

Study finds cannabis use, dangerous driving behaviors interrelated

March 11 2009

Thrill-seeking young men are more likely to drive under the influence of cannabis (DUIC) and engage in reckless driving, according to a new Université de Montréal study. As reported in the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, men who are sensation-seekers, an average age of 27 and impulsive will consider taking the wheel after consuming cannabis more often than older peers.

"We observed that [dangerous driving](#) behaviours are interrelated. Individuals scoring high on impulsivity or sensation-seeking scales demonstrated an elevated risk of driving under the influence of [cannabis](#)," says senior author Jacques Bergeron, a professor at the Université de Montréal's Department of Psychology.

"To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate the association between driving under the influence of cannabis and a wide range of dangerous driving behaviours."

Some 83 [men](#) were recruited for the study. Participants, aged 17 to 49, were observed in driving simulation tests and questioned about their driving history. Males were selected as a target group, since statistics show that men engage more often in dangerous driving and DUIC compared to women.

Researchers discovered 35 percent of their sample group had been involved in one or more road crashes with material damage in the previous three years. What's more, 30 participants admitted to using

cannabis and 80 percent of those users reported at least one incidence of DUI in the previous 12 months.

"Our study found that men with self-reported DUI tend to be associated with an increased risk of being involved in a car accident," says lead author Isabelle Richer, a PhD candidate at the Université de Montréal's Department of Psychology.

To dissuade sensation-seekers from DUI or other dangerous behaviours, Richer and Bergeron recommend that authorities create arousing and unconventional intervention messages that command attention. "On-road risky behaviours tend to be inter-correlated, so interventions should focus on a broad range of dangerous behaviours," stresses Richer.

More information: The paper, "Driving under the influence of cannabis: Links with dangerous driving, psychological predictors, and accident involvement," published in the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, was authored by Isabelle Richer and Jacques Bergeron of the Université de Montréal.

Source: University of Montreal

Citation: Study finds cannabis use, dangerous driving behaviors interrelated (2009, March 11) retrieved 18 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2009-03-cannabis-dangerous-behaviors-interrelated.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.