

Dangers multiplied by drivers using medical cannabis

The standard arguments used to support a legality for medical cannabis drivers seeking to drive some hours after using the medication is that it curtails their human right to freedom of movement. Yet prohibitions against driving with intoxicating levels of alcohol likewise curtail the freedom of movement simply because the intoxicated driver potentially curtails the freedoms of other drivers and pedestrians who value their life.

More recent arguments have contended that research on drivers who have recently used cannabis will, once certain confounders are removed, demonstrate no major danger to other drivers. For instance, they assert that once hot-headed young drivers under the age of 25 are removed from the accident statistics, cannabis use presents only a very modest risk.

What this argument ignores in its appeal to compassion is that the vast majority of medicinal cannabis users have it prescribed for chronic pain. In the book, 'Marijuana Debunked' by E. Gogek, the author cites source documentation demonstrating that 90% of medical cannabis patients in Arizona claim pain as their malady, while only 4% use it for cancer. In Colorado, it is 94% for pain and 3% for cancer, while in Oregon 94% claim to use it for pain. In Australia 62% of Australian [prescriptions](#) for medicinal cannabis are for chronic pain.

It is also medically beyond dispute, via a major review of [104 studies](#) of over 10,000 medical cannabis patients, that cannabis is not at all effective in alleviating chronic pain and is only useful as an adjunct to other pain-relieving medications such as opiates. This means that the vast majority of medical cannabis users wishing to legally drive while under the influence of cannabis will also necessarily be driving under the influence of cannabis AND opiates, [both](#) of which impair driving and where the [synergies](#) between drugs are at best additive and at worst a multiplication of the dangers of both drugs while driving.

The international community should be very alarmed when governments are given solid evidence that the majority of medical cannabis drivers will be doubly or, by multiples, significantly more dangerous while these same governments appear to be ploughing on regardless of reality. The result will be more road deaths and injury, the very things governments are there to reduce.