DRUGGED DRIVING CAMPAIGN KICK OFF JUNE 11, 2015
CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE!

- Prop 64 - Recreational Use Initiative called the Adult Use of Marijuana Act

- Creation of the BMCR (Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation - BMCR) - Medical use
Schedule 1 Drug:

- No medical value
- High propensity for abuse and addiction
THC INCREASE

- Strength of weed seized by federal authorities has steadily risen over time
- Local retail outlets advertise strains containing 26% + THC
- National Institute on Drug Abuse caps research on marijuana at 12% THC
CONCENTRATES - WAX, BUTANE HASH OIL, EDIBLES
(BUD CONTAINING – 26% THC, CONCENTRATES MAY ContAIN 30 - 90%)
EDIBLE EFFECTS

- May not feel anything for **30 to 60 minutes** (on a full stomach may take nearly two hours to feel full effects).

- The high can last **4 to 8 hours** while the effects from smoking can wear off in an hour or less.
“No one should be driving under the influence of any substance that can impair your driving ability.”
PUT DRUGGED DRIVING ON YOUR RADAR!
Increase in the number of drivers who had marijuana or other illegal drugs in their systems.

- Nearly 1 in 4 drivers tested positive for at least one drug that could affect safety behind the wheel.

- The number of drivers with marijuana in their system jumped by nearly 50 percent compared to 2007.

- Drugs other than alcohol are involved in about 18 percent of motor vehicle driver deaths.

Source: NHTSA's 2013 to 2014 Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers.
According to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission’s (WTSC) 2015 report on impaired driving, the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for THC nearly doubled from 2013 to 2014, the first year that marijuana sales became legal in the state.

- At the same time, the percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for active THC, meaning they had recently used, also increased from 65% in 2013 to 85% in 2014.

- In 2014, approximately half of the drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for THC exceeded the 5 ng/ml THC limit.
Research underway by the Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR) at the University of California, San Diego will be supported by the BMCR. ([http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/](http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/))

- The research will lay the groundwork for new marijuana-specific field sobriety tests and other tools to detect drug-impaired drivers.
Cannabis has a definite effect on driving similar to other RX, with swerving effects at the highest levels 3 hours after consumption of fairly low cannabis dose.

Key Findings:

- Slower breaking times
- Impaired ability to judge speed and distance
- Poor lane maintenance

The CMCR is allowed to study up to 12% THC in driving simulators. NIDA caps the amount at 12%. We know that dispensaries are advertising THC products ranging from 20% - 90%.
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Regional provider partnered with NT School.

Developed Drug Awareness week with partners including MADD and CHP.

Organized a Drugged Driving rally and invited media.
CMCR in process of developing iPad-based cognitive impairment tests and new saliva based tests. (Edible marijuana can be detected in a saliva test).

No reason to take saliva samples back to the lab for analysis.
STILL QUESTIONS?

- How many hours after using pot is it “OK” to drive?
- What is the relationship between THC levels and driving?
- What recommendations can doctors make for persons taking marijuana for medical reasons regarding safe driving windows?
In Colorado, traffic fatalities involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana accounted for 7% of total traffic fatalities in 2007; by 2013, that percentage had increased to 17%.

In 2013, the Colorado Department of Transportation Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) found evidence of marijuana use in 62% (330 of 531) of impaired driving evaluations, as confirmed by toxicology result.
IMPAIRED DRIVING AND CANNABIS

With the recent legalization of marijuana (cannabis) in some U.S. states, questions arise as to its potential effect on driving and driving safety. The AAA Foundation for traffic safety commissioned a handful of studies to see what effects, if any, were shown in statistical data.

Among the various statistics unearthed by the studies, two main findings stand out:

- Fatal crashes involving drivers who recently used marijuana doubled in Washington after the state legalized the drug. Washington was one of the first two states to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, and these findings serve as an eye-opening case study for what other states may experience with road safety after legalizing the drug.

- Legal limits, also known as per se limits, for marijuana and driving are arbitrary and unsupported by science.

Below are the individual studies accompanied by capsule summaries comprising this effort:

- Prevalence of Marijuana Use among Drivers in Washington State
- An Evaluation of Data from Drivers Arrested for Driving Under the Influence in Relation to Per Se Limits for Cannabis
- Cannabis Use among Drivers Suspected of Driving Under the Influence or Involved in Collisions: Analysis of Washington State Patrol Data
- Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Marijuana: Beliefs and Behaviors, United States, 2013-2015

Related research released earlier this year by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety:
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Working with Law Enforcement and support the DRE training.

Raising Awareness. (Youth at Checkpoints, rallies, media events)

Uniform, consistent messaging.

Collaborations with researchers.