



MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

Drugged Driving Facts

Deaths from drugged driving have nearly doubled since 1999, accounting for nearly one-third of traffic deaths in 2010. Marijuana was the primary drug involved in the increase. **Why so many deaths?**

Because driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with:

- Impaired ability to estimate time and distance
- Slower reaction times
- Lack of coordination

Today's marijuana is much more potent than it was 30 years ago – and the risks associated with smoking today's marijuana are also much higher (NIDA, 2009).

Young, inexperienced drivers are the **most at-risk** for crashes on the roads (World Health Organization, 2012).

Despite the risks associated with driving high, the **number of persons testing positive for marijuana** in California continues to increase (OTS, 2012).

A national study of 22,000 high school seniors found that 27% had been involved in a traffic crash and 42% had received traffic tickets or warnings after smoking marijuana and driving while high (Monitoring the Future, 2013).

The number of traffic crashes and tickets in 2012 was **twice as high** for high school seniors who smoked marijuana before driving than for those who did not (O'Malley & Johnston, 2013).

Vehicle crashes are the **#1 cause of death** for young drivers, and substance-impaired driving is one of the main culprits in those deaths (O'Malley & Johnston, 2013).

Be Aware

In California, it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of any substance, lawfully possessed or not, if the substance used causes **physical** or **mental** impairment that makes a person unable to drive safely.

CA Vehicle Code §23152(e)

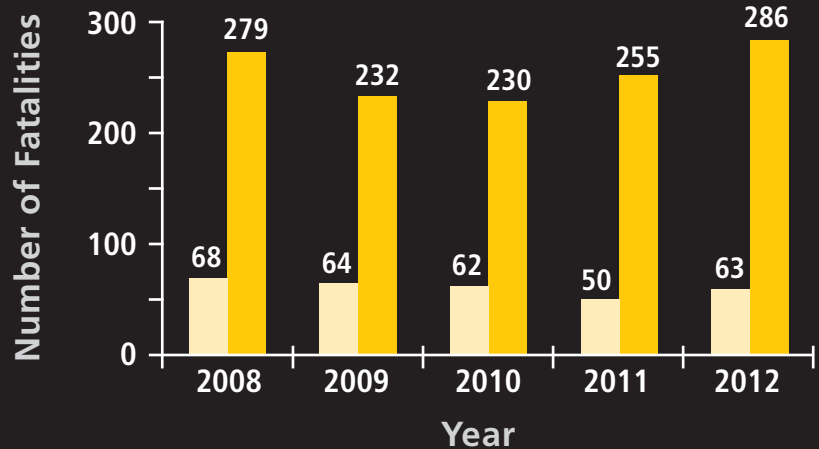
Medical marijuana users are NOT exempt from DUI laws by reason of their medical status.

For more information regarding youth marijuana use visit www.mpisdcounty.net

Funded by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services

Developed by the Center for Community Research

Number of Vehicular Fatalities for Persons Testing Positive for Marijuana in California



■ Ages 15-20

■ All Ages

Source: NHTSA, 2012