

The Problem:

Impaired driving continues to be a problem that impacts the community of Lancaster on a daily basis. On average, three out of every five citizens will experience a collision caused by impaired driving at some point in their lives. The consequences of impaired driving can be severe, leading to injuries and fatalities.

Preventing impaired driving is entirely within our control. It is important to educate ourselves with accurate information and engage in conversations with our children about the risks associated with driving under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or prescriptions.



As a parent:

Demonstrate your care and concern for your children's safety, as they are more likely to listen when they know you have their best interests at heart. Make it clear that discussions about impaired driving stem from your genuine concern for their well-being, rather than assuming they would ever drive while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.



PUBLIC
SAFETY

TALK WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT IMPAIRED DRIVING



Funded by the CHP Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program

For more information, visit
www.cityoflanasterca.gov/drivesober

The Facts:

About 19% of teenage drivers admit to driving while under the influence of cannabis. Cannabis is the most commonly found illegal drug in motorists that die in vehicular accidents, representing about 14% of drivers. However, this is oftentimes in combination with other drugs, such as alcohol. The use of marijuana is on the rise, with around 13% of drivers having traces of it in their system during weekend nights.* Drivers who use marijuana are approximately 25% more likely to be involved in a crash compared to those who do not use it.



25%
More
Likely

Likelihood of drivers who use marijuana being involved in an accident.

What can you do?

Ensuring the safety of our children is paramount, and the most effective way to combat impaired driving is through prevention. When discussing drunk and drug-impaired driving with your kids, don't wait for the "perfect" moment as any time is appropriate.

Here are some common situations you can use to address this issue:

- When your child requests to borrow the car
- During meals together
- When your child wants to ride with a friend to school
- A concert or a party
- While running errands on weekends
- During grocery store visits
- When you and your child are in the car together



Make a plan:

It is essential to reinforce your expectations for your children regarding impaired driving. Make it clear that operating a motor vehicle under the influence is never acceptable and that getting into a car with someone who has consumed alcohol or drugs is equally dangerous.

Help your children develop an exit plan for situations where a friend or family member under the influence offers them a ride.

Some suggestions for how to handle these situations include:

- Calling a rideshare service
- Contacting another relative or friend for a ride
- Staying overnight at their current location
- Persuade the impaired individual not to drive
- Emphasize to your children that drunk and drug-impaired driving is both illegal and unsafe
- Encourage your children to find another mode of transportation.