

Background information for debrief

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- a) **False** Population surveys show the number of Canadians driving after using drugs is on the rise. In fact, driving after smoking cannabis is now more prevalent among some younger drivers than driving after drinking. Survey data from a 2013 Centre for Addiction and Mental Health report showed that, among young Ontario drivers in grades 10 – 12, 4% per cent drove after drinking while 9.7% drove after smoking cannabis.
- In fact, drugs are now present more often than alcohol in drivers involved in fatal crashes. Young drivers think driving under the influence of cannabis is risk free, despite the evidence that shows cannabis can:
- shorten attention span,
 - alter perception of time and distance and slow reaction times
 - all of which impair the driver’s ability to respond to sudden events in traffic.
- b) **True** (MADD.ca) Combining cannabis with even small amounts of alcohol greatly increases the negative impact on driving skills.
- c) **True** (rcmp-grc.gc.ca)
- Driving while drugged results in the same type of Criminal Code charges and penalties as driving while drunk:
- Fine of \$50 to \$600 upon conviction
 - Criminal charges
 - License suspension
 - Being sentenced to driver rehab
 - Possible jail time
 - Killing yourself, your passengers and other people
- d) **True** Many young people also think that they will never be caught or charged for driving high. While detecting cannabis is more challenging than detecting alcohol police do have tools to determine whether a driver is impaired by drugs. (MADD.ca) For example, police can conduct a roadside sobriety test on any driver they suspect has consumed alcohol, drugs or a combination of both. Based on how the subject performs, they may be arrested for impaired operation of a motor vehicle at which point they will be taken to a police station for further testing.
- e) **False** (MADD.ca) Marijuana can seriously impair your ability to drive safely, especially when it’s combined with even a small amount of alcohol.
- In 2012, 58.8% of crash deaths involved drivers who had some alcohol and/or drug presence in their systems.
- 24.1%, of the crashes involved drivers with a positive drug reading compared to 18.7% of the crashes involving drivers with a positive alcohol reading. Cannabis was the drug most frequently found. In drivers aged 16-19 it’s (60.8%) 16% of drivers involved in crash deaths had positive readings for both alcohol and drugs
 - Crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs are the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. On average, approximately 4 people are killed each day in crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs.
- f) **True** (even over-the-counter medication) There are 3 categories of drugs used by youth: illegal drugs, prescription drugs and over the counter drugs.
- Illegal drugs, or ‘hard drugs’, include hallucinogens, ecstasy, cocaine, LSD, methamphetamines, crack, heroin and crystal meth.
 - Prescription drugs are drugs that are not supposed to be taken without a prescription from a doctor but that are often being abused recreationally. Eg. without a doctor’s approval and overdosing in order to experience an increase in their effects. Examples include benzodiazepine, rohypnol, oxycotin, attention deficit disorder pills and sedatives.
 - Over-the-counter drugs are drugs that can be purchased directly from a pharmacy or grocery store and are also being abused. Higher than recommended dosages of cough and cold medicine, Tylenol, sleep medication and even energy drinks such as Redbull are being taken by youth.
- Compared to drug-free drivers the Incidence of traffic crashes: go up 2-8 times with the use of sedatives; go up 8 times with the use opioids; go up 2-10 times with the use of cocaine and go up 2-5 times with the use of benzodiazepine (sleep aids or downers) CCSA.