

# Marijuana Impaired Driving Summary



- Marijuana is the most commonly detected illicit drug among drivers involved in fatal crashes<sup>1,2</sup>.
  - Since legalizing recreational marijuana in 2012, the number of traffic fatalities in which the driver tested positive for THC more than doubled in Colorado and Washington<sup>3,4</sup>.
- Marijuana intoxication doubles the risk of causing a fatal crash due to decreased reaction times, impaired distance estimation, and impaired lane tracking<sup>5,6</sup>.
  - If recreational marijuana were legal in Illinois in 2020, the total economic cost of fatalities and injuries due to marijuana-impaired driving would exceed US\$213 million<sup>7</sup>:
    - 53 fatalities at a total cost of US\$ 87.2 million
    - 3,652 injuries at a total cost of US\$ 126.2 million
- Marijuana impaired driving is just as dangerous as drunk driving.
  - Drivers with a serum THC concentration of 1ng/ml are just as likely to cause an accident as drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08%<sup>6</sup>.
  - Drivers impaired by both marijuana and alcohol are 25 times more likely to cause a fatal crash than non-impaired drivers<sup>8</sup>.

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