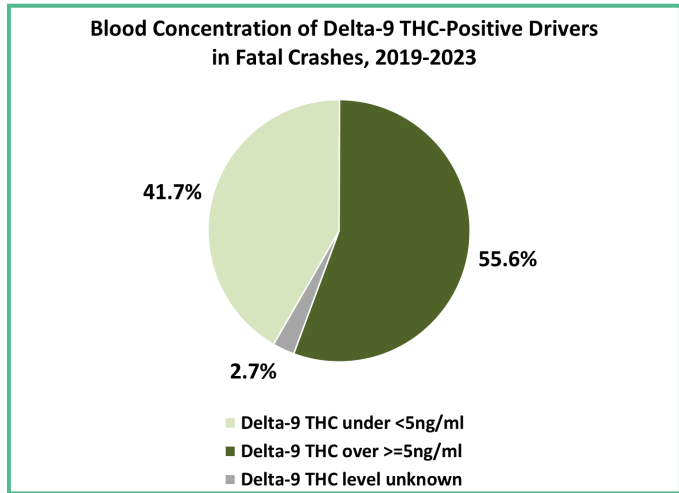
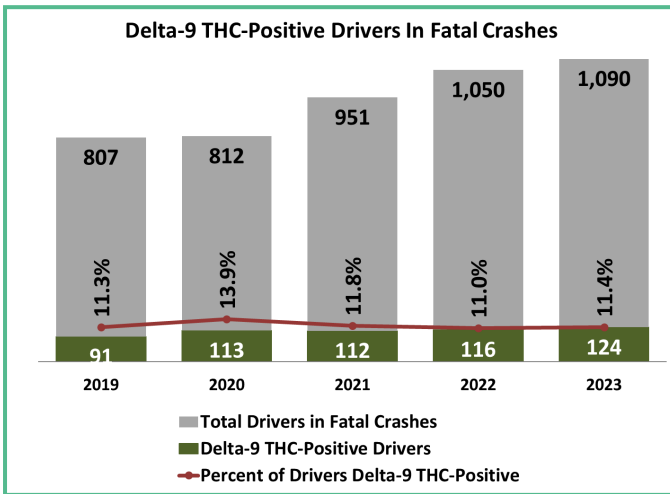




# Delta-9 THC Involvement Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes

**Trends** show that the number of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-positive drivers involved in fatal crashes has remained relatively stable since 2019, despite the overall number of drivers involved in fatal crashes increasing by 35 percent. In 2020, the number of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes increased by 24 percent from 91 in 2019 to a high of 113. This number remained generally unchanged through 2023, with delta-9 THC-positive drivers representing about 11 percent of all drivers in fatal crashes.

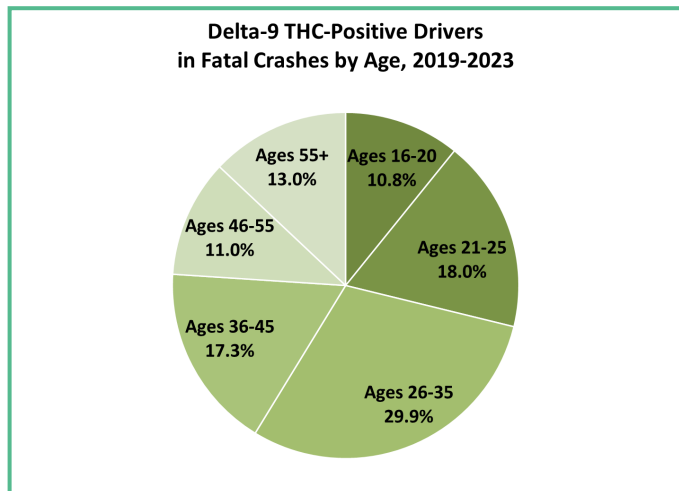
**I care, because** 607 people have died in Washington since 2019 in crashes involving delta-9 THC-positive drivers — nearly one in every five traffic deaths.



**Among** delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes, more than half (55.6%) had a blood concentration greater than or equal to the Washington per se limit of 5 ng/ml ([RCW 46.61.502](#)). About 42 percent had a blood concentration below the per se limit of 5 ng/ml. The majority (81%) of delta-9 THC-positive drivers were males. About one-quarter (27.5%) were ages 26-35. About one in five (21.2%) were ages 21-25. Another one in five (19%) were ages 36-45.

## Did you know?

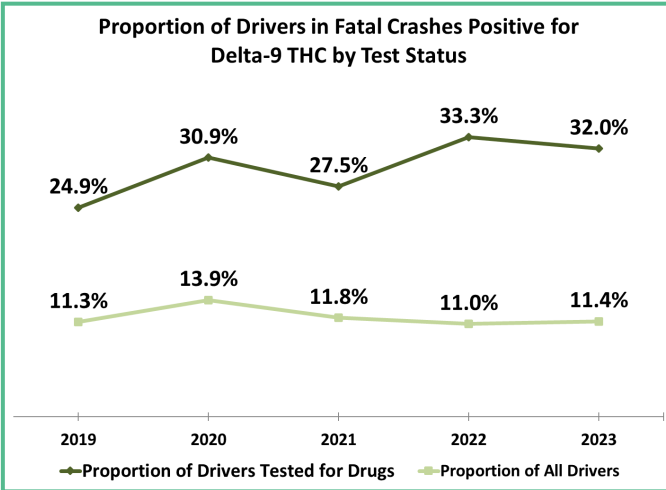
- ⇒ About one in ten drivers in fatal crashes were positive for delta-9 THC.
- ⇒ Delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes exhibited other high-risk behaviors, such as speeding (43%), not wearing a seat belt (30%), and being distracted (15%).
- ⇒ Nearly one-third of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were between the ages of 16 and 25.
- ⇒ Delta-9 THC is second most common substance detected among drivers in fatal crashes after alcohol.





# Delta-9 THC Involvement Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes

The proportion of all drivers in fatal crashes tested for drugs decreased from 45 percent in 2019 to about one in three (36%) drivers in 2023. Among drivers that were tested for drugs, nearly one-third (32%) tested positive for delta-9 THC in 2023.



## Did you know?

- ⇒ Alcohol is the most common substance paired with delta-9 THC among impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- ⇒ About 45 percent of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes also had a BAC of 0.08 or greater.
- ⇒ About one-third (38%) of delta-9 THC positive drivers in fatal crashes were also positive for other drugs.
- ⇒ In total, three out of four (76%) delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were also positive for alcohol and/or other drugs.
- ⇒ One-quarter (23%) of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were positive for only delta-9 THC and no other drugs/alcohol.

More than half of delta-9 THC-positive drivers were also positive for alcohol. Alcohol and delta-9 THC is the most common substance combination observed among impaired drivers in fatal crashes. Methamphetamine is the next substance commonly paired with delta-9 THC after alcohol, although much less frequently than alcohol.

**Poly-drug drivers**, or those positive for two or more drugs or a combination of drugs and alcohol, are the most common type of impaired driver involved in fatal crashes. The number of poly-drug drivers has increased by 51 percent since 2019. Meanwhile, the number of drivers positive for alcohol only has increased by 41 percent and those positive for one drug (not alcohol) increased by 46 percent.

Substance Combinations among Delta-9 THC-Positive Drivers in Fatal Crashes	Percent
alcohol & delta-9 thc	38.1%
delta-9 thc	23.6%
delta-9 thc & methamphetamine	6.5%
alcohol & delta-9 thc & methamphetamine	4.3%
alcohol & benzoylcegonine & delta-9 thc	1.4%
delta-9 thc & fentanyl & methamphetamine	1.4%
alcohol & cocaine & delta-9 thc	1.1%
delta-9 thc & fentanyl	1.1%
delta-9 thc & oxycodone	0.7%
alcohol & amphetamine & delta-9 thc	0.5%

