

# DRUGGED DRIVING QUICK FACTS

A DUID offense, much like a DUI, is issued when someone drives while impaired by drugs. This includes legal drugs such as prescriptions and medical marijuana. If you test positive for specified amounts of any form of illicit drug and have been driving, you will be under arrest (Colorado Department of Transportation, 2016).



## STATISTICS

- In 2012 there were 23,519 drug and alcohol evaluations collected by the Colorado Department of Human Services. Of those evaluations, **5 PERCENT INVOLVED MARIJUANA**.
- In 2013 there were **103 FATALITIES** that involved a drugged driver and 36 of the 288 drivers tested for drugs had only cannabis in their system.
- **MARIJUANA** affects reaction time, short-term memory, hand-eye coordination, concentration, and perception of time and distance.
- Teens and young adults **AGES 16-20** have the highest risk of being killed in a traffic crash of any group.
- **CANNABINOIDS** account for 43% of the drugs detected in fatally injured drivers under the age of 24 (ONDCP, 2011).

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- While the rates of drunk driving incidents have decreased significantly, we have seen a rise in the drugged driving population (DUID).
- Young drivers are now overrepresented among the drugged driving population.
- Concern about the frequency of drugged driving among youth is high, as the combination of impairment and lack of driving experience increases their risk relative to other age groups of being involved in a collision.
- Youth often have misconceptions about the prevalence, acceptability and risk of drugged driving that increase their likelihood of engaging in this behavior.

## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- We can credit the minimum drinking age law, changes in attitude, and social norming for much of the success of reducing the number of drunk driving incidents. Through education, awareness, and prevention efforts, young people have received their license knowing that drunk driving is dangerous, illegal, and socially unacceptable.
- Through the use of targeted campaigns and prevention initiatives, communities can provide factual information, engage in constructive dialogue, and mobilize to change youth attitudes and perceptions about DUID. Paramount to the success of these initiatives is the inclusion of peer-to-peer support, engagement of parents, and mobilization of the community-at-large.

