

# Effects of Drugs on the Body and Driving

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



## 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.