

# POLYSUBSTANCE DATA: IMPACTS OF POLYSUBSTANCE USE WHEN DRIVING

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# STOP TESTING LIMITS IN DUI CASES: 0.10 G/DL TO 0.16 G/DL

## Stop testing limit:

- If a DUI case has a certain amount of ethanol, no drug testing will be performed.

MT participated in a study run by the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE):

- 'Results showed that in MT cases over 0.10 g/dL, 48% of cases were positive for drugs.'\*  
\*Grace Cieri, CFSRE

Montana increased the stop testing limit January 1, 2024:

- 0.10 g/dL or less TO any case less than 0.16 g/dL (aggravated DUI charge)

# TRENDS:

## POLYDRUG INCREASE

<u>Full Year</u>	<u>Ethanol Only</u>	<u>Drugs Only</u>	<u>Ethanol + Drugs</u>
2019	67%	19%	8%
2020	66%	11%	9%
2021	62%	24%	9%
2022	63%	23%	10%
2023	60%	25%	10%
*2024 Q1	*45%	*25%	*23%

Stats from Q1 are consistent with the independent research study: more of our DUI cases involve drugs other than alcohol than previously reported.

\*New stop testing policy implemented in January 2024 (0.16 g/dL)

# POLYDRUG CASES

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ALL DUI CASES WHERE DRUGS IDENTIFIED</b>	<b>NUMBER OF DRUGS IDENTIFIED IN ALL DUI CASES</b>	<b>AVE # DRUGS PER CASE</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2877</b>	<b>3.16</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>2589</b>	<b>3.18</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>3270</b>	<b>3.47</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1219</b>	<b>4273</b>	<b>3.50</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>4358</b>	<b>3.12</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>4184</b>	<b>3.71</b>
<b>*2024 (AUG)</b>	<b>*1198</b>	<b>*4743</b>	<b>*3.96</b>

\*New stop testing policy implemented in January 2024 (0.16 g/dL)

	DUI THC POSITIVE TOX CASES				
YEAR CHANGE	YEAR	TOTAL CASES	MEAN CONCENTRATION NG/ML	RANGE CONCENTRATION NG/ML	MOST PREVALENT COUNTY
1%	2023	593	8.68	1-87	GALLATIN
-5%	2022	587	10.03	1-144	YELLOWSTONE
17%	2021	621	10.11	1-172	YELLOWSTONE
14%	2020	530	9.99	1-197	YELLOWSTONE
	2019	464	9.35	1-75	GALLATIN

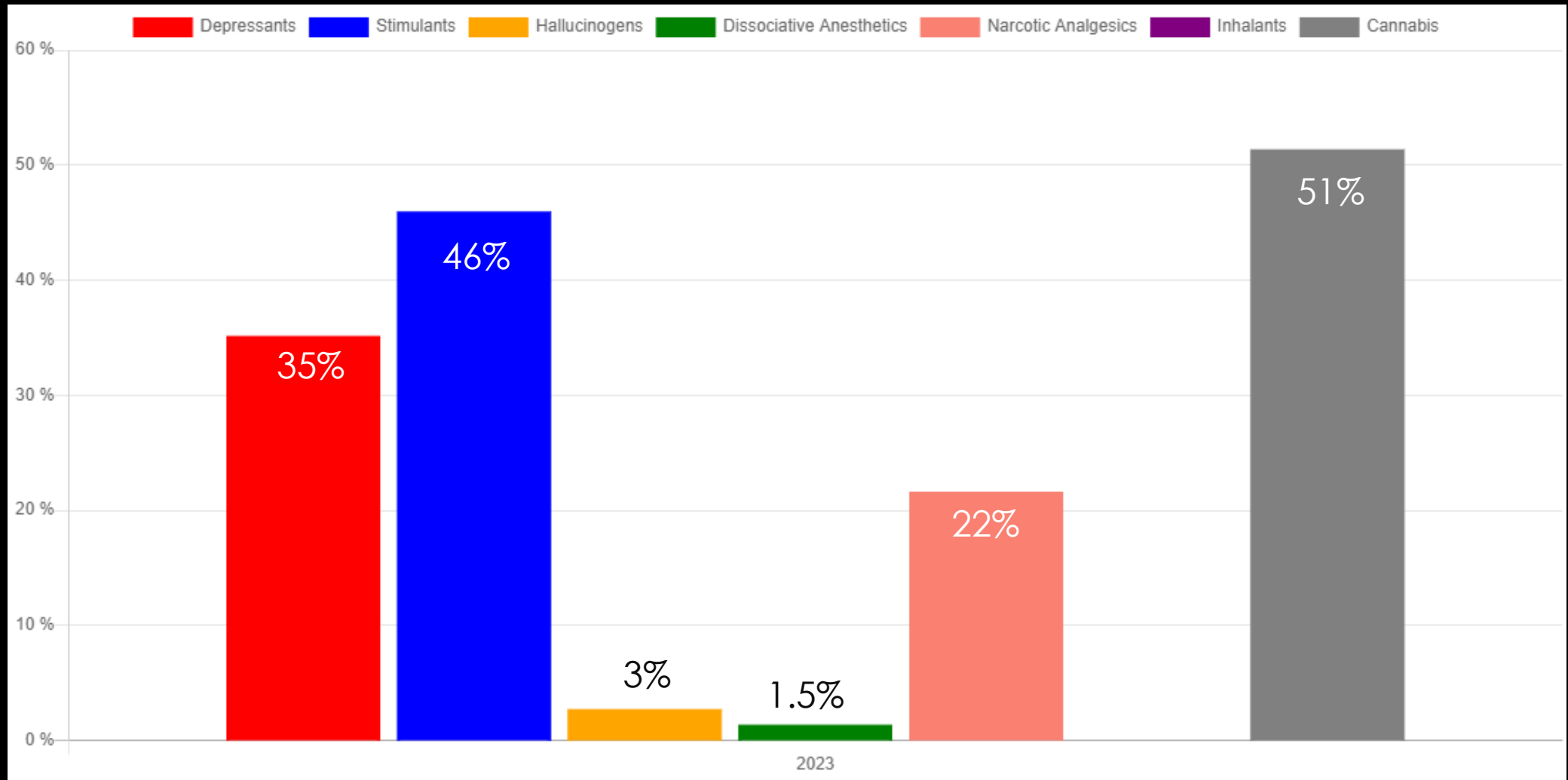
➤ In 2023 54% of positive cases were above 5 ng/mL (per se limit in MT for THC).

# TRENDS

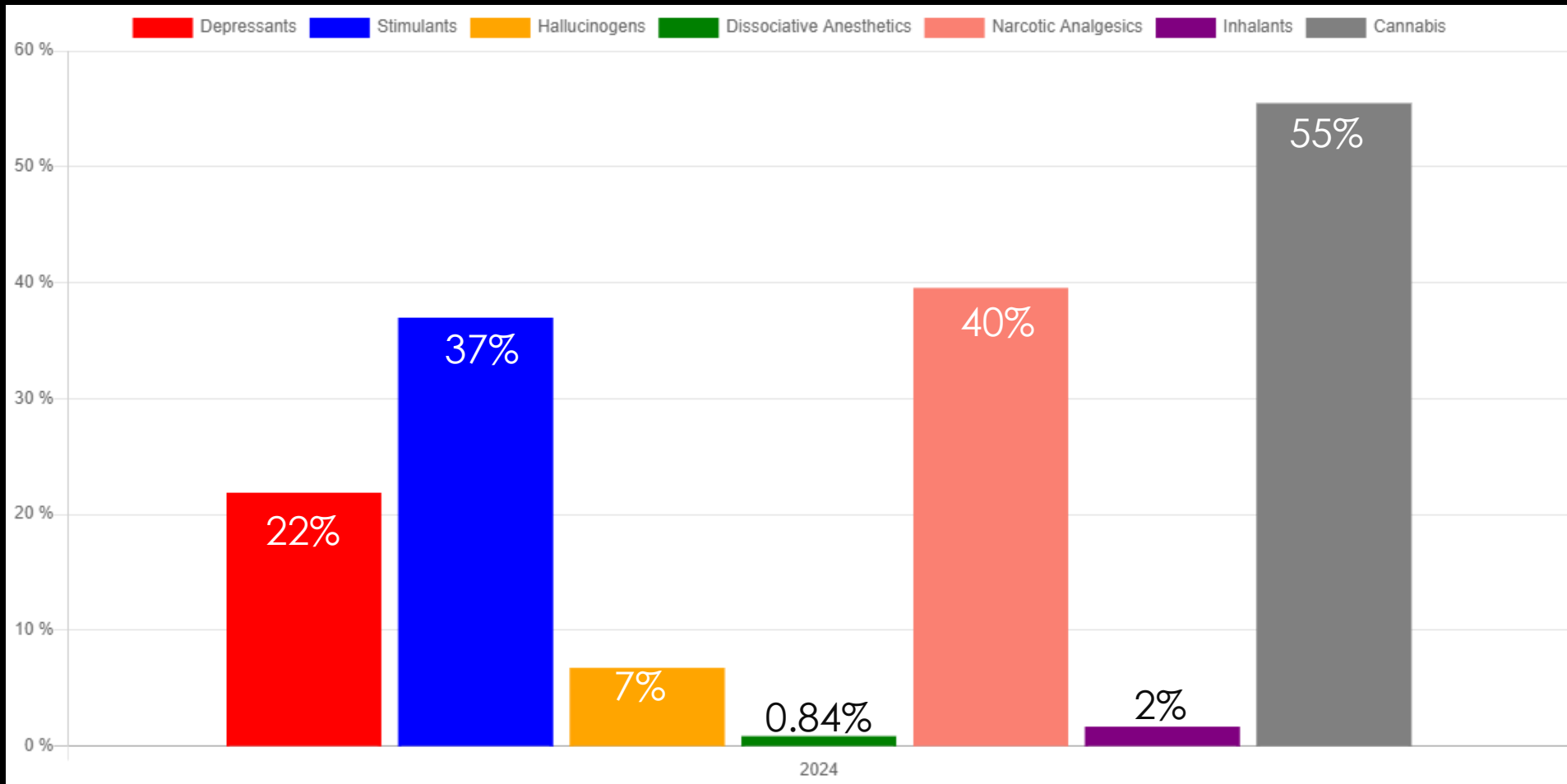
- ❑ Fentanyl and xylazine
- ❑ Gabapentin
- ❑ Mitragynine (Kratom)
- ❑ Delta-8 THC
- ❑ Cocaine and metabolites



# EVALUATIONS BY DRUG CATEGORY (2023 TOXICOLOGY)



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# FENTANYL

- Continued Increase in Montana
- Most pills are cut with another drug
  - Methamphetamine
  - Xylazine
- Using 1 pill would be considered poly drug use



# CANNABIS

- Continues to be a popular mixer with other drugs
- More THC variants continue to be identified
- Some variants are significantly stronger than Delta 9 THC
- Products infused with THC continue to increase as well



# CANNABINOIDS GUIDE!

## Δ6 THC

- AKA: Delta 6a10a THC, D6a, Delta-3 THC
- Best type of high for people with lower tolerance.

## Δ11 THC

- Psychoactive high similar to D9
- Hydroxy-11 is different, but may be used to denote D11

## THC-V

- Sometimes called “diet weed,” “weederall” for its purported appetite-curbing and energy-boosting properties.
- Best used in combination with other THC compounds.

## THCPO

- Similar effects of THC-O & THC-P mixed together

## Δ8 THC

- THC with less anxiety or paranoia.
- Lack of affinity for CB1, so a less heavy head-high, fogginess, or anxiety.
- All health effects as “traditional” D9 THC.

## THC-A

- When smoked, it converts to regular THC. Otherwise, it does not bind with CB1 receptors

## THC-B

- Similar high to Delta 8 & Delta 9.
- Binds well to CB1 & CB2 receptors

## THC-X

- Blend of well-known cannabinoids.
- Blend of D8, D10, THC-P, and THC-B.

## PHC

- CBD that has psychoactive effects.
- Mild version of D8 THC.
- Still fail drug test.

## Δ9 THC

- Same effects as the chemical found in marijuana.
- Same as a marijuana edible.

## THC-O

- Made by adding acetate to D8 or D9. Does cross the “bloodbrain” barrier!
- Very strong affinity for CB1 receptors in serotonin area of brain to produce psychedelic like effects.

## THCJD

- Heavy indica with chill sensation outside and inside.
- Tolerance from other cannabinoids doesn't carry over!

## Δ10 THC

- Stronger affinity for CB1 receptors - which controls neural pathways in the brain, so it amplifies that and gives that sativa effect.

## THC-P

- 30x+ more times more potent in binding to CB1 than D9 THC, creating a more intense and intoxicating euphoric high.
- Can have paranoia and anxiety, red-eye and other D9 effects.

## THCH

- Strong euphoria
- Powerful body high (chilled, happy, relaxed, relief)
- Longer high than many others

THE GREEN  
**DRAGON** CBD



# POLYSUBSTANCE USE FROM DRE PERSPECTIVE

## **2022 DRE Evals**

- 38% of evaluations involved polysubstance use confirmed by toxicology

## **2023 DRE Evals**

- 22% of evaluations involved polysubstance use confirmed by toxicology
- 32% of DRE opinions involved polydrug use
- 139 Evaluations

## **2024 DRE Evals**

- 22% of evaluations involved polysubstance use confirmed by toxicology
- 25% of DRE opinions involved polydrug use
- Date from January 1, 2023 – September 26, 2024 (263 Evaluations)