

## DUI Cannabis and Alcohol (DUI-CA) Facts

### Half of All Traffic Deaths in Washington Involve an Impaired Driver

- In the past five years, 1,260 people were killed in crashes involving impaired drivers and another 1,926 were seriously injured.
- From 2012 to 2017, Washington experienced a 15 percent per year increase in the number of poly-drug drivers involved in fatal crashes. Alcohol and cannabis is the most common poly-drug combination.
- Too many adults in Washington drive under the influence.
  - 22% report driving after using alcohol
  - 15% report driving after using cannabis
  - 9% report driving after using both alcohol and cannabis

### Driving After Using Alcohol or Cannabis Increases Crash Risk

- There is substantial evidence of a statistical association between cannabis use and increased risk of motor vehicle crashes.
- A meta-analysis of 66 studies shows that the risk of being involved in a crash increases when using cannabis.
- Drivers under the influence of cannabis are more likely to be responsible for a fatal crash than non-intoxicated drivers.
- About half of people who reported DUI-CA said they were likely to use cannabis to help to them “sober up.” when they felt too impaired after drinking. While people who use cannabis after alcohol may feel different, they are still impaired.



## **Washington's Strong Traffic Safety Culture Gives Us Hope**

- Most adults in Washington (81%) are concerned about traffic safety, and most agree that impairment begins as soon as you start consuming alcohol or cannabis.
- Most adults in Washington do NOT drive within 2 hours of consuming alcohol (78%), cannabis (85%), or both (91%).
- Most adults in Washington (81%) have a NEGATIVE attitude about driving after consuming alcohol and cannabis, and most adults in Washington (83%) believe it is UNACCEPTABLE to drive within two hours of consuming alcohol and cannabis.

## **Reducing Impaired Driving in Washington Involves All of Us**

- Everyone should promote education that driving after consuming alcohol or cannabis is dangerous, unacceptable, and illegal. While most people in Washington never drive after consuming alcohol or cannabis, too many people do. This group puts everyone at risk.
- Your current efforts to reduce impaired driving should integrate information about the risks of driving after consuming cannabis.
- Individuals who consume alcohol or cannabis should make plans before consuming to avoid driving. Options include staying and avoiding driving after consuming; using alternative transportation; and designating a driver who does not consume alcohol, cannabis or other impairing drugs.

## **Practice and Encourage Bystander Intervention**

Everyone should consider their own role in preventing someone else from driving after consuming alcohol, cannabis, or other impairing drugs.

- If you see someone who should not drive, do things like ask them to stay where they are, arrange a ride for them, or ask someone else to help. Never disable their vehicle or let them walk alone.
- People should report impaired driving to 911 – having individuals arrested is better than them being involved in a crash.



- We should all encourage people to make healthy choices to avoid driving after consuming alcohol, cannabis, or other impairing drugs.
- We should challenge stories that make impaired driving sound acceptable or normal. Most people don't drive after drinking or using cannabis. Doing so puts everyone at risk.