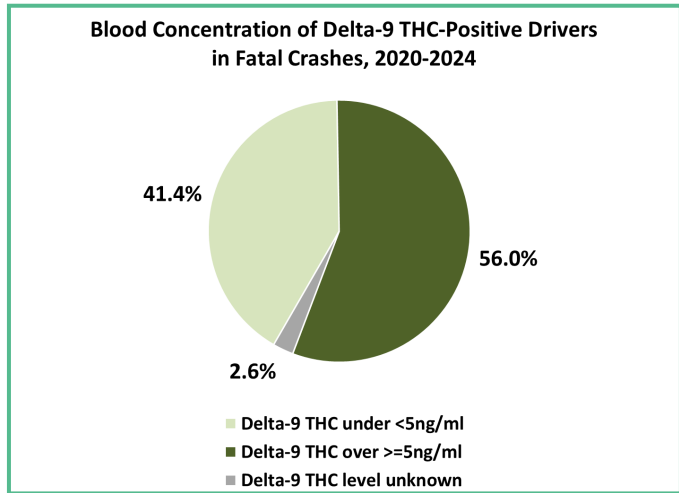
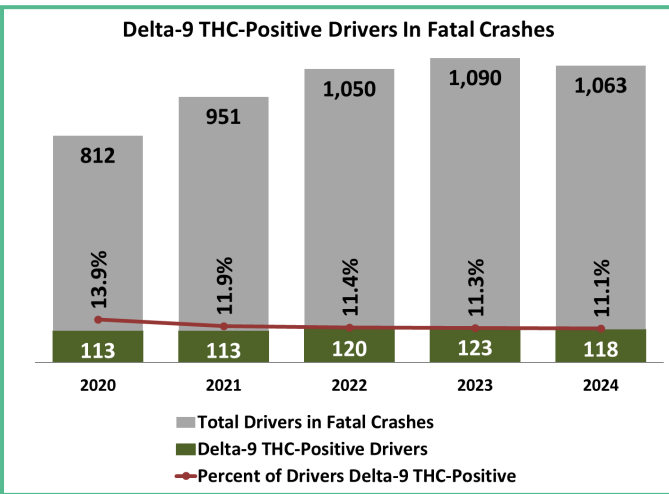




Delta-9 THC Involvement Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes

Trends show that the number of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-positive drivers involved in fatal crashes has remained relatively stable since 2020, despite the overall number of drivers involved in fatal crashes increasing by 31 percent. The number of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes increased by six percent in 2022 and again by three percent in 2023 before decreasing by four percent in 2024. Since 2021, delta-9 THC-positive drivers consistently represented about 11 percent of all drivers in fatal crashes.

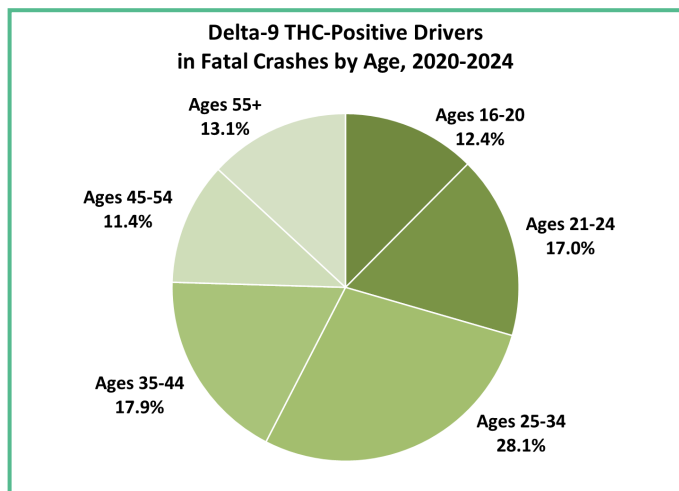
I care, because 640 people have died in Washington since 2020 in crashes involving delta-9 THC-positive drivers — nearly one in every five traffic deaths.



Among delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes, more than half (56%) had a blood concentration greater than or equal to the Washington per se limit of 5 ng/ml ([RCW 46.61.502](#)). About two out of five (41%) 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 in four (28%) were ages 25-34. About one in six (17%) were ages 21-24. Another one in five (18%) were ages 35-44.

Did you know?

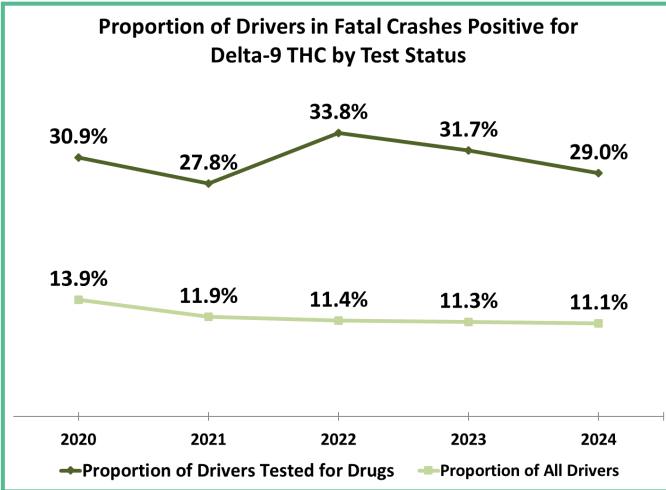
- ⇒ About one in ten drivers in fatal crashes were positive for delta-9 THC.
- ⇒ Delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes exhibited other high-risk behaviors, such as speeding (44%), not wearing a seat belt (36%), and being distracted (14%).
- ⇒ Nearly one-third (29%) of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were between the ages of 16 and 24.
- ⇒ 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 2020 to 38 percent of drivers in 2024. Among drivers that *were* tested for drugs, nearly one-third (29%) tested positive for delta-9 THC in 2024.



Did you know?

- ⇒ Alcohol is the most common substance paired with delta-9 THC among impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- ⇒ About two out of five (43%) delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes had a BAC of 0.08 or greater.
- ⇒ About one-third (39%) of delta-9 THC positive drivers in fatal crashes were positive for other drugs.
- ⇒ In total, three out of four (76%) delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were positive for alcohol and/or other drugs.
- ⇒ One-quarter (24%) of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were positive for only delta-9 THC and no other drugs/alcohol.

More than half (52%) 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 36 percent from 2020 to 2023 before decreasing by 12 percent in 2024. Meanwhile, the number of drivers positive for alcohol only increased by 61 percent from 2020 to 2023 before decreasing by 23 percent in 2024. Those positive for one drug (not alcohol) remained generally stable over time.

Substance Combinations among Delta-9 THC-Positive Drivers in Fatal Crashes	Percent
alcohol & delta-9 thc	36.3%
delta-9 thc	24.4%
delta-9 thc & methamphetamine	6.6%
alcohol & delta-9 thc & methamphetamine	3.8%
delta-9 thc & fentanyl & methamphetamine	1.4%
alcohol & benzoylcegoning & delta-9 thc	1.2%
alcohol & cocaine & delta-9 thc	1.2%
delta-9 thc & fentanyl	0.9%
alcohol & amphetamine & delta-9 thc	0.7%
alcohol & delta-9 thc & ketamine	0.5%

