



Canadian Centre
on Substance Abuse
Centre canadien de lutte
contre les toxicomanies

Partnership. Knowledge. Change.
Collaboration. Connaissance. Changement.



Drug-Impaired Driving in Canada Educator Toolkit

Test Your Knowledge on Drug-Impaired Driving

Questions

1. Driving while impaired by marijuana doubles your risk of being involved in a motor vehicle collision.
True or False
2. Smoking marijuana can affect a person's ability to drive.
True or False
3. Driving while under the influence of drugs can impair a driver's:
 - a) Reaction time
 - b) Ability to see clearly
 - c) Ability to divide attention
 - d) Ability to respond to unexpected events
 - e) All of the above
4. Police have a test that can reveal if a driver is impaired by drugs.
True or False
5. If someone in Canada gets caught by the police for driving while impaired by drugs, the penalties are different than the penalties for driving while impaired by alcohol.
True or False
6. Certain drugs prescribed by your doctor can impair your ability to drive.
True or False
7. If a driver is impaired by drugs it is very obvious and would be easy to detect.
True or False



Answers

1. **True.** Research has found that driving within three hours of smoking marijuana almost doubles the risk of a crash that can result in injury or death. The most common drug found in drivers aged 16–19 is marijuana (60.8%). This age group is more likely to have marijuana in their system than any other age group.
2. **True.** Research shows marijuana increases impairment.
3. **e) All of the above.** Research shows that marijuana impairs a driver's tracking and reaction time, as well as a driver's ability to see clearly, divide attention and handle unexpected events.
4. **True.** The test is called Drug Evaluation and Classification and research has shown that Drug Recognition Evaluators (DRE) are accurate over 95% in detecting drug use. The 12-step evaluation is conducted by a trained officer and includes eye examinations and a series of motor coordination tests. To confirm results, drivers must provide a sample of urine, saliva or blood when demanded by a DRE.
5. **False.** The penalties are the same as for alcohol-impaired driving:
 - First offence: \$1,000 fine, 12-month licence suspension and a possible jail sentence of up to 18 months.
 - Second offence: minimum 30 days in jail and a two-year licence suspension.
 - Third or subsequent offence: minimum of 120 days in prison, three-year driving prohibition.
 - Causing bodily harm or death while driving impaired: maximum 10-years in prison or life sentence.
6. **True.** Just because the drug was prescribed to you by your doctor does not necessarily mean it is okay to drive after use. Given the properties of some prescription drugs, it might not be safe to operate a vehicle after consumption. Be sure to read the label and speak to your pharmacist. The effects of some prescription drugs can last for several hours.
7. **False.** Impairment by some drugs, such as sedatives, might not be obvious and the effects of some sleep medications can linger into the next morning. Effects include slowed reaction time, sleepiness, poor psychomotor performance, impaired coordination, reduced ability to divide attention, increased errors and difficulty following instructions.

