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# Health Issues Related to Marijuana

## Pharmacologic effects

- A. Dulls sensorium
- B. Impairs judgement with decreased perception of harm
  - most worrisome when operating an automobile

- Skills required when operating a vehicle:
- LD -Lane position- measures driver's ability to maintain consistent control of cars position and trajectory
- DA- Divided attention test – measures ability to process and coordinate multiple information streams
- CT- Critical tracking – ability to remain focused on important visual objects moving in visual field

# Net Result

- Increase Risk (odds ratio) for both non-fatal and fatal MVA's whether THC alone or the THC + Alcohol

- Odds Ratio:

THC

THC + ETOH

- Non-Fatal 5.8

10.9

- Fatal 2.3-6.6

14.1-17.4

# C. Addictive Effects

- Particularly worrisome in adolescents increases potential for addiction to other drugs
- Earlier onset of substance abuse of other drugs
- Use of narcotics in age 12-17
  - Colorado #1
  - Massachusetts #8
- Increased incidence of opioid deaths in Colorado since legalization
- 2000 % Increase in admissions to Colorado pediatric ICU's since legalization

# D. Increased risks for adolescents: (Colorado Data)

- psychosis X5
- depression/anxiety X1.8
- bipolar disorders X2.7
- Suicide X7

66% of adolescent E.R. visits for “mental illness” issues

# E. In adolescents – decrease in I.Q.

- Is it reversible?
- Also- decreased attention, memory, academic performance/achievement with use of THC

# Other important facts impacting health

1. It isn't your Father's or Grandfather's Marijuana.  
Dramatic increase in strength & purity of marijuana (THC) products. Who regulates this?
2. Dramatic increase in ways to consume marijuana: smoking, juuling, vaping, drinking, ingesting brownies, candy etc.

Clearly increased risk for unintended ingestion- especially by children but also by unsuspecting adults

3. Increase in crime – follows legalization

