

How Drugs Affect Driving Behaviors

Drug Type Examples

Drug Effects

Possible Driving Behaviors

Depressants

Alcohol
Tranquilizers
Barbiturates
Antihistamines
Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB, G,
Liquid Ecstasy, Georgia Home Boy)
Ketamine (Special K, K, Vitamin K,
Cat Valiums)
Rohypnol (Roofies, Roche, Rophies,
Forget-Me-Pill)

- Drowsiness
- Reduced alertness
- Slow reactions
- Intense emotions
- Impaired judgment
- Loss of concentration
- Dizziness
- High risk behavior
- Reduced coordination

- Honking
- Inconsistent driving speeds
- Hard weaving
- Driving too close to shoulders or curbs
- Driving without headlights

Cannabis

Marijuana (pot, dope, weed, grass)
Hashish (hash)

- Slow to react
- Difficulty concentrating
- Depth perception distortion
- Reduced short-term memory
- Altered sense of time and space

- Tailgating
- Jerky starts and stops
- Passing without enough room
- Overshooting and/or disregarding traffic control devices

Inhalants

Solvents (glue)
Gases (rush, whippitts)
Nitrites (poppers)

- Visual hallucinations
- Severe mood swings
- Violent behavior
- Loss of coordination
- Hearing loss
- Limb spasms

- Running red lights
- Tailgating
- Giving obscene gestures
- Cutting off drivers
- Entering intersections without checking

Stimulants

Caffeine
Cocaine
Amphetamines
Nicotine
Diet and pep pills
MDMA (Ecstasy, XTC, X, Adam)

- Impulsive/impatient behavior
- Aggressive/hostile behavior
- Overactive and excited
- Less coordination and/or concentration
- Irritability

- Tailgating
- Running red lights
- Unreasonable fast or slow speed
- Hard weaving
- Honking or flashing lights

Narcotics

Codeine
Heroin
Morphine
Opium
Methadone

- Impaired vision
- Slow reaction
- Impaired motor skills
- Difficulty concentrating
- Restlessness

- Overdriving headlights
- Failure to dim high beam lights to oncoming traffic
- Driving too slow
- Riding the brakes

Hallucinogens

LSD
Peyote
Mescaline
PCP

- Hallucinations
- Confusion and suspicion
- Time and distance distortion
- Slow reaction
- Lack of coordination
- Forgetfulness
- Rapid mood swings
- Violent behavior

- Giving obscene gestures
- Tailgating
- Overshooting/disregarding traffic control devices
- Riding the brakes