



June 2016

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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Dear Jessica,

Drinking remains the number one cause of accidents and deaths from impaired driving. However, an increasing number of drivers are testing positive for marijuana. Here are the latest reports on this growing public safety concern.



Elizabeth Kemble, a widely admired advocate for kidney health in Oregon, was out for a walk following her third kidney transplant when she was killed by a driver who admitted to smoking marijuana minutes earlier. Debra Majkut, an Ohio mother of two, was sitting on her couch with her children and a nephew when a woman high on pot crashed into Majkut's home, killing her and seriously injuring her infant son.

Nightmare scenarios like these are exactly what safety advocates predict will become commonplace on our nation's roads as the list of states legalizing marijuana for either recreational or medicinal use continues to grow. But instead of clearing the smoke, conflicting studies and a patchwork of state laws have complicated this issue for all of us concerned about impaired driving.

Learn the [latest here.](#) >>>

BY THE NUMBERS /

50%
More

The number of drivers with marijuana in their systems grew nearly 50 percent from 2007 to 2014, according to a national [roadside survey](#).

1 in 8
Seniors

A recent study of high school seniors showed that one in eight admitted to [using marijuana](#) before driving.

THE DOCKET /

[> CHECK OUT OUR BETTER HEALTH CARE NEWSLETTER.](#)

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ADVOCATES' POWER KIT

> MALPRACTICE A-Z:
ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC
TOPICS

> THE LAWSUIT PROCESS
STEP BY STEP

18% Drugged

Nationwide in 2009, 3,952 fatally injured drivers were tested for the presence of drugs; 18 percent tested positive. [\[Download report\]](#)

More on Protecting Yourself from Uninsured Drivers

This article on our website gives more detail about one of the most important overlooked items of auto insurance coverage: protecting yourself from uninsured and underinsured drivers who injure you or your family members. The good news is that this coverage is not expensive. [Continue reading.](#)

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Couric Follows the Path to Legalization

Katie Couric walks us through the change of mindset and laws surrounding the legalization of marijuana. [View video.](#)



New Simulator Tests Drivers on Pot

A new, first-of-its-kind driving simulator is helping researchers study the effects of marijuana use on driving. [View video.](#)



Fatal Crashes Involving Marijuana Double

According to a new AAA study, fatal crashes involving a driver who recently used marijuana nearly doubled in the year since legalization in Washington state. [View video.](#)



Sneak Peek: Let's Ride Safely

Statistics show that the percentage of intoxicated motorcycle riders in fatal crashes is greater than the percentage of intoxicated drivers on U.S. roads. Next month: motorcycle safety.

[Learn more](#)



More Drivers Using Marijuana

An NPR investigation finds that more drivers are using marijuana, but experts can't agree on what that means for traffic safety.

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