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Solving the cannabis conundrum

AAA Foundation research to help bridge knowledge gap on marijuana-impaired driving

By Kevin Adams

As the legalization of marijuana increases across the United States, the lack of knowledge and research about its effects on drivers is becoming more glaring. AAA is one of the leading organizations helping to fill that gap.

"When it comes to cannabis and driving, public policy is way ahead of the research and data, which is counterproductive," said AAA Traffic Safety Advocacy & Research Director Jacob Nelson.

The recreational use of marijuana for adults is now legal in four states - a number that doubled late last year, when yoters in Alaska and Oregon joined Colorado and Washington in approving ballot measures and 19 additional states plus the District of Columbia have authorized marijuana for medicinal purposes.

According to Dr. Barry Logan, vice president of Forensic Science Initiatives and Chief of Forensic Toxicology at NMS Labs internationally and an recognized expert in alcohol, other drugs and traffic safety, marijuana is the most popular recreational drug in the U.S. after alcohol and tobacco. In 2013. he said, an estimated 25 million Americans smoked cannabis, and more than 14 million do so regularly. Tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is the second most common substance. after alcohol, found in the blood of impaired and fatally injured drivers.

The most recent roadside survey by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed that 8.65 percent had marijuana in their systems on weekend evenings. Several other studies have shown that up to 14 percent of drivers who sustained injuries or died in traffic crashes tested positive for THC.

With increased legalization efforts, those numbers could rise in future years. And legalization also leads to another problem.

When you legalize a drug, whether it's for medicinal or recreational purposes, zero tolerance goes out the window," Logan said. "If it's legal to have it and use it, you can't say it's illegal to have in your blood."

Logan said past studies support the belief that marijuana smokers have an increased crash risk within two hours of smoking. And according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, marijuana negatively affects drivers' attentiveness and perception of time and speed.

"There's a lot of focus on marijuana from the legal side," said National Transportation Safety Board member Mark Rosekind. "What's not being discussed is the safety side of it. Marijuana can be just as impairing. I think most people, whether they smoke marijuana or not, would say they don't want to be driving next to somebody who's impaired by marijuana."

Indeed. AAA's 2013 Traffic Safety Culture Index showed that 80.3 percent driver impairment in regards of drivers support having a marijuana per se law, which makes it illegal to drive with a certain amount of marijuana in one's system. However, lack of data has prevented a consensus on what such a standard should be.

Even though marijuana is now legal in some form in nearly half the states, there is no standardized roadside test – such as a breathalyzer for alcohol – that measures THC levels in a driver's Similarly, system. no nationwide legal standard such as a .08% blood alcohol concentration – constitutes be released by early 2016.

to marijuana.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is sponsoring two studies that began last year to determine, among other things, whether the incidence of marijuana-impaired driving in Washington State has increased since legalization, the relationship between the blood concentration of THC and crash severity, and a threshold of active THC blood concentrations at which driver impairment and crash risk increase significantly. The results of both studies are expected to



"The AAA Foundation is doing important research that is needed to move the needle in this area," Nelson said. "And AAA is geared to leverage those results to guide public policy and education efforts across the states."

About the Author: Kevin Adams is a freelance writer based in Orlando, Florida, and writes for multiple AAA publications.

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The Islands of Hawaii

It's hard to believe that a destination so remote, so exotic and so magnificent could be part of the United States. But Hawaii is all of that, and so much more. When you picture a perfect paradise in your imagination, chances are it looks a lot like Hawaii. Its waters so blue, they seem other-worldly. Its beaches pristine, you feel as if you could be the first human who ever stepped foot onto the smooth glimmering sand. Its forests so lush, they shine like newly cut emerald. Its sunsets so brilliant, the sky seems ablaze with fire. Its volcanoes so imposing, vou can only stand back and stare in awe at the wonders nature.

People who have traveled to Hawaii save a piece of it in their hearts. Honeymooners cherish the golden days of unbridled romance. Families treasure the days of welcoming bliss under a shining sun. Adventurers thrill at the thought of catching the perfect wave. With extraordinary natural beauty, fascinating culture, rich history and endless activities, Hawaii can be all things to all people - or something unforgettable just for you.

Kauai

Tranquil and steeped in a sense of quiet majesty, the luxuriant island of Kauai is a portrait of lush vegetation, dazzling surf and inviting alabaster beaches. Small and secluded coves dot the shoreline, where the incandescent waters reflect the rays of yet another brilliant sunset.

Also known as the Garden Isle, Kauai is infused with an abundance of natural wonders that thrive in the tropical air. And with the absence of hustle and bustle, you can relax in perfect tranquility where the only footprints you see may be your own.

For breathtaking vistas, explore dramatic Waimea Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. Cruise along the Na Pali coast, where greenness dominates as far as the eye can see. And relax by the peaceful waters of Hanalei Bay, where serenity is as common as the grains of velvety sand.

Maui

It's hard to describe Maui as anything short of the stuff that dreams are made of. This tropical treasure is one of the most sought after vacation destinations in the world – and rightly so. Its emerald green lushness beckons discerning travelers with a sensual island draw.

In Maui, romantics fall in love, adventurers become energized and all visitors leave with a sense of having experienced perfection. The magnificent volcano. Mt. Haleakala, dominates the island from over 10.000 feet. Its lush slopes are home to some of the rarest wildlife and exotic birds on the planet. But it's the island's rewarding balance of seclusion and sophistication that steal your heart. The crystal clear waters have their allure as well, with surfers and watersport enthusiasts coming from all across the globe.

Maui's culture also delivers great delights, with museums, galleries, delectable dining and rich history. Be sure to visit Lahaina, a quaint 19th century whaling village that illuminates one of the most inspiring periods in the island's history.

Oahu

Although many adventurers choose Oahu for the luminous beaches and shimmering waters, there's a wide array of attractions on this island wonder. Brushed by sultry breezes and infused with the scent of exotic flowers, this lush hideaway will kindle the romantic passions within you. Hike to the crest of the world-famous Diamond Head to watch a blazing sunset over Waikiki Beach. There are endless rainforests and mountains to explore. Catch glimpses of cascading waterfalls, rare birds and the explosive colors of

wild orchids. Surfers come from around the world to catch the swells at Waimea Bay, the gentle break at Sunset Beach and the spinetingling Bonzai Pipeline. Other water diversions thrill as well, including jet skiing, sailing and kavaking. Honolulu is a bustling city, overflowing with incredible shopping, unequalled dining and energetic nightlife. And no trip to Oahu is complete without a visit to the stirring museum honoring those who died at Pearl Harbor.

Hawaii, the Big Island

Kona on Hawaii's Big Island, has a variety of geography that makes for an unforgettable holiday. Thrill at the island's volcanoes, where you'll experience nature's might first-hand with active craters and the unearthly glow of molten lava flows. Hike up the trails of Mauna Kea, where improbable snowcaps tower over a sultry tropical paradise.

The beaches of this magnificent island run the range from white to black – and are all bounded

by beautiful emerald seas that offer a full variety of watersports. V i s i t i n g Kona requires bringing a sense of play and an active imagination – whether diving into the deep blue sea, dancing a festive hula or feasting on a traditional luau.

Lanai

One of the smaller islands in the Hawaiian chain, Lanai is like a perfect pearl set amidst the sapphire blue seas of the Pacific Ocean. Fostered in an exclusive culture of quiet elegance and romantic seclusion, this magnificent island lets you feel as far away from civilization as you can get. Stroll along the silky-smooth sand on deserted beaches, float lazily through azure waters and behold sunsets that set the standard for all others. For those with the need to do more, you can play on championship golf courses, witness humpback whales and spinner dolphins frolic in the surf, and hike along trails that take vou past ancient petroglyphs thousands of years old. Lanai is one of the most remote spots on earth. And therein lies its greatest charm.



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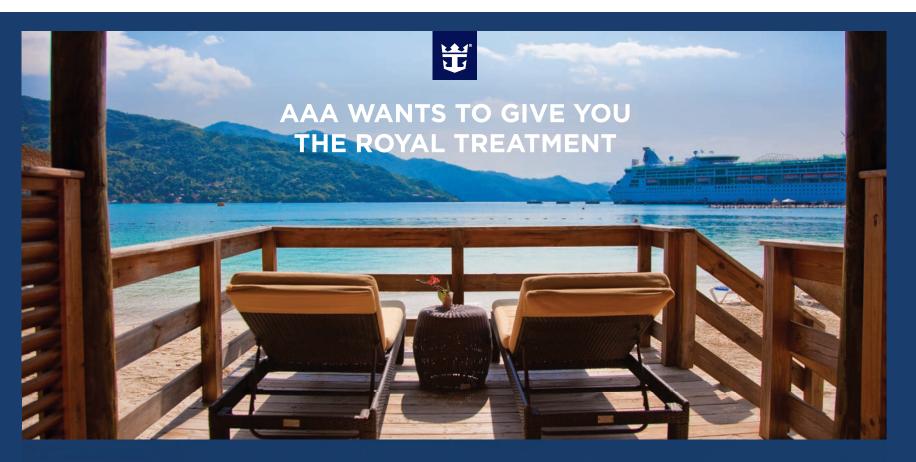
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The Updated AAA **Mobile** App

Saving time and money on the go is now easier than ever

has been updated with an array of new enhancements designed for a better member experience. The updated app features a more intuitive layout with easier access to features that will save you time and money, and give you the peace of mind that comes with being a AAA member.

Included in the mobile app update is an updated iPad version, with a number of new functions previously unavailable to users. The updated iPad version now features:

A streamlined card layout design that provides easy access to member services

AAA's newly enhanced TripTik Travel Planner product for mapping and route planning, allowing and share trips across the mobile and online platforms

Expanded membership features, including displaying your current member status and providing the ability to easily renew your membership

With the app, users can locate more than 59.000 AAA Approved and Diamond Rated hotels and restaurants, and find the more than 164,000 locations offering member discounts. The app maintains a scannable membership card (added through Passbook), so taking advantage of moneysaving offers is easy and convenient.

Trip planning is now easier than ever with AAA

The AAA Mobile app members to build, access Drive Trips and AAA Travel Guides integrated into the app's mapping feature. The app also provides access to the Top Destinations travel guides, which point users to the best things to see and do at popular vacation destinations.

> The updated mobile app will also help you get to your destination quickly and safely with traffic and construction information provided to help members travel without delays. In addition, finding the lowest gas prices is also simple, as maps display station locations and provide updated fuel prices.

> Whether you're on the road or at home planning a trip, the updated AAA Mobile app will help to make travel easier.





Findlav Automobile Club **PLEASURES** Spring Edition, 2015 **Is That Trailer Covered?**

from our clients about perils, such as not theft the use of a trailer with coverage away from your their automobile. While home, and not windstorm it sounds simple, there is not just one answer. If you own a personal consideration when dealing automobile and are using a trailer that is specifically designed to be towed by a private passenger vehicle, then in most cases, you do have liability coverage automatically extending from your auto policy for the trailer. If, however, the trailer has to be modified to fit your private passenger vehicle, then vou probably do not have liability coverage.

For physical damage coverage to apply to the trailer, you have to add that coverage specifically. Some homeowner policies will extend a very small amount of coverage for

We often get questions trailers – but with limited or hail coverage if left outside. Another with trailers occurs when determining the vehicle that is to pull your trailer. As explained, the personal auto policy extends coverage for specifically defined trailers, but an auto insured on a business auto policy does not automatically include this coverage. In some cases, a trailer that is classified utility with a gross vehicle weight of 2,000 pounds or less is covered for liability. But, a problem occurs when you might want to use your business pickup exceeds the 2,000-pound insured.



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