



## How cannabis affects you

Driving under the influence of cannabis is dangerous, especially when you need to respond quickly.

Cannabis affects your:

- reaction time
- co-ordination
- memory
- ability to control your vehicle, and
- perception of speed and distance



## Same substance, different effects

Depending on how you take it, cannabis can have dramatically different effects. In fact, these effects can last anywhere from 5 to 10 hours.

That's 5 to 10 hours during which you are not safe to drive and it is **illegal** to do so.

## Dispelling the myths

- You are a 'better' driver under the influence of cannabis. **Wrong.**
- Some research shows cannabis does not damage your driving. **Wrong.**
- You may know that you are driving under the influence of cannabis but you can compensate for this. **Wrong.**

The effects of cannabis on your driving are different to the effects of alcohol on driving. When you are under the influence of cannabis, you may be able to carry out routine driving tasks. But, if something unexpected happens, such as a child suddenly running out onto the road, your ability to react will be much slower.

## Don't be another statistic

One in 20 drivers has driven under the influence of recreational drugs.

Studies show that when you drive under the influence of cannabis, you are more likely to:

- drive significantly slower than other traffic on the road
- 'drift' or 'weave' across your lane
- react slower to the vehicle in front of you, and
- **crash**

RSA





## Don't cloud your judgment

1 in 5 people say they have been a passenger in a car driven by someone under the influence of drugs.

This means that they knowingly took a lift from someone who is three times more likely to be involved in a road traffic accident.



## Know the law

The law says it is illegal to drive 'under the influence of an intoxicant to such an extent as to be incapable of having control of the vehicle'. Cannabis is an intoxicant.

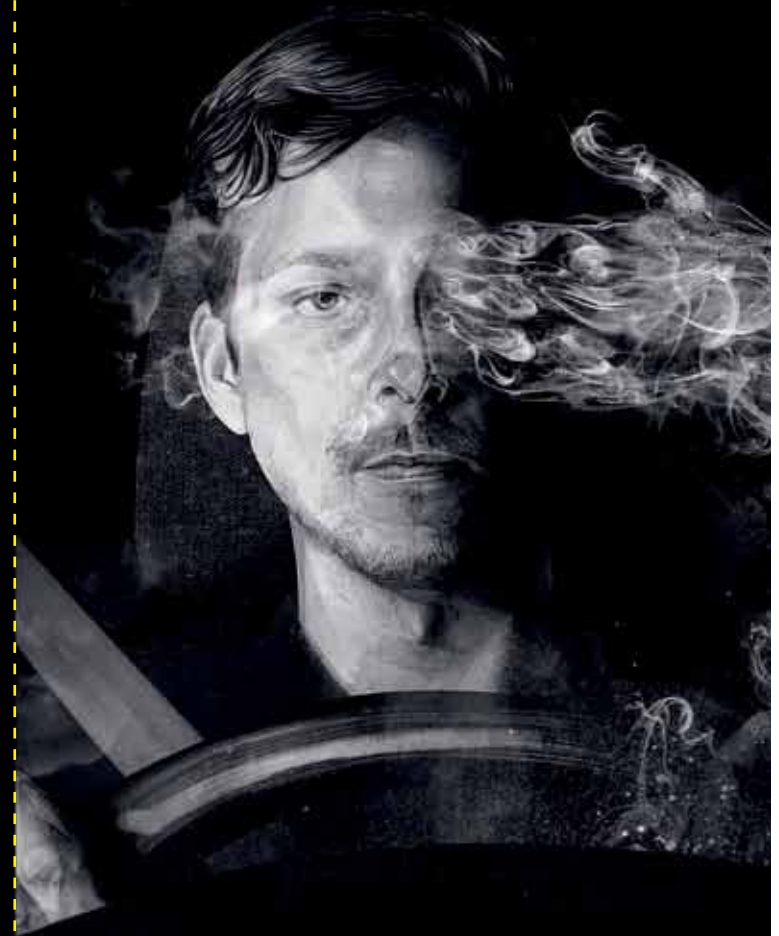
New laws come into force in 2012. They allow Gardaí to conduct roadside drug screening tests.

Gardaí will be able to discern if you are driving under the influence of drugs, including cannabis.

If you are convicted, you could face:

- a fine of up to €5,000
- imprisonment for up to 6 months, or
- both a fine and imprisonment

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Cannabis clouds your judgement.  
 Don't let it get in the way of your driving.  
**Don't drive stoned.**

