cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. This could stop you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.

Play It Safe

- If you have used an impairing substance such as marijuana, do not drive. Passengers should never ride with an impaired driver. If you think a driver may be impaired, do not get in the car.
- If you plan to use drugs, plan ahead for a sober driver to safely drive you to your destination. Like drunk driving, it is essential that drug-impaired drivers refrain from driving a vehicle. It is never okay to drive while impaired by any substance.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drive while impaired by drugs? Take the keys away and arrange to get them home safely. Don't worry about offending someone — they'll thank you later.
- If available, use your community's sober ride program **[Insert your local sober ride program specifics here]**.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact **[Local Law Enforcement]**.

For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drug-impaired-driving/if-you-feel-different-you-drive-different.