## CANNABIS IMPAIRMENT DETECTION IN THE WORKPLACE



#### WHAT'S THE MAIN CONCERN?

- Cannabis use can create an unsafe workplace for your workers, and cannabis legalization is creating new challenges for employers to overcome.
- In recent surveys by drugabuse.com, more than one in five respondents said they use marijuana recreationally at work during work hours; nearly 5% admitted to daily use, and more than 13% use it more than once a month



#### AN EMPLOYEE IMPAIRED BY CANNABIS CAN LEAD TO WORKPLACE INCIDENTS

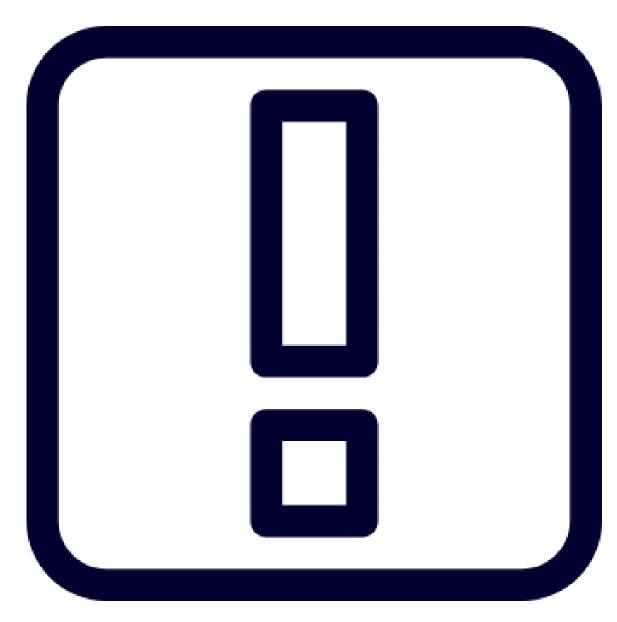
- Higher absenteeism (US Post Officer study)
- Property damage
- Serious Injury
- Death





#### WHAT IS MARIJUANA?

 Marijuana is the dried flowers and leaves of the cannabis plant. It contains mind-altering (e.g., psychoactive) compounds like tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, as well as other active compounds like cannabidiol, or CBD, that are not mind-altering



#### IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT ALL MARIJUANA "HIGHS" DO NOT LOOK THE SAME.

- Sativa Cannabis is known for causing an energetic and emotional uplifted high

   Often referred to as a "cerebral high."
- Indica Cannabis is better known for having a "body high"
  - Reported to cause deep relaxation often leading to a term called "couch-lock"
- Hybrids are a combination of the two types

#### POSSIBLE MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

- Lowers intraocular pressure
- Suppresses nausea
- Inhibits seizures
- Appetite enhancer
- Muscle relaxant
- Tumor growth retardant





#### **POPULAR METHODS OF INGESTION**

- Combustion (Smoking)
- Bong or water pipe
- Edibles



# **ONSET AND DURATION OF COMBUSTION**

Within minutes – User begins to feel and exhibit effects

10-30 minutes – Peak effects are reached

2-3 hours – User continues to feel and exhibit effects

3-5 hours – User feels "normal"

#### **EDIBLES**

- When cannabis is consumed orally, absorption of THC into the blood is <u>much</u> <u>slower and less predictable.</u>
- Behavioral effects set in with a delay of 30-90 minutes and typically reach <u>maximum effects in 3 hours.</u>
- When consumed orally, maximum THC concentrations will be <u>lower than if the</u> <u>cannabis was smoked.</u>
- The THC, however, will <u>persist much</u>
   <u>longer</u> after oral intake than combustion.



## **POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS**

- Interferes with divided attention
- Short attention span
- Failing to operate vehicles safely
- Difficulty with depth perception



#### **POSSIBLE EFFECTS**

- Relaxation
- Euphoria
- Relaxed inhibitions
- Disoriented
- Altered time and distance perception
- Lack of concentration
- Impaired memory
- Alterations in thought process
- Drowsiness
- Sedation

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Mood changes







# WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM IN THE WORKPLACE?



#### CANNABIS HAS SHOWN TO AFFECT THE USERS

#### Attention

Concentration

**Decision-making** 

Impulsivity

Inhibition

**Reaction Time** 

Risk Taking

Verbal Fluency

Working Memory



# **CANNABIS EFFECTS**

#### Vital Signs:

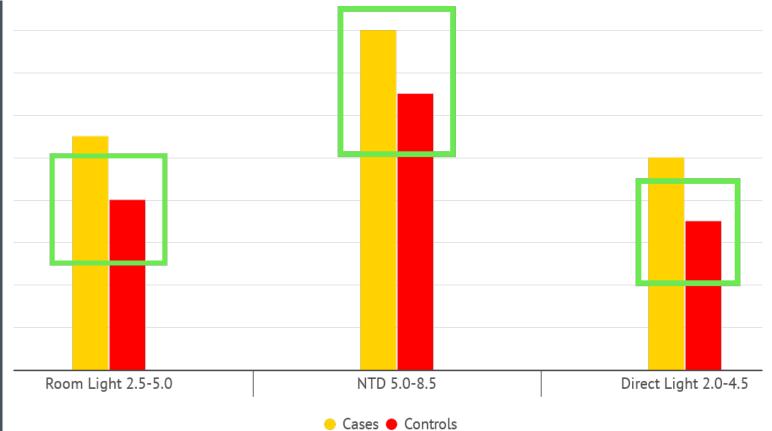
- Pulse Up
- Blood pressure Up

Body temperature – Normal
 Muscle tone – Normal

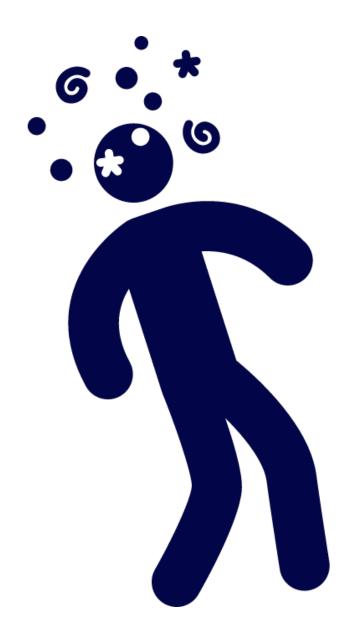




### DILATED PUPILS (302 STUDY)



## WHAT ARE SOME TESTS FOR IMPAIRMENT?



## MODIFIED ROMBERG BALANCE TEST

- Stand with their feet together and hands to their sides.
- Tilt their head back slightly with their eyes closed.
- Remain in this position until they think 30 seconds has passed.
- Open their eyes and say "Stop".
- After they believe 30 seconds have passed.





#### **MODIFIED ROMBERG BALANCE TEST**

(RESULTS OF CANNABIS IMPAIRED PERSONS)

#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY CHARACTERISTICS OF CANNABIS USE

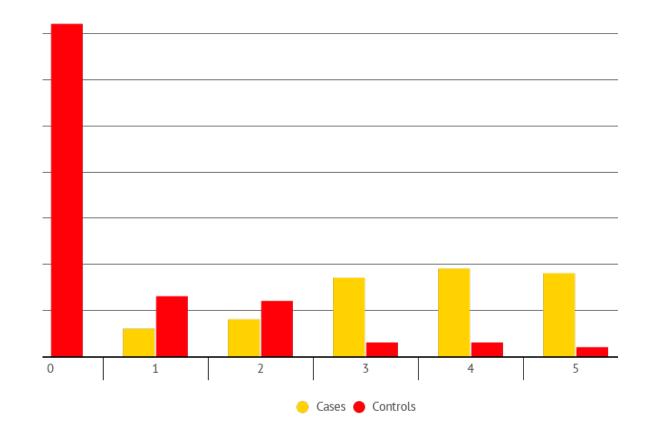
- Odor of Marijuana
- Red, bloodshot eyes
- Body tremors (Shaking of extremities)
- Eyelid tremors
- Possible green coating on tongue



## FINGER TO NOSE TEST (FTN)

- Tell subject to stand with their feet together and hands to their sides.
- Extend index fingers and rotate palms out. (Demonstrate)
- Have them remain in that position until told to begin.
- Will have them tilt their head back and close their eyes. (Demonstrate, with eyes open)
- You will give them commands, left, right, left etc.
- When the command is given, they will touch the tip of that index finger (where skin meets the nail) to the tip of their nose (dime-sized portion on the nose).
   (Demonstrate)



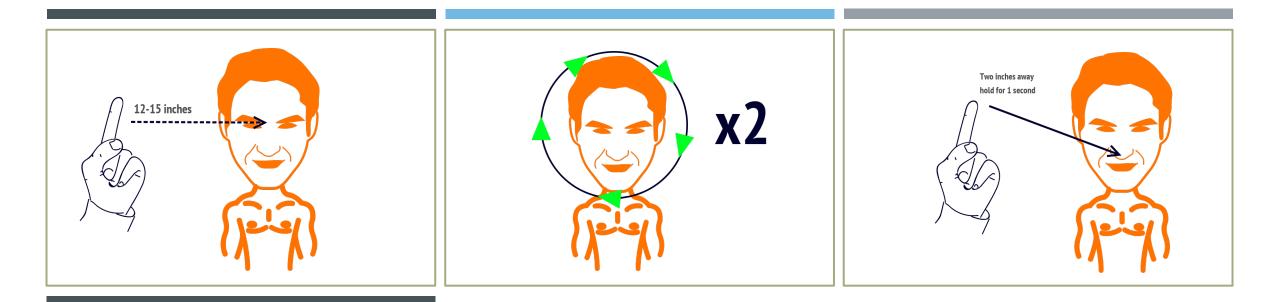


FINGER TO NOSE TEST (RESULTS OF CANNABIS IMPAIRED PERSONS)

94.4% >2 had 2 or more Misses

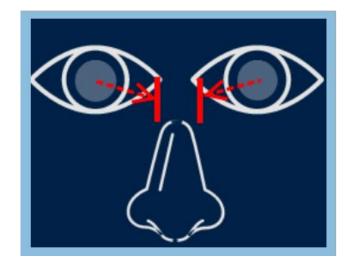
#### Misses

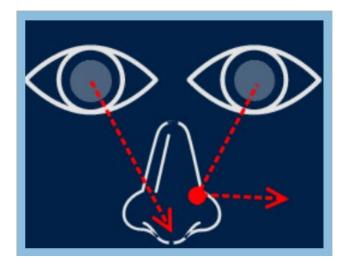
 Unsuccessful attempts, including missing the tip of the nose and using the pad, rather than the tip of the finger.

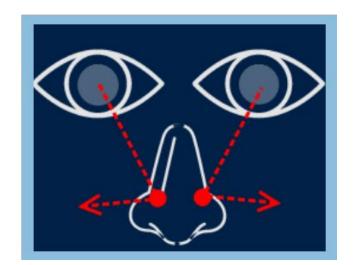


LACK OF CONVERGENCE TEST (LOC) The inability of a person's eyes to converge, or "cross," as the person attempts to focus on a stimulus as it is pushed slowly toward the bridge of his or her nose.

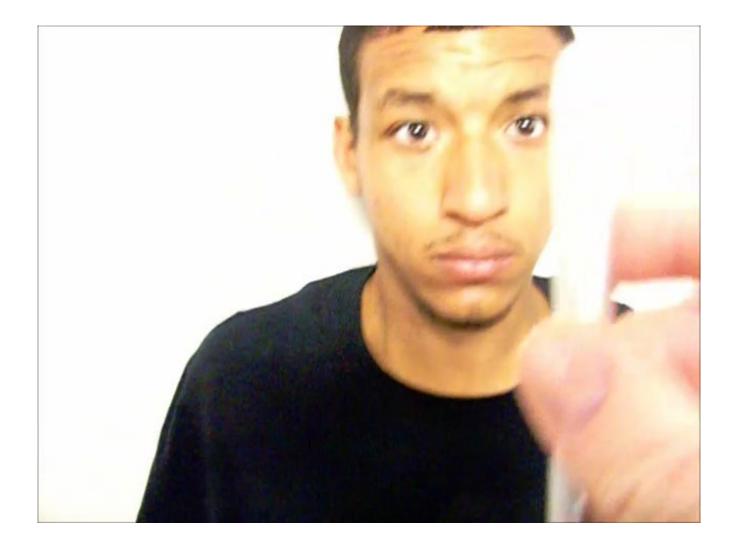
#### What you may observe.







## LACK OF CONVERGENCE



## EXAMPLE OF LACK OF CONVERGENCE

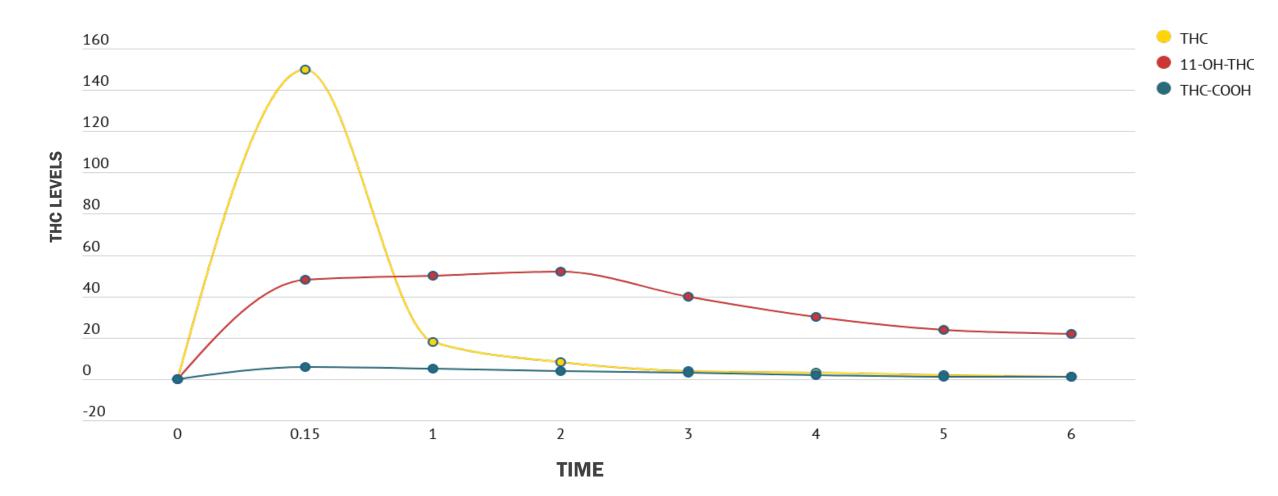
# **CHEMICAL TESTING**



- Employers typically test for cannabis use through urine tests.
- Though THC, or its metabolites may be present, the mere presence does not equal impairment.
- Most urine tests will test for the not only THC but also its metabolites
  - 11-OH-Delta-9-THC (Hydroxy)
  - 11-nor-9-carboxy-THC (Carboxy)
- Studies have shown Carboxy THC may stay in a user's urine up to 77 days.

## **CANNABIS AND ITS METABOLITES POST COMBUSTION**

**ITS NOT THAT SIMPLE** 



#### Recognizing Drug Impairment in the Workplace

- Online and in-person course available
- This training educates employers in identifying drug impairment caused by:
  - Prescription medication
  - Cocaine
  - Methamphetamine
  - Heroin
  - Inhalants
  - Marijuana and more.





#### **COURSE REVIEW**

- Open camera on cell phone
- Focus QR code in camera (No need to take a picture.
- Click on popup
- Course name

<u>Cannabis Impairment Detection in the</u> <u>Workplace</u>



