



POLYSUBSTANCE DATA: IMPACTS OF POLYSUBSTANCE USE WHEN DRIVING

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THC TRENDS:

INCREASED TESTING AND POSITIVE CASES

<u>Full Year</u>	<u>Total Positive THC Cases in Drivers (THC or metabolite)</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
2019	510	
2020	610	20%
2021	724	19%
2019 vs. 2021 percent increase	214	42%

- ❖ The average THC level in positive cases for 2021 was 10.4 ng/mL

THC AND ETHANOL:

<u>Full Year</u>	<u>Ethanol and THC (not metabolite)</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>	<u>Ethanol and THC (not metabolite) and other drugs</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
2019	104		159	
2020	117	12%	188	18%
2021	127	8%	205	9%
	2019 vs 2021 percent increase	20%		27%

- ❖ The combination of ethanol and THC has the potential for additive impairment
- ❖ Canada's per se laws:
 - ❖ 0.080 g/dL ethanol
 - ❖ 5 ng/mL THC
 - ❖ 2.5 ng/mL THC + 0.050 g/dL ethanol

ETHANOL TRENDS:

DRUGS OTHER
THAN ETHANOL
INCREASED

<u>Full Year</u>	<u>Ethanol Only</u>	<u>Drugs Only</u>	<u>Total DUI Ethanol Cases Completed</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
2019	67%	19%	3389	
2020	66%	11%	3585	6%
2021	62%	24%	3844	8%
			2019 vs 2021 percent increase	14%

- ❖ The average ethanol level in positive DUID cases for 2021 was 0.182 gm/dL

EMERGING TRENDS

- ❖ New forms of THC
- ❖ Delta 8 THC: Almost made top 5 drugs in 2021 Q4
- ❖ Alcohol and THC: Combination is prevalent
- ❖ Fentanyl: Persistent in all casework
- ❖ More polydrug cases

POLYDRUG CASES

YEAR	ALL DUI CASES WHERE DRUGS IDENTIFIED	NUMBER OF DRUGS IDENTIFIED IN ALL DUI CASES	AVE # DRUGS PER CASE
2016	907	2312	2.55
2017	819	2155	2.63
2018	911	2877	3.16
2019	814	2589	3.18
2020	942	3270	3.47
2021	1219	4273	3.51
			% change vs 2016: 38%

❖ Numbers do not include ethanol

POLYSUBSTANCE USE FROM DRE PERSPECTIVE

2020 DRE Evals

- 34% of evaluations involved polysubstance use confirmed by toxicology

2021 DRE Evals

- 30% of evaluations involved polysubstance use confirmed by toxicology

2022 DRE Evals

- 34% of evaluations involved polysubstance use confirmed by toxicology
- Date from January 1, 2022 – September 15, 2022

POLYSUBSTANCE
FROM DRE
PERSPECTIVE

Becoming more common

Involving more drugs

Can be tricky at times to
identify all drug categories
involved

CANNABIS

- Strains
 - Sativa
 - Indica
 - Hybrids
- Potency
 - Up to 40% THC plus on the plant
 - Extracts up 99% THC



CANNABIS IMPAIRMENT

- Varies by strain
- Gets out of blood quickly
- Can be very long lasting
- Impairment can increase drastically when combined with other substances



DRE EMERGING TRENDS

Polysubstance use on the increase

- Both in Montana and nationwide

THC Variants

- More have been identified and being sold

Fentanyl

- Pills cut with amphetamine / ketamine / THC

Over the counter substances

- Prevalent and easily obtained

Designer Drugs

- Easily ordered off the internet

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QUESTIONS?