

AAA Study just released:

Cannabis Use
Among Drivers in
Fatal Crashes in
Washington State
Before and After
Legalization



Washington state Initiative 502, effective Dec. 6, 2012



The number of traffic fatalities involving THC doubled, post-legalization



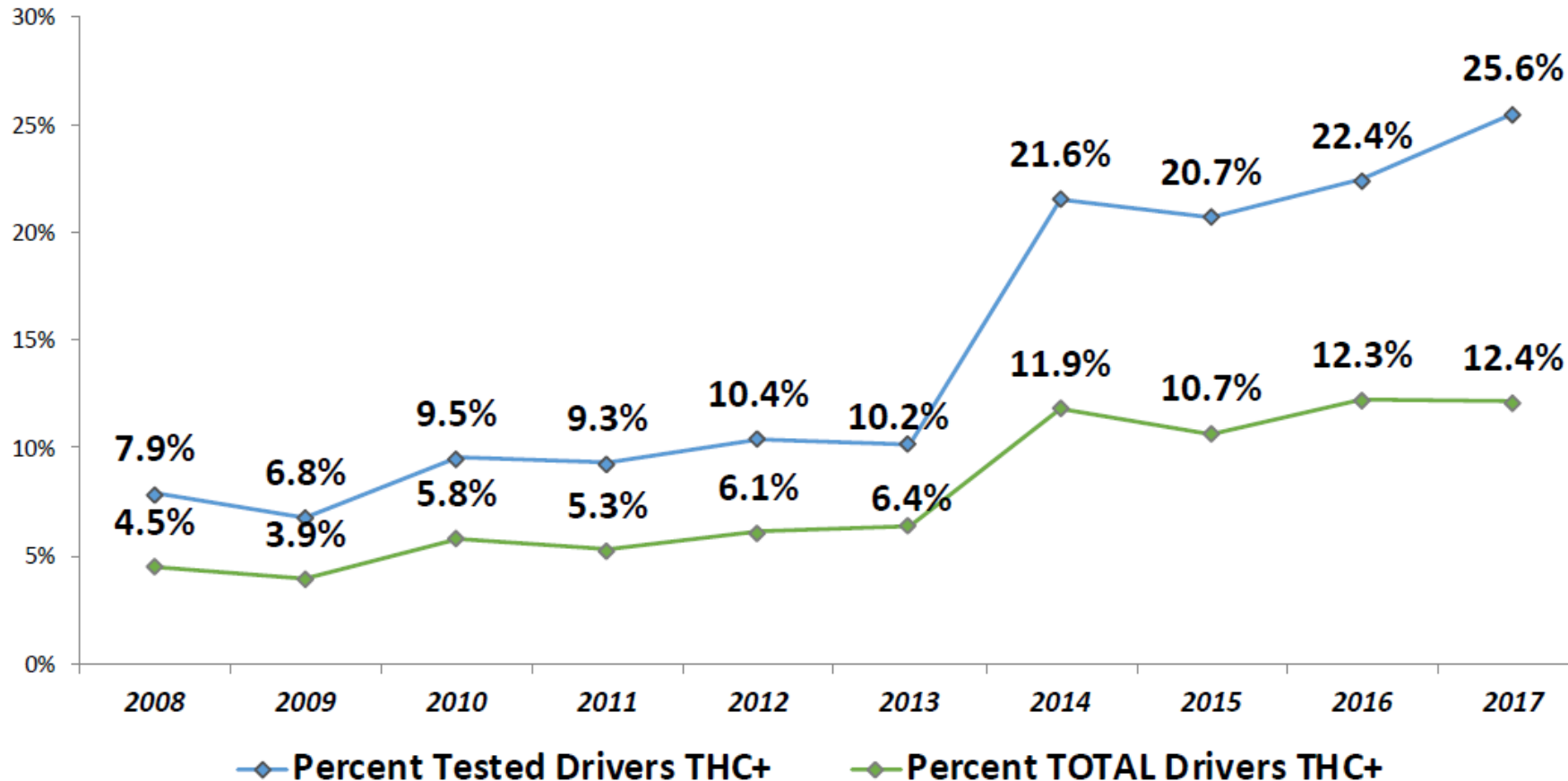
This study extended the data for 5 years after legalization with the same results



Estimated 21% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2017 were THC-positive in WA

Statistics from Washington

Proportion of Drivers in Fatal Crashes Positive for THC, 2008-2017



MT: 16%

MT: 12%

Estimates from first 3 quarters of 2019 for Montana

Dr. Brianna Peterson, Toxicology Laboratory Manager

Washington State Patrol

Information from Washington post-legalization

- ▶ Went from approx. 11,000 cases per year in 2012 to approx. 16,000 cases per year in 2018
- ▶ All aspects of toxicology operations affected with increased caseload
- ▶ Turn around time for cases went from less than 1 month to about 8 months
- ▶ Hired 9 new staff
- ▶ Decreased services in 2016
- ▶ Did not receive adequate funding
- ▶ Increase in THC related DUIs
- ▶ Increase in combined use of THC and Alcohol

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THC DUI stats in Montana

	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Quarters 1-3)
THC Cases	297	284	454	473
Mean Concentration	10 ng/mL	7.8 ng/mL	9.2 ng/mL	9.3 ng/mL

- Average concentration in Washington in 2017 was 6.3 ng/mL
 - Roughly *37% of all cases with drug testing were positive for THC in quarter three 2019 in MT
- *To compare, Washington's number is about 34% in 2017

Other Trends

Novel Psychoactive Substances: Benzodiazepines

Flualprazolam in 4 cases

Flubromazolam in 3 cases

Clonazolam in 1 case

New benzodiazepine panel released soon (adding 9 new drugs)



99 Ecstasy (MDMA) Tablets
Image © 2000 Erowid.org



Questions?

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