





Effects of Drugs on the Body and Driving

	Marijuana	Stimulants cocaine, methamphetamine	Opioids oxycodone, heroine, fentanyl	Sedatives benzodiazepines, depressants, sleep medications
Street Name	 pot, weed	 coke, meth	 oxy, sticky, smack	 downers, benzos
Effects on the BODY and BRAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impairs coordination & balance Reddens eyes & dilates pupils Distorts perception of time & space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dilates pupils Causes body shakes & increases talkativeness Causes restlessness, agitation & nervousness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constricts pupils & causes droopy eyelids Lowers heart rate & breathing Causes drowsiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes jerky eye movements & slurred speech Impairs judgement & lowers inhibitions Confuses & disorients
Effects on DRIVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slows reaction time Impairs short-term memory & concentration Causes driver to vary speed & to wander 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces driver balance and coordination Reduces impulse control Increases risk taking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slows reaction time Reduces ability to divide attention & follow instructions Slows driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impairs motor coordination & slows reaction time Decreases attentiveness & ability to divide attention



Drug-Impaired Driving RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES

- Police can detect drug-impaired drivers through their actions (e.g., weaving within a lane) and physical appearance (e.g., dilated pupils). Not all drivers who have used drugs will have visible symptoms.
- Police can legally request a driver to undergo testing to confirm impairment by drugs.
- In the eyes of the law, drug-impaired driving — even if the drug has been prescribed by a doctor — is the same criminal offence as alcohol-impaired driving.
- Drugs, alone or combined with alcohol or other drugs, can impair a driver for as little as an hour or as much as 40 hours.
- The risk of a crash is greater if there are passengers in the vehicle, even more so when a passenger and driver have both used drugs or alcohol or both.