

IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT

2024 4/20 *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*

FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

Drug-impaired driving has become an increasing danger on our nation's roads. In recent years, several states have created new laws allowing marijuana use on a recreational or medical basis, which has made discussing the issue of impaired driving even more important. The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) wants all marijuana users to know that nationally, it is illegal to use marijuana and then drive.

On the 20th of April (also known as 4/20 – a date associated with marijuana use) many marijuana users will observe a day of increased marijuana use. This year, April 20th is on a Saturday, which means more impaired drivers are likely to be on the roads. NHTSA wants to remind all drivers: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*. It is dangerous and illegal to drive impaired. Read on for more information about the dangers of drug-impaired driving.

Know the Facts

- If you're planning to use marijuana or any impairing drug, do not drive. Designate a sober driver who won't be using any drugs or call a ridesharing service or taxi. Someone who's high shouldn't be making decisions about driving; that's why planning ahead is key.
- It doesn't matter what term you use – high, stoned, or wasted – never get behind the wheel after using an impairing substance.
- In every U.S. state and territory, it is illegal to drive under the influence of drugs – no exceptions.
- Whether the drug is legally obtained or not, drug-impaired driving poses a threat to everyone on the road.
- 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.

Only Drive Sober

- If you are planning 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 – regardless of whether it was legally obtained.

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- 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.
- 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. And you might just save a life.

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