

## **Cannabis Effects on Driving Lateral Control With and Without Alcohol**

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## *Abstract*

**Background:** Effects of cannabis, the most commonly encountered non-alcohol drug in driving under the influence cases, are heavily debated. We aimed to determine how blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentrations relate to driving impairment, with and without alcohol.

**Methods:** Current occasional ( $\geq 1$ x/last 3months,  $\leq 3$ days/week) cannabis smokers drank placebo or low-dose alcohol, and inhaled 500mg placebo, low (2.9%)-THC, or high (6.7%)-THC vaporized cannabis over 10min *ad libitum* in separate sessions (within-subject design, 6 conditions). Participants drove (National Advanced Driving Simulator, University of Iowa) simulated drives ( $\sim 0.8$ h duration). Blood, oral fluid (OF) and breath alcohol samples were collected before (0.17h, 0.42h) and after (1.4h, 2.3h) driving that occurred 0.5-1.3h after inhalation. We evaluated standard deviations of lateral position (lane weave, SDLP) and steering angle, lane departures/min, and maximum lateral acceleration.

**Results:** In N=18 completers (13 men, ages 21-37years), cannabis and alcohol increased SDLP. Blood THC concentrations of 8.2 and 13.1 $\mu$ g/L during driving increased SDLP similar to 0.05 and 0.08g/210L breath alcohol concentrations, the most common legal alcohol limits. Cannabis-alcohol SDLP effects were additive rather than synergistic, with 5 $\mu$ g/L THC+0.05g/210L alcohol showing similar SDLP to 0.08g/210L alcohol alone. Only alcohol increased lateral acceleration and the less-sensitive lane departures/min parameters. OF effectively documented cannabis exposure, although with greater THC concentration variability than paired blood samples.

**Conclusions:** SDLP was a sensitive cannabis-related lateral control impairment measure. During-drive blood THC  $\geq 8.2\mu$ g/L increased SDLP similar to notably-impairing alcohol

concentrations. Despite OF's screening value, OF variability poses challenges in concentration-based effects interpretation.

Keywords: Cannabis, Alcohol, Driving, Lateral Control, THC, Oral Fluid

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1 *1. Introduction*

2 Reducing drugged driving is a US and worldwide priority (ONDCP, 2013). Cannabis is  
3 the most frequently detected illicit drug in drivers (Berning et al., 2015; Lacey et al., 2009;  
4 Legrand et al., 2013; Pilkinton et al., 2013); 12.6% of weekend nighttime drivers were positive  
5 for  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, primary psychoactive phytocannabinoid), in 2013-2014, a  
6 48% increase since 2007 (Berning et al., 2015). Although blood THC is associated with  
7 increased crash risk and driver culpability (Asbridge et al., 2012; Drummer et al., 2004; Gjerde  
8 et al., 2011; Laumon et al., 2005; Li et al., 2012), cannabis effects on driving remain heavily  
9 debated. Road tracking and ability to remain within the lane are crucial driving skills. Lane  
10 weaving, an observable effect of drug-impaired driving, is a common measure for assessing  
11 driving performance. Standard deviation of lateral position (SDLP) is a sensitive vehicular  
12 control indicator, often employed in drugged driving research (Anderson et al., 2010; Lenné et  
13 al., 2010; Ramaekers et al., 2006a; Verster et al., 2006). In previous studies, cannabis increased  
14 SDLP and straddling lanes, but results were assessed by dose rather than blood THC  
15 concentrations (Ramaekers et al., 2000; Robbe, 1998; Downey et al., 2013).

16 To date, 23 states and the District of Columbia (DC) approved medical marijuana; 4  
17 states and DC legalized recreational cannabis for adults (ProCon.org, 2014). Cannabis  
18 legalization is a crucial road safety issue. Since legalizing medical marijuana (2000), Colorado  
19 observed increased driving under the influence of cannabis (DUIC) cases (Urfer et al., 2014),  
20 and fatal motor vehicle crashes with cannabis-positive drivers; whereas no significant change  
21 was observed in 34 states without legalized medical marijuana (Salomonsen-Sautel et al., 2014).  
22 Establishing evidence-based *per se* laws for DUIC remains challenging, with varying laws across  
23 the US (Armentano, 2013; Grotenhermen et al., 2007; Lacey et al., 2010). Many are concerned

24 that implementing concentration-based cannabis-driving legislation will unfairly target  
25 individuals not acutely intoxicated, because residual THC can be detected in blood for up to a  
26 month of sustained abstinence in chronic frequent smokers (Bergamaschi et al., 2013).  
27 Appropriate blood THC concentrations that universally reflect driving impairment remain  
28 elusive. Determining blood THC concentrations associated with lateral control impairment in  
29 occasional users would benefit forensic interpretation.

30         There is interest in linking driving impairment with oral fluid (OF) THC concentrations.  
31 OF is easy to collect, non-invasive, and associated with recent cannabis intake (Bosker and  
32 Huestis, 2009; Drummer, 2006; Wille et al., 2014). OF-based DUIC legislation exists in some  
33 jurisdictions (Drummer et al., 2007; Huestis et al., 2011; Van der Linden et al., 2012); however,  
34 limited simultaneous driving and OF concentration data preclude direct association with  
35 impairment.

36         Alcohol is the most common drug identified in drivers (Berning et al., 2015; Legrand et  
37 al., 2013). Cannabis and alcohol, frequently detected together (Legrand et al., 2013), produced  
38 greater impairing effects together than either separately (Robbe, 1998; Ronen et al., 2010), but it  
39 is unclear whether effects are additive or synergistic.

40         This is the first in a series of manuscripts evaluating cannabis' effects, with and without  
41 concurrent alcohol, on driving. We present here effects, relative to THC concentrations, on  
42 drivers' lateral control. We hypothesized cannabis and alcohol would each impair lateral control,  
43 with synergistic effects when combined.

44

45 *2. Methods*

46

## 47 2.1 Participants

48

49 Healthy adults provided written informed consent for this Institutional Review Board-  
50 approved study. Inclusion criteria were ages 21-55years; self-reported cannabis consumption  
51  $\geq 1x/3$ months but  $\leq 3$ days/week over the past 3months (Cannabis Use Disorders Identification  
52 Test [CUDIT] (Adamson and Sellman, 2003)); self-reported “light” or “moderate” alcohol  
53 consumption according to a Quantity-Frequency-Variability (QFV) scale (Sobell and Sobell,  
54 2003); or, if “heavy”, not more than 3-4 servings on a typical drinking occasion; licensed driver  
55 for  $\geq 2$ years with currently valid unrestricted license; and self-reported driving  $\geq 1300$ miles in the  
56 past year. Exclusion criteria included past or current clinically significant medical illness; history  
57 of clinically significant adverse event associated with cannabis or alcohol intoxication or motion  
58 sickness;  $\geq 450$ mL blood donation in 2weeks preceding drug administration; pregnant/nursing;  
59 interest in drug abuse treatment within past 60days; currently taking drugs contraindicated with  
60 cannabis or alcohol or known to impact driving; requirements for nonstandard driving  
61 equipment; and prior participation in a similar driving simulator study.

62

## 63 2.2 Study Design/Procedures

64

65 Participants entered the clinical research unit 10-16h prior to drug administration to  
66 preclude acute intoxication. Participants drank 90% grain alcohol in fruit juice to reach  
67 approximately 0.065% peak breath alcohol concentration [BrAC], or placebo (juice with alcohol-  
68 swabbed rim and topped with 1mL alcohol to mimic alcohol taste and odor) *ad libitum* over  
69 10min. After drinking, they inhaled 500mg placebo ( $0.008 \pm 0.002\%$  THC), low ( $2.9 \pm 0.14\%$ )-, or

70 high (6.7±0.05%)-THC vaporized (Volcano<sup>®</sup> Medic, Storz & Bickel, Tuttlingen, Germany)  
71 cannabis (NIDA Chemistry and Physiological Systems Research Branch) *ad libitum* over 10min.  
72 Participants received all six alcohol/cannabis combinations in randomized order, with sessions  
73 separated by ≥1 week.

74 Simulated drives occurred 0.5-1.3h after start of cannabis dosing. Blood collection times  
75 were 0.17, 0.42, 1.4, and 2.3h post-inhalation. Blood was collected via indwelling peripheral  
76 venous catheter into grey-top (potassium oxalate/sodium fluoride) Vacutainer<sup>®</sup> tubes (Becton,  
77 Dickinson and Company, Franklin Lakes, NJ), and stored on ice ≤2h. Specimens were stored in  
78 3.6mL Nunc<sup>®</sup> cryotubes (Thomas Scientific, Swedesboro, NJ) at -20°C, and analyzed within  
79 3months, based on known cannabinoid stability (Scheidweiler et al., 2013). OF was collected  
80 simultaneously with blood (except 0.42h), with the Quantisal<sup>™</sup> collection device (Immunoanalysis,  
81 Pomona, CA). BrAC was measured via Alco-Sensor<sup>®</sup> IV (Intoximeters, St. Louis, MO) at the  
82 same times as blood, reporting alcohol in g/210L breath (limit of quantification [LOQ]  
83 0.006g/210L), equivalent to approximate blood alcohol concentration (BAC).

84

### 85 2.3 National Advanced Driving Simulator

86

87 Driving simulations were conducted in NADS-1, the high-fidelity, full-motion simulator  
88 at the National Advanced Driving Simulator (NADS), Iowa City, IA (Figure 1). A 1996 Malibu  
89 sedan is mounted in a 7.3m-diameter dome with a motion system providing 400m<sup>2</sup> acceleration  
90 space, ±330° rotation, and high-frequency motion (Lee et al., 2010). Drivers experience  
91 acceleration, braking, steering cues, road conditions (e.g., gravel), and realistic sounds (e.g.,

92 wind, motor). NADS-1 produces a complete record of vehicle state (e.g., lane position) and  
93 driver inputs (e.g., steering wheel position).

94

## 95 2.4 Drives

96

97 The 45min drive challenged multiple driving skills affected by cannabis, including  
98 SDLP. Each drive had urban, interstate and rural nighttime segments. The urban segment  
99 involved a two-lane city roadway with posted speed limits 25-45miles/h (40-72km/h) and signal-  
100 controlled and uncontrolled intersections; interstate, a four-lane divided expressway with posted  
101 70miles/h (113km/h) speed limit; rural, two-lane undivided road with curves, a gravel portion,  
102 and a 10min timed straightaway. Because each participant drove six times, three scenarios with  
103 varied event orders were utilized to minimize practice effects. Each scenario contained the same  
104 number of curves and turns, in varied order and position. Other traffic, pedestrians, and potential  
105 hazards were present throughout the drive. Hundreds of performance variables were monitored;  
106 the lateral control (necessary for road tracking, lane keeping) subset is presented here.

107

## 108 2.5 Specimen Analysis

109

110 Blood THC concentration was quantified by a previously-published method (Schwope et  
111 al., 2011). Briefly, 0.5mL blood was protein-precipitated with ice-cold acetonitrile, and  
112 supernatants diluted and solid-phase extracted. THC's linear range was 1-100 $\mu$ g/L. Inter-assay  
113 (n=30) analytical bias and imprecision were  $\leq 3.7\%$  and  $\leq 8.7\%$ , respectively. OF THC  
114 quantification is described in detail elsewhere (Hartman et al., 2015a). We utilized a published



115 validated method (Milman et al., 2010), modified by adding 0.4mL hexane to solid-phase  
116 extraction columns before the initial elution solvent. THC's linear range was 0.5-50µg/L. Inter-  
117 and intra-assay imprecision were  $\leq 6.6\%$ ; analytical bias,  $\leq 14.4\%$  (n=21). If concentrations  
118 exceeded the upper LOQ, OF specimens were diluted with drug-free Quantisal<sup>TM</sup> buffer to  
119 achieve concentrations within the method's linear range.

120

## 121 2.6 Data Analysis

122

123 Blood THC concentrations during drives were modeled via individual power-curve  
124 regression from pre-drive (0.17 and 0.42h) and post-drive (1.4 and 2.3h) specimens. BrAC  
125 concentrations during drives were modeled by linear interpolation, as alcohol was in the post-  
126 absorptive phase, during which its pharmacokinetics are linear (Jones and Andersson, 2003).  
127 Driving data were analyzed by participants' modeled concentrations during drives.

128 Data were reviewed to determine which events were suitable for analysis. Events for  
129 which dependent measures were not meaningful (e.g., SDLP during turn), were excluded. For  
130 each dependent measure, events with similar means were grouped for analytic purposes. Data  
131 were analyzed using SAS v9.4 General Linear Model (GLM) Select function to identify  
132 appropriate regression models. This procedure was selected due to its ability to accommodate  
133 continuous dependent measures and combinations of continuous and categorical independent  
134 measures (Neerchal et al., 2014). The stepwise selection method was chosen; the Schwarz  
135 Bayesian Information Criterion determined model entry/removal (Schwarz, 1978). Effect  
136 hierarchy was not enforced on model parameters. Available model parameters were blood THC,  
137 BrAC, interaction term THC\*BrAC, speed limit, inverse curvature, and subject. Dependent

138 measures of drivers' lateral control included SDLP, standard deviation of steering wheel angle,  
139 lane departures/min ("lane departure" defined as edge of vehicle crossing a lane boundary; per  
140 minute allowed for normalization across drive events), and maximum lateral acceleration in  
141 events without sharp turns. For final regression models, the analysis of variance for the model fit  
142 is presented, along with estimates, t-values, and p-values for model parameters.

143

### 144 *3. Results*

145

#### 146 3.1 Participants

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148 Nineteen healthy adults (13 men, ages 21-37 years, 74% white) participated (Table 1).  
149 Most consumed cannabis  $\geq 2$ x/month (but  $\leq 3$ days/week), and reported last intake within a week  
150 prior to admission. Participants self-reported driving 6-23 years, and all reported driving  
151  $\geq 1$ x/week. Data review revealed one participant (#12) was consistently an extreme outlier in  
152 almost all measures and dosing conditions, including placebo cannabis/placebo alcohol. Driving  
153 videos indicated markedly erratic and abnormal driving behavior, inattention, and distractibility  
154 in all conditions, suggesting invalid data. These data were excluded from all driving analyses,  
155 yielding N=18 completing drivers.

156

#### 157 3.2 Driving

158

159 GLM Select model results are depicted in Table 2. THC concentration and BrAC  
160 significantly associated with SDLP, but the interaction (THC\*BrAC) was not selected into the

161 model. This indicates additive, rather than synergistic, cannabis and alcohol effects. To account  
162 for a possible ceiling effect of increasing concentrations, quadratic terms  $\text{THC}^2$  and  $\text{BrAC}^2$  were  
163 added to the list of potential predictors; neither was included in the resultant model. The model  
164 predicts that blood THC and BrAC increased SDLP 0.26 cm per  $\mu\text{g/L}$  THC and 0.42 cm per  
165 0.01g/210L BrAC (Table 3), representing 0.8% and 1.3% increases relative to median baseline  
166 (drug-free) SDLP per  $\mu\text{g/L}$  THC or 0.01g/210L BrAC, respectively. Participants displayed high  
167 inter-individual variability in baseline (drug-free) SDLP (Supplemental Figure 1). BrAC  
168 concentrations of 0.05% and 0.08%, the most common *per se* alcohol limits worldwide, were  
169 associated with similar SDLP to 8.2 and 13.1 $\mu\text{g/L}$  THC concentrations, respectively (Figure 2).  
170 Low (1 and 2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) blood THC concentrations were associated with SDLP increases similar to  
171 0.01g/210L BrAC. At 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$  THC, a 4.1% increase in SDLP was observed; at 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$ , SDLP  
172 increased 8.2%. This change was comparable to 0.05g/210L BrAC (6.7% increase) and  
173 0.08g/210L BrAC (11% increase).

174 Natural-log SDLP transformation is common analytical practice due to non-normal  
175 distribution. Results obtained from  $\ln(\text{SDLP})$  (Supplemental Tables 1 and 2) were similar to  
176 untransformed SDLP; therefore, we report the more straightforward and conservative SDLP  
177 results.

178 BrAC significantly increased lane departures/min and maximum lateral acceleration;  
179 these measures were not sensitive to cannabis. Neither THC nor BrAC affected standard  
180 deviation of steering wheel angle.

181 THC concentration-based statistical analysis was utilized because of substantial overlap  
182 in achieved THC blood  $C_{\text{max}}$  across the active-THC dose groups (Figure 3): 6 participants  
183 achieved higher  $C_{\text{max}}$  after the low than high-THC dose and 4 had low and high  $C_{\text{max}}$  within 20%

184 of one another despite a 2-fold dose difference. This overlap makes statistical analysis by dose  
185 group (Table 4) not scientifically meaningful, illustrating the importance of analyzing effects by  
186 actual blood THC. THC concentration peaks prior to finishing inhalation (Huestis et al., 1992),  
187 and inhalation variability causes THC concentration variability (Azorlosa et al., 1995, Hartman  
188 et al., 2015b). Table 5 presents mean (SD) results by THC and alcohol condition.

189

### 190 3.3 Pre- and Post-drive Blood and OF THC Concentrations

191

192 Table 6 presents pre- and post-drive blood and OF concentrations. Full blood and OF  
193 pharmacokinetic data are presented in (Hartman et al., 2015b) and (Hartman et al., 2015a),  
194 respectively. Between-subject blood concentration variability (coefficient of variation) was  
195 substantially lower than matched OF concentration variability at all time points: 45-65% vs. 125-  
196 207%, respectively, immediately post-dose; 39-69% vs. 129-184% at 1.4h; and 61-82% vs. 139-  
197 174% at 2.3h (Table 6).

198

## 199 4. Discussion

200

201 Using a sophisticated driving simulator and rigorous placebo-controlled, within-subject  
202 design, we found a positive association between blood THC concentration and one (SDLP) of 3  
203 alcohol-sensitive lateral control impairment measures (SDLP, normalized lane departures,  
204 maximum acceleration). Cannabis-alcohol combination effects were additive, not synergistic.

205 Decreased lateral control was associated with blood THC concentrations and BrAC,  
206 based on descriptive models. SDLP is among the most sensitive and consistently utilized driving

207 impairment measures (Charlton and Starkey, 2013; Ramaekers et al., 2006a; Verster and Roth,  
208 2011, 2012). Given that most countries have 0.05 or 0.08% BAC *per se* laws, the observed  
209 SDLP increase may be substantial enough to be considered impairment. Although SDLP  
210 (experimental measure) is not directly validated to predict crash risk (epidemiological measure),  
211 it is an objective measure of continuous behavior while driving (Lococo and Staplin, 2006). The  
212 lowest criterion of drug-induced driving impairment is considered to be SDLP consistent with  
213 0.05 BAC, approximately 2.4cm (Lococo and Staplin, 2006). In this study,  $\geq 8.2\mu\text{g/L}$  THC met  
214 that criterion. The increase associated with  $10\mu\text{g/L}$  THC also was similar to  $2\mu\text{g/L}$   
215 THC+0.05g/210L BrAC (8.4% increase). At higher  $20\mu\text{g/L}$  THC, SDLP increased 16%,  
216 comparable to 0.10g/210L BrAC (13% increase). In an on-road study (Ramaekers et al., 2000;  
217 Robbe, 1998), 100, 200 and  $300\mu\text{g/kg}$  THC doses ( $\sim 7\text{mg}$ ,  $\sim 14\text{mg}$ ,  $\sim 21\text{mg}$ ) significantly  
218 increased SDLP 1.7-3.5cm relative to placebo. These increases are consistent with our  $7\text{-}10\mu\text{g/L}$   
219 during-drive THC (5.8-8.2% increase) or 0.05-0.08g/210L BrAC (6.7-10.7% increase, Table 3).  
220 Our final lane departures/min and maximum lateral acceleration GLM Select models did not  
221 include THC, indicating increasing THC concentrations did not increase these measures. Alcohol  
222 concentration-dependently increased lane departures/min and maximum lateral acceleration, with  
223 0.05g/210L corresponding to 35% and 9.5% increases, respectively.

224 Combining cannabis with alcohol produced an additive—rather than synergistic—effect  
225 on SDLP, with no interaction term. Past simulator studies were inconsistent regarding SDLP  
226 cannabis-alcohol interactions. Ronen et al (2010) observed significant increases in lane position  
227 variability when 13mg THC and 0.05% (BAC) alcohol were combined, despite neither  
228 producing an independent significant effect. Conversely, Lenné et al (2010) observed significant  
229 main effects of cannabis and alcohol independently, but no interaction (combined effects not

230 synergistic), similar to our findings. Combining 100 or 200 $\mu$ g/kg THC with 0.04% target BAC in  
231 the on-road study described above significantly increased SDLP by 5.3 and 8.5cm, classified as  
232 “severe” performance decrements (Ramaekers et al., 2000; Robbe, 1998). In our model, this  
233 increase is similar to  $\geq 20\mu$ g/L blood THC alone. Although epidemiological studies do not  
234 quantify crash risk by SDLP, increases in lane weave may lead to more lane departures (detected  
235 by Downey et al., 2013) and, in turn, more crashes. Cannabis approximately doubled crash risk  
236 in two recent epidemiological meta-analyses (Li et al., 2012; Asbridge et al., 2012).

237         Unlike cannabis, alcohol affected additional lateral control parameters besides SDLP.  
238 Lane departures/min and maximum lateral acceleration also increased with BrAC, consistent  
239 with prior NADS alcohol findings (Lee et al., 2010). This suggests more extreme reaction to  
240 lateral position when DUI alcohol, compared to DUIC. Cannabis-influenced drivers may attempt  
241 to drive more cautiously to compensate for impairing effects, whereas alcohol-influenced drivers  
242 often underestimate their impairment and take more risks (Sewell et al., 2009). Alcohol’s strong  
243 effects on driving are well-established (Charlton and Starkey, 2013; Charlton and Starkey, 2015;  
244 Moskowitz and Fiorentino, 2000; Van Dyke and Fillmore, 2014). Alcohol increased center and  
245 edge lane crossings, and time over the edge line in a simulated drive (Charlton and Starkey,  
246 2013). Lack of observed cannabis effects on lane departures contrasts with prior findings.  
247 Downey et al. (2013) observed dose-dependent cannabis effects on straddling lane barrier or  
248 solid lines, with or without alcohol, in simulated nighttime driving. That study had more  
249 participants (80), possibly providing higher power to detect weak effects. In one on-road study,  
250 only cannabis-alcohol combinations significantly increased time out of lane (Ramaekers et al.,  
251 2000; Robbe, 1998); neither cannabis nor alcohol (0.04% BAC) alone produced a significant  
252 effect. Because increasing lane departures and “time out of lane” require more substantial lane

253 weaving than SDLP, this discrepancy may result from the low alcohol dose administered in that  
254 study. SDLP is more sensitive, with observable impairment at BACs as low as 0.04%  
255 (Moskowitz and Fiorentino, 2000).

256         Neither cannabis nor alcohol affected standard deviation of steering angle. To our  
257 knowledge, only one prior simulator study found a significant alcohol effect on this parameter:  
258 0.6g/kg alcohol (peak BACs ~0.05%) produced a significant but small increase in standard  
259 deviation of steering angle (Lenné et al., 2010). Lower 0.4g/kg (peak BACs  $\leq$ 0.025%) had no  
260 effect. Although cannabis alone (19, 38mg) did not significantly increase steering angle  
261 variability (main effect), there was significant interaction with driver experience. Experienced  
262 drivers ( $\geq$ 7 years driving) showed unchanged or decreased steering angle variability with  
263 increasing cannabis dose relative to placebo; inexperienced drivers ( $<$ 2 years) had increased  
264 variability (Lenné et al., 2010). All of our participants had  $\geq$ 6 years of driving experience,  
265 perhaps accounting for this discrepancy. Lenné et al. (2010) also analyzed effects by dose rather  
266 than concentration, possibly resulting in greater apparent effect size because dose-wise  
267 (categorical) variable analyses generally have higher power than continuous variables. Multiple  
268 other studies found no cannabis-only effect on steering wheel position variability (Anderson et  
269 al., 2010; Ronen et al., 2010), although one observed increased steering variability in occasional  
270 smokers after alcohol alone and alcohol-cannabis combination (Ronen et al., 2010). Standard  
271 deviation of steering angle appears insensitive, due to the amplifying effect of steering  
272 mechanisms. Minor steering adjustments can substantially alter course and change lane position  
273 due to forward motion, despite re-straightening the wheel.

274         By controlling *ad libitum* inhalation topography (e.g., inhalation rate, depth, hold time),  
275 smokers can self-titrate cannabis dose to achieve desired pharmacological response (Azorlosa et

276 al., 1995). We infer self-titration from the observed disjunction between dose and THC  
277 concentration; there is often poor correlation between THC dose and blood concentration,  
278 making concentration-based analysis more meaningful and robust than dose-based analysis (see  
279 Tables 4-5, Figure 3). In our sample, 52.6% of participants showed evidence of self-titration  
280 (Hartman et al 2015b). Substantial concentration variability was observed, consistent with prior  
281 cannabis research (Desrosiers et al., 2014). This further underscores the robustness of  
282 concentration-based—rather than dose-based— analysis.

283         There is substantial interest in relating driving performance directly to OF concentrations  
284 due to screening advantages. THC enters OF primarily by oromucosal contamination during  
285 inhalation, and consequently is less representative of systemic concentrations shortly after intake.  
286 OF concentration variability was 2-5-fold higher than for paired blood concentrations, making  
287 interpretation of effects more challenging. Similar to blood, low OF THC concentrations are  
288 difficult to interpret because intake history and individual variability affect detection time and  
289 later concentrations. However, in this sample, OF THC >1600µg/L indicated intake within the  
290 last 1.4h, and >600µg/L indicated intake within the last 2.3h. In a roadside study, the percentage  
291 of people displaying observable cannabis-related impairment increased with increasing OF  
292 concentrations when aggregated into wide ranges ( $\leq 3\mu\text{g/L}$ , 3-25µg/L, 25-100µg/L, >100µg/L)  
293 (Fierro et al., 2014).

294

#### 295 4.1 Strengths and limitations

296

297         Major study strengths include the double-blind, placebo-controlled, within-subject  
298 design; drive scenarios controlling for other road conditions (speed limit and curvature), which



309 potentially affect drivers' lateral control and road tracking performance; administration of  
300 multiple doses of cannabis (THC) with/without alcohol; concentration-based analysis; and  
301 multiple specimen collections before and after driving (allowing during-drive pharmacokinetic  
302 modeling), to better relate driving impairment to THC concentrations.

303         In authentic DUIC cases, measured THC concentrations do not reflect those present  
304 during driving. Blood collection is typically delayed 90min to 4h after the event (Biecheler et al.,  
305 2008; Jones et al., 2008). During this delay, there is rapid THC distribution from blood into  
306 highly-perfused tissues, resulting in rapid blood THC concentration decrease in the first hour  
307 post-inhalation. Later, THC concentration continues to decrease, albeit more slowly. This results  
308 in lower measured THC concentrations than were present during driving. In contrast, we  
309 examined driving performance relative to THC concentrations and BrAC that were present  
310 *during* driving. Thus, to our knowledge, the current study is among the most robust analyses of  
311 cannabis and alcohol effects on lateral control at specific THC concentrations. For context, we  
312 report driving performance results at concentrations typically considered or established for *per se*  
313 laws around the world (1, 2, 5, 7 $\mu$ g/L THC; 0.02, 0.05, 0.08% BrAC) (Armentano, 2013;  
314 Grotenhermen et al., 2007; Karakus et al., 2014; Lacey et al., 2010; Ramaekers et al., 2006b;  
315 Verstraete A, 2011). However, these *per se* limits are applied to THC concentrations that may  
316 substantially underestimate concentrations during driving. Thus, our reported THC 1-5 $\mu$ g/L  
317 SDLP changes may be understated compared to forensic DUIC cases. In the present study,  
318 median blood and OF THC concentrations immediately post-dose were >30 $\mu$ g/L and >700 $\mu$ g/L,  
319 respectively. Blood THC  $\geq$ 20 $\mu$ g/L indicated intake within the last 0.42h and THC  $\geq$ 10 $\mu$ g/L  
320 indicated intake within the last 1.4h. Thus, if people drive during or soon after cannabis  
321 inhalation, during-drive THC concentrations could exceed 20 $\mu$ g/L. Our SDLP increase

322 associated with  $\text{THC} \geq 20\mu\text{g/L}$  ( $\sim 5.2\text{cm}$ ) was considered “severe” by other researchers  
323 (Ramaekers et al., 2000; Robbe, 1998), representing a 16% increase in our observed lane  
324 position variability. Despite lack of significant THC effect on lane departures/min, our results  
325 suggest substantial lateral control performance decrements, consistent with effects produced by  
326 known impairing alcohol concentrations. Verster and Roth (2014) determined that lane  
327 departures alone were not sufficiently sensitive to experimentally detect impaired driving or  
328 effect size differences. SDLP is a sensitive marker, serving as experimental proxy for rarer  
329 events such as lane departures. Even minor lateral control decrements may be dangerous in  
330 narrow or winding roads, or in heavy traffic where navigational precision or defensive driving  
331 may be required.

332         This study has several limitations. We approached data analyses via a stepwise GLM  
333 Select procedure, with the goal of describing data without assumptions of which parameters  
334 (THC, BrAC, other) would produce fixed effects. In research settings, participants are aware  
335 driving is constantly under observation, and may drive with greater caution or focus. Other  
336 participants may have wanted to demonstrate that cannabis does not affect driving; public  
337 attitudes toward DUIC are less negative than for DUI alcohol (McCarthy et al., 2007; Terry and  
338 Wright, 2005). However, self-perception of driving performance or impairment—even without  
339 drugs—may be unreliable (Van Dyke and Fillmore 2014; Verster and Roth, 2012).

340         This study was limited to occasional smokers. Frequent cannabis smokers demonstrate  
341 tolerance to some acute cannabis intoxication effects (Ramaekers et al., 2011), but tolerance did  
342 not compensate for all effects (Downey et al., 2013). There is currently substantial interest in  
343 comparing occasional to frequent smokers and assessing potential tolerance (Ramaekers et al.,

344 2009; Toennes SW et al., 2008; Wright and Terry, 2002), especially as medical and recreational  
345 cannabis becomes more commonplace.

346 We do not believe that conducting this study in a driving simulator, rather than on the  
347 road, represents a significant limitation. Rather, simulators offer advantages for assessing  
348 impaired driving. Participants can engage in risky driving behavior without endangering  
349 themselves or others. Simulators provide controlled reproducible research environments and  
350 ability to make detailed real-time measurements. Modern simulators produce highly realistic  
351 driving scenarios (Hartman and Huestis, 2012). The NADS-1 is the world's most sophisticated  
352 simulator, and was successfully utilized to assess distracted and drugged driving (Garrott et al.,  
353 2005; Lee et al., 2010).

354

## 355 *5. Conclusion*

356

357 In this rigorous, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, cannabis and alcohol were  
358 significantly associated with impaired driving lateral control. Cannabis only affected SDLP;  
359 whereas alcohol affected SDLP, lane departures/min, and maximum acceleration. During-drive  
360 8.2µg/L blood THC was associated with SDLP increases similar to 0.05g/210L BrAC (~0.05%  
361 BAC), and SDLP at 13.1µg/L THC approximated 0.08g/210L BrAC. Combining alcohol and  
362 cannabis produced an additive effect on SDLP; 5µg/L THC with 0.05g/210L BrAC was similar  
363 to 0.08g/210L SDLP impairment. These THC concentrations during driving are higher than  
364 those generally measured hours later during sample collection. OF concentration variability was  
365 substantially greater than blood concentration variability, suggesting better performance as a  
366 screening tool than impairment gauge.

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Table 1. Self-reported demographic characteristics, recent cannabis and alcohol consumption and driving history of 19 healthy adult occasional cannabis smokers

Participant	Sex	Age (years)	Race and ethnicity	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Alcohol intake frequency	Typical drinks per occasion	Cannabis intake frequency	Hours “stoned” on typical cannabis occasion <sup>a</sup>	Time since last cannabis consumed (days)	Amount last consumed <sup>b</sup> (joint or joint equivalent)	Years of driving experience	Driving frequency
1	M	23.7	W	24.3	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-4x/m	1-2	1	1	7	≥1x/d
2	F	28.4	AA	23.8	≥4x/wk	2-4	2-4x/m	3-4	14	1	-- <sup>c</sup>	-- <sup>c</sup>
3	M	21.9	W	24.7	2-3x/wk	5-6	2-4x/m	1-2	6	1	7	≥1x/d
4	M	37.8	W	26.1	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-3x/wk	1-2	3	2.5	23	≥1x/d
5	M	26.6	W	21.6	≤1x/m	2-4	≤1x/m	1-2	11	3.5	12	≥1x/d
6	F	26.3	W	20.0	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-3x/wk	3-4	1	0.25	12	≥1x/d
7	M	25.8	W	40.6	2-4x/m	2-4	2-3x/wk	1-2	0.3	0.5	11	≥1x/d
8	M	26.1	H	31.5	2-4x/m	1-2	2-3x/wk	1-2	3	1	10	≥1x/d
9	M	23.2	W	19.5	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-3x/wk	3-4	2	1	7	≥1x/wk
10	M	23.1	W	23.9	2-4x/m	2-4	≤1x/m	1-2	2	0.25	9	≥1x/d
11	M	32.3	O, H	28.9	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-3x/wk	1-2	4	1	16	≥1x/d
12 <sup>d</sup>	F	23.4	W	23.3	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-4x/m	3-4	4	1	8	≥1x/wk
13	F	30.3	AA	24.1	2-3x/wk	2-4	≤1x/m	<1	120	1	14	≥1x/d
14	M	24.6	W	23.3	2-3x/wk	2-4	2-4x/m	1-2	7	0.8	8	≥1x/wk
15	M	21.8	W	32.7	≤1x/m	1-2	2-4x/m	1-2	7	0.13	6	≥1x/d
16	F	21.7	AA, W	23.0	2-4x/m	1-2	2-3x/wk	1-2	1.1	1.5	7	≥1x/d
17	M	28.7	W	18.3	2-3x/wk	2-4	≤1x/m	3-4	45	0.5	12	≥1x/wk
18	M	28.1	W	48.3	2-4x/m	2-4	2-4x/m	3-4	5	1	12	≥1x/d
19	F	22.9	W	21.6	2-4x/m	5-6	2-3x/wk	3-4	1	1	6	≥1x/d
Median (all)		25.8		23.9					4.0	1.0	10	
Mean (all)		26.1		26.3					12.5	1.0	10	
StDev (all)		4.1		7.5					27.9	0.8	4	
Median (N=18)		25.9		24.0					3.5	1.0	10	
Mean (N=18)		26.3		26.5					13.0	1.1	11	
StDev (N=18)		4.2		7.7					28.6	0.8	4	

<sup>a</sup>“Hours “stoned” ” wording originates from Cannabis Use Disorders Identification Test, source of self-reported cannabis frequency data

<sup>b</sup>Cannabis amount last consumed is based on empirically-normalized joint consumption, to account for various administration routes and self-reported “sharing” between multiple individuals

<sup>c</sup>Participant did not provide response

<sup>d</sup>Participant excluded from driving analyses due to consistently outlying behavior

Abbreviations: W, White; AA, African American; H, Hispanic or Latino; As, Asian; O, Other; AI, American Indian/Native American; StDev, standard deviation

Table 2. General Linear Model (GLM) Select results of effects on lateral control measures in 18 volunteer drivers after controlled vaporized cannabis with or without oral alcohol.

Parameter	DF	Estimate (b)	t	Standard Error	p-value
Standard Deviation of Lateral Position (SDLP)					
<b>THC</b>	1	0.26	3.6	0.07	0.0004
<b>BrAC</b>	1	0.42	2.9	0.15	0.0037
THC*BrAC					
<b>Speed Limit</b>	1	0.50	19	0.03	<0.0001
<b>Inverse Curvature</b>	1	464	9.5	49	<0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>	1	17.3	8.3	2.1	<0.0001
<b>Subject</b>	17				
<i>Model df:</i>	21				
<i>Model F-value</i>	28.24				
<i>Error df:</i>	1916				
Standard Deviation of Steering Angle (Curvy)					
THC					
BrAC					
THC*BrAC					
<b>Speed Limit</b>	1	0.07	5.4	0.01	<0.0001
<b>Inverse Curvature</b>	1	-122	-7.7	16	<0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>	1	5.2	9.0	0.6	<0.0001
Subject					
<i>Model df:</i>	2				
<i>Model F-value</i>	29.59				
<i>Error df:</i>	427				
Standard Deviation of Steering Angle (Straight)					
THC					
BrAC					
THC*BrAC					
<b>Speed Limit</b>	1	-0.40	-17	0.02	<0.0001
<b>Inverse Curvature</b>	1	1389	27	51	<0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>	1	25	21	1.2	<0.0001
Subject					
<i>Model df:</i>	2				
<i>Model F-value</i>	657.9				
<i>Error df:</i>	1936				
Lane Departures/min					
THC					
<b>BrAC</b>	1	0.030	2.8	0.009	0.0055
THC*BrAC					
<b>Speed Limit</b>	1	0.010	6.8	0.001	<0.0001
<b>Inverse Curvature</b>	1	10.9	5.2	2.1	<0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>	1	1.4	10.3	0.14	<0.0001
<b>Subject</b>	17				
<i>Model df:</i>	20				
<i>Model F-value</i>	19.59				

<i>Error df:</i>		840				
Maximum Lateral Acceleration (Non-Sharp Events)						
THC						
<b>BrAC</b>		1	0.0023	3.5	0.0007	0.0005
THC*BrAC						
<b>Speed Limit</b>		1	0.0012	11.4	0.0001	<0.0001
Inverse Curvature						
<b>Intercept</b>		1	0.091	10.0	0.0091	<0.0001
<b>Subject</b>		17				
	<i>Model df:</i>	19				
	<i>Model F-value</i>	17.37				
	<i>Error df:</i>	2026				
Maximum Lateral Acceleration (Sharp Events)						
THC						
BrAC						
THC*BrAC						
Speed Limit						
<b>Inverse Curvature</b>		1	-1.8	-4.3	0.43	<0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>		1	0.45	17	0.027	<0.0001
<b>Subject</b>		17				
	<i>Model df:</i>	18				
	<i>Model F-value</i>	8.61				
	<i>Error df:</i>	304				

Driving occurred 0.5h after drinking placebo or active alcohol (calculated to produce approximate peak 0.065% BrAC) and inhaling placebo, 2.9% THC, or 6.7% THC vaporized bulk cannabis (500 mg, Volcano<sup>®</sup> Medic vaporizer). Estimate represents parameter (coefficient) estimate [effect size scaled to the unit] for each factor (negative b indicates the parameter decreases the effect; positive b indicates the parameter increases the overall effect).

**Boldface** indicates parameter included in the final GLM Select model. All p-values for final overall analysis of variance of model fits were <0.0001.

Abbreviations: DF, degrees of freedom; THC, blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol concentration; BrAC, breath alcohol concentration

Table 3. GLM Select model estimates for predicted standard deviation of lateral position (SDLP), lane departures/min, and maximum lateral acceleration associated with specific blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentrations and breath alcohol concentrations (BrAC) during driving

During-Drive Concentration		Standard Deviation of Lateral Position (SDLP)			Lane Departures/min			Maximum Lateral Acceleration (Non-Sharp Events)		
THC ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	BrAC (g/210L)	Median [range] predicted SDLP (cm)	Difference (cm)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)	Median [range] predicted lane departures/min (N)	Difference (N)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)	Median [range] predicted maximum lateral acceleration ( $\text{m/s}^2$ )	Difference ( $\text{m/s}^2$ )	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)
0	0	31.4 [24.7-44.8]	--	--	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	--	--	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	--	--
<b>1</b>	0	31.7 [25.0-45.1]	0.26	0.8	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	0	0	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	0	0
<b>2</b>	0	32.0 [25.3-45.4]	0.52	1.6	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	0	0	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	0	0
<b>5</b>	0	32.7 [26.0-46.1]	1.3	4.1	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	0	0	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	0	0
<b>7</b>	0	33.3 [26.5-46.7]	1.8	5.8	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	0	0	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	0	0
<b>10</b>	0	34.0 [27.3-47.4]	2.6	8.2	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	0	0	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	0	0
<b>20</b>	0	36.6 [29.9-50.0]	5.2	16	0.38 [0.05-1.95]	0	0	1.17 [0.87-1.54]	0	0
0	<b>0.01</b>	31.9 [25.2-45.3]	0.42	1.3	0.41 [0.08-1.97]	0.026	6.9	1.19 [0.90-1.56]	0.022	1.9
0	<b>0.02</b>	32.3 [25.6-45.7]	0.84	2.7	0.43 [0.11-2.00]	0.053	14	1.21 [0.92-1.58]	0.045	3.8
0	<b>0.05</b>	33.6 [26.8-47.0]	2.1	6.7	0.51 [0.19-2.08]	0.13	35	1.28 [0.98-1.65]	0.11	9.5
0	<b>0.08</b>	34.8 [28.1-48.2]	3.4	11	0.59 [0.26-2.16]	0.21	55	1.35 [1.05-1.72]	0.18	15
0	<b>0.10</b>	35.7 [29.0-49.1]	4.2	13	0.64 [0.32-2.21]	0.26	69	1.39 [1.10-1.76]	0.22	19
<b>2</b>	<b>0.05</b>	34.1 [27.4-47.5]	2.6	8.4	0.51 [0.19-2.08]	0.13	35	1.28 [0.98-1.65]	0.11	9.5
<b>5</b>	<b>0.05</b>	34.9 [28.1-48.3]	3.4	11	0.51 [0.19-2.08]	0.13	35	1.28 [0.98-1.65]	0.11	9.5

Data generated from 18 healthy occasional cannabis smokers 0.5-1.3h after ingesting placebo or active oral alcohol and inhaling placebo or active vaporized bulk cannabis. Values obtained by assessing general linear model (GLM) Select results of each measure at specific THC concentrations and BrAC. All estimates are for speed 55 miles/h (89 km/h), straight road.

<sup>a</sup>Relative to median baseline (blood THC 0  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , BrAC 0 g/210L) value

Table 4. Participant distribution into 3 (placebo, low, high cannabis) x 2 (placebo, alcohol) repeated measures design and results of repeated measures linear mixed model, accounting for achieved  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) blood maximum concentration. Due to inhaled dose self-titration and interindividual variability, some participants are represented multiple times in certain cells (e.g., THC <8.6  $\mu\text{g/L}$ /placebo alcohol) and not at all in others.

Structural problem with analysis by condition	Placebo Cannabis	THC $C_{\text{max}}$ <8.6 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (median) “Low”	THC $C_{\text{max}}$ >8.6 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (median) “High”
Placebo Alcohol	18 data points	17 data points	19 data points
	0 repeating points	6 repeating points (same participant falls into this category for low and high administered doses)	7 repeating points (same participant falls under this category for low and high administered doses)
	18 unique cases	11 unique cases	12 unique cases
Active Alcohol	18 data points	19 data points	17 data points
	0 repeating points	1 repeating point (same participant falls into this category for low and high administered doses)	1 repeating point (same participant falls into this category for low and high administered doses)
	18 unique cases	18 unique cases	16 unique cases
Results of analysis by condition <sup>a</sup>	Standard Deviation of Lateral Position (SDLP)	Lane Departures/min	Maximum Lateral Acceleration (Non-Sharp Events)
$p_{\text{THC group (P,L,H)}}$	0.2801	0.4537	0.2543
$p_{\text{alcohol (P,A)}}$	0.0673	0.1286	0.0918
$p_{\text{THC-alcohol}}$	0.2398	0.1245	0.4949
$p_{\text{drive event}}$	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001

<sup>a</sup>Due to unequal cells and resultant invalid statistical assumptions for within-subjects (repeated measures) design and “missing” or duplicate data, linear mixed model analysis (for which resultant p-values are displayed) has low power and uncertain interpretation.

Table 5. Mean (standard deviation) results for standard deviation of lateral control (SDLP), lane departures/min, and maximum lateral acceleration during driving, grouped by achieved THC/alcohol concentration conditions and by administered THC and alcohol dose conditions.

Achieved THC, Alcohol Conditions (THC Grouped by Median Blood Concentration)			Standard Deviation of Lateral Position (SDLP)				Lane Departures/min				Maximum Lateral Acceleration (Non-Sharp Events)			
THC Group	Alcohol Dose	N	Mean (cm)	St Dev (cm)	Difference (cm)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)	Mean (N)	St Dev (N)	Difference (N)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)	Mean (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	St Dev (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	Difference (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)
Placebo	Placebo	18	28.8	17.8	--	--	0.52	0.71	-	-	0.115	0.080	-	-
<Median (<8.6 µg/L)	Placebo	11	32.3	21.7	3.5	12%	0.69	0.93	0.17	33%	0.112	0.083	-0.003	-3%
>Median (>8.6 µg/L)	Placebo	12	29.8	16.4	1.0	3%	0.54	0.70	0.02	4%	0.110	0.079	-0.005	-4%
Placebo	Active	18	32.3	21.7	3.5	12%	0.74	0.98	0.22	42%	0.130	0.091	0.015	13%
<Median (<8.6 µg/L)	Active	18	34.6	22.0	5.8	20%	0.76	0.90	0.24	46%	0.126	0.086	0.011	10%
>Median (>8.6 µg/L)	Active	16	32.2	17.8	3.4	12%	0.77	0.98	0.25	48%	0.121	0.088	0.006	5%

Administered Dose Conditions			SDLP				Lane Departures/min				Maximum Lateral Acceleration (Non-Sharp Events)			
THC	Alcohol	N	Mean (cm)	St Dev (cm)	Difference (cm)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)	Mean (N)	St Dev (N)	Difference (N)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)	Mean (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	St Dev (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	Difference (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)
Placebo	Placebo	18	28.8	17.8	-	-	0.52	0.71	-	-	0.115	0.080	-	-
Low	Placebo	18	31.3	20.3	2.5	9%	0.64	0.85	0.12	23%	0.116	0.084	0.001	1%
High	Placebo	18	31.2	19.1	2.4	8%	0.61	0.84	0.09	17%	0.106	0.078	-0.009	-8%
Placebo	Active	18	32.3	19.3	3.5	12%	0.74	0.98	0.22	42%	0.130	0.091	0.015	13%
Low	Active	18	34.2	21.6	5.4	19%	0.73	0.94	0.21	40%	0.123	0.083	0.008	7%
High	Active	18	32.2	17.4	3.4	12%	0.80	0.96	0.28	54%	0.123	0.092	0.008	7%

Data are from 18 healthy occasional cannabis smokers 0.5-1.3h after ingesting placebo or active oral alcohol and inhaling placebo or active (low/2.9%, high/6.7%  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol [THC]) vaporized bulk cannabis. Due to the resultant unbalanced design in low- and high-THC conditions imposed by participants' self-titration, statistical analysis of variance could not be conducted by dose condition.

<sup>a</sup>Relative to placebo-placebo condition

Table 6. Blood and oral fluid THC and variability prior to and after driving (N=19) after controlled vaporized active (2.9% THC and 6.7% THC) cannabis with or without alcohol.

Time post-dose (h)		Blood THC (µg/L)				OF THC (µg/L)			
		No Alcohol		Alcohol		No Alcohol		Alcohol	
		2.9%	6.7%	2.9%	6.7%	2.9%	6.7%	2.9%	6.7%
-0.8 (baseline)	Median	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0.6
	range	0-6.2	0-5.4	0-4.9	0-6.3	0-30.7	0-11.7	0-72.9	0-34.2
	Mean (SD)	0.5 (1.5)	0.4 (1.3)	0.5 (1.2)	0.6 (1.5)	4.6 (8.7)	2.6 (4.0)	6.3 (17.0)	4.7 (8.9)
	%CV	284%	332%	245%	282%	191%	157%	272%	189%
0.17 (pre-drive 1)	Median	32.7	42.2	35.3	67.5	848	764	735	952
	range	11.4-66.2	15.2-137	13.0-71.4	18.1-210	32.1-18,230	25.1-23,680	72.9-7,494	22.7-66,200
	Mean (SD)	35.9 (16.7)	56.2 (36.4)	40.5 (18.2)	75.0 (48.1)	2,101 (4,142)	3,220 (5,645)	1,599 (2,005)	7,652 (15,842)
	%CV	46%	65%	45%	64%	197%	175%	125%	207%
0.42 (pre-drive 2)	Median	10.0	13.2	10.6	16.2	--	--	--	--
	range	1.6-17.9	2.4-40.8	5.5-17.4	5.3-43.9	--	--	--	--
	Mean (SD)	10.0 (4.5)	16.8 (10.9)	10.4 (3.4)	19.0 (11.9)	--	--	--	--
	%CV	45%	65%	33%	63%	--	--	--	--
1.4 (post-drive 1)	Median	3.7	4.6	3.6	6.2	52.5	91.0	69.5	138
	range	0-10.7	0-14.7	1.4-6.3	1.3-18.4	3.0-662	9.3-1,028	7.0-1,822	5.2-3,940
	Mean (SD)	3.9 (2.3)	5.7 (3.9)	3.6 (1.4)	6.8 (4.6)	91.3 (145)	213 (275)	228 (418)	637 (1,097)
	%CV	59%	69%	39%	68%	159%	129%	184%	172%
2.3 (post-drive 2)	Median	1.9	2.6	1.8	3.2	33.1	46.9	35.4	91.0
	range	0-8.5	0-9.6	0-4.9	0-9.5	1.8-374	1.9-542	8.7-473	1.6-1,541
	Mean (SD)	2.2 (1.8)	3.2 (2.6)	1.8 (1.1)	3.2 (2.5)	47.7 (81.1)	92.1 (128)	86.4 (124)	263 (458)
	%CV	82%	82%	61%	77%	170%	139%	144%	174%

Abbreviations: THC,  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol; OF, oral fluid; SD, standard deviation; CV, coefficient of variation

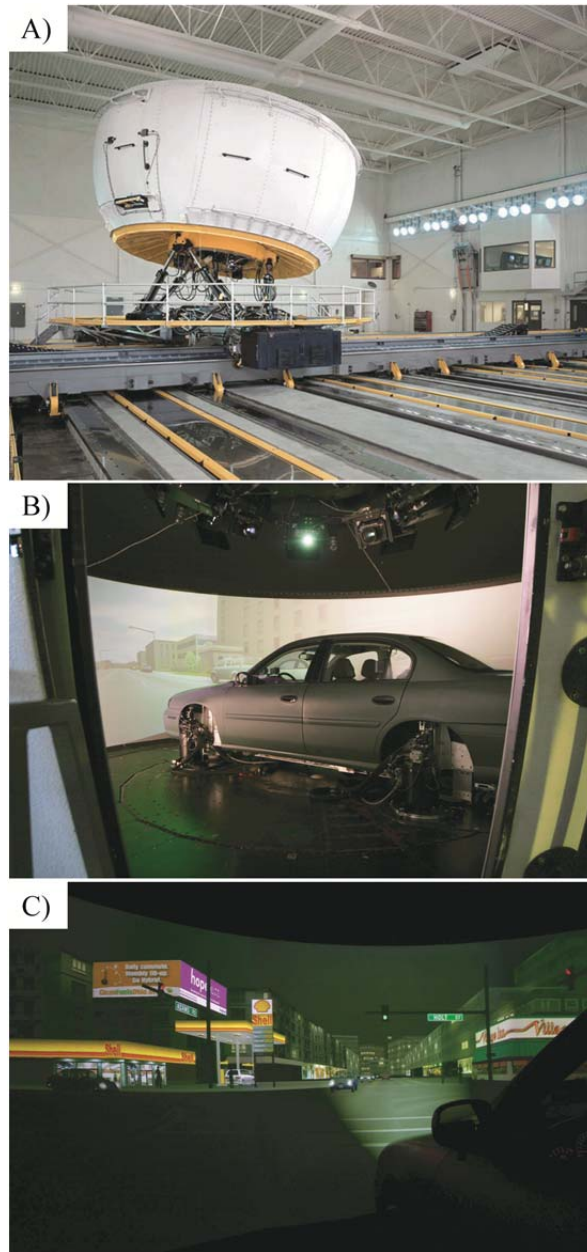


Figure 1. The National Advanced Driving Simulator: A) exterior, dome mounted in room; B) dome interior with car mounted inside; C) view of night-drive simulation.



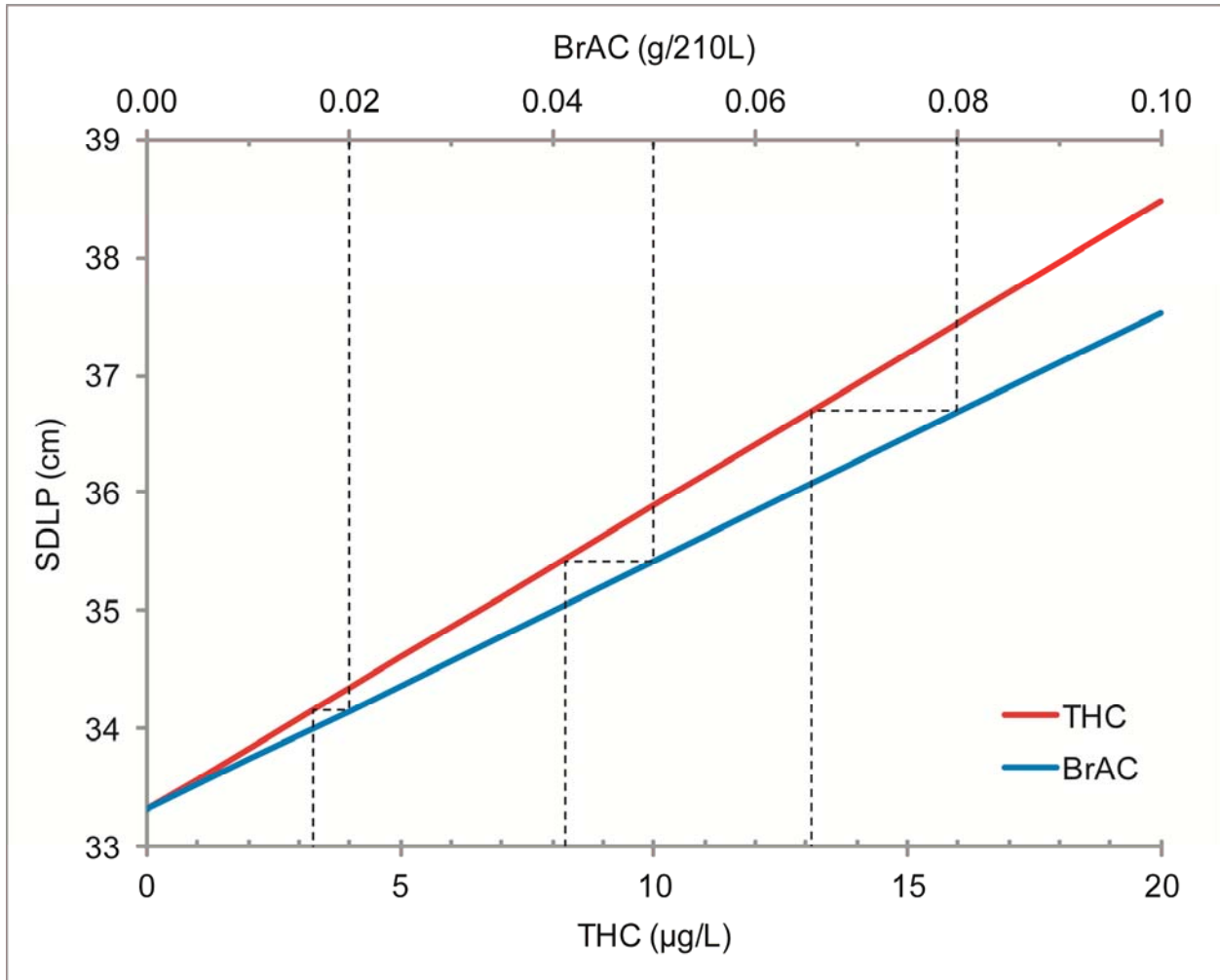


Figure 2. GLM Select modeled standard deviation of lateral position (SDLP) versus blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration (lower x-axis) and versus breath alcohol concentration (BrAC, upper x-axis). Note x-axis scales are different so slopes cannot be directly compared; dotted lines indicate THC concentrations producing equivalent SDLP to 0.02, 0.05, and 0.08g/210L BrAC.

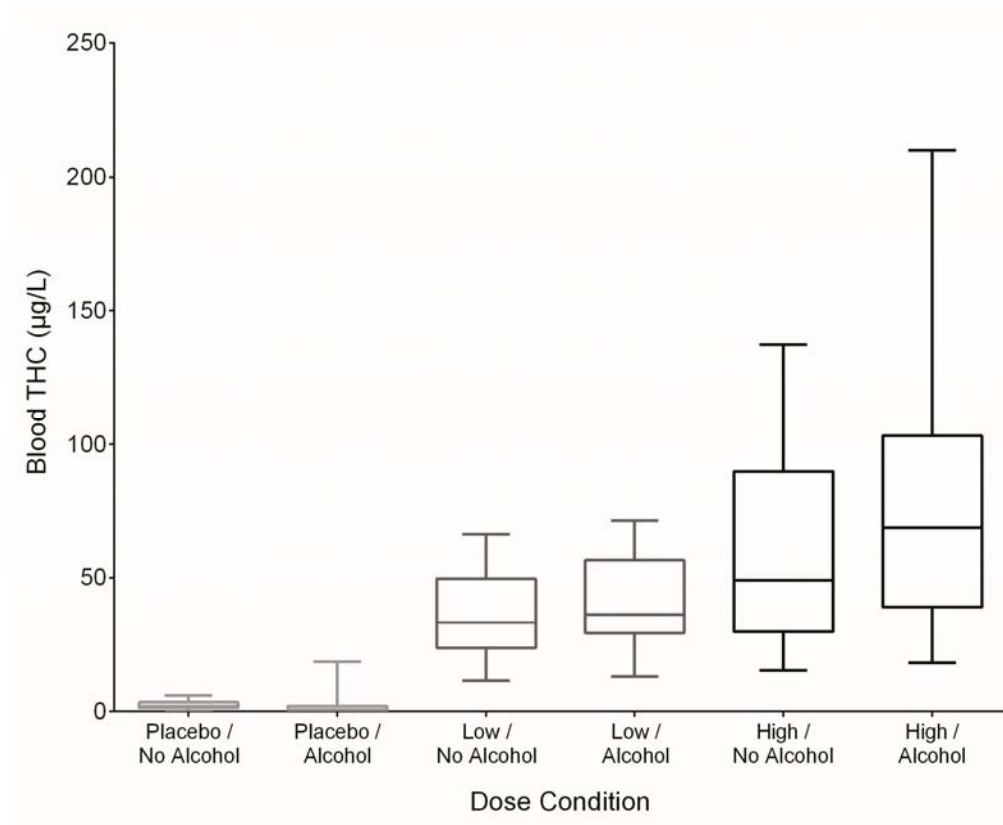


Figure 3. Box plot of maximum blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration by administered cannabis (placebo, 0.008% THC; low, 2.9% THC; high, 6.7% THC) and alcohol (placebo, active) doses for 18 participants.

Supplemental Table 1. General Linear Model (GLM) Select results of natural log (ln)-transformed standard deviation of lateral position (SDLP) in 18 volunteer drivers after controlled vaporized cannabis with or without oral alcohol.

ln(SDLP)					
Parameter	DF	ln Estimate (b)	t	Standard Error	p-value
<b>THC</b>	1	0.008	3.79	0.002	0.0002
<b>BrAC</b>	1	0.014	3.30	0.004	0.0010
THC*BrAC					
<b>Speed Limit</b>	1	0.013	17	0.001	<0.0001
<b>Inverse Curvature</b>	1	15	10	1.4	<0.0001
<b>Intercept</b>	1	3.0	48	0.062	<0.0001
<b>Subject</b>	17				
<i>Model df:</i>	21				
<i>Model F-value</i>	26.02				
<i>Error df:</i>	1916				

Driving occurred 0.5h after drinking placebo or active alcohol (calculated to produce approximate peak 0.065% BrAC) and inhaling placebo, 2.9% THC, or 6.7% THC vaporized bulk cannabis (500 mg, Volcano® Medic vaporizer). Estimate represents parameter (coefficient) estimate for each factor (negative b indicates the parameter decreases the effect; positive b indicates the parameter increases the overall effect). The t-values estimate effect size. **Boldface** indicates parameter included in the final GLM Select model of ln(SDLP).

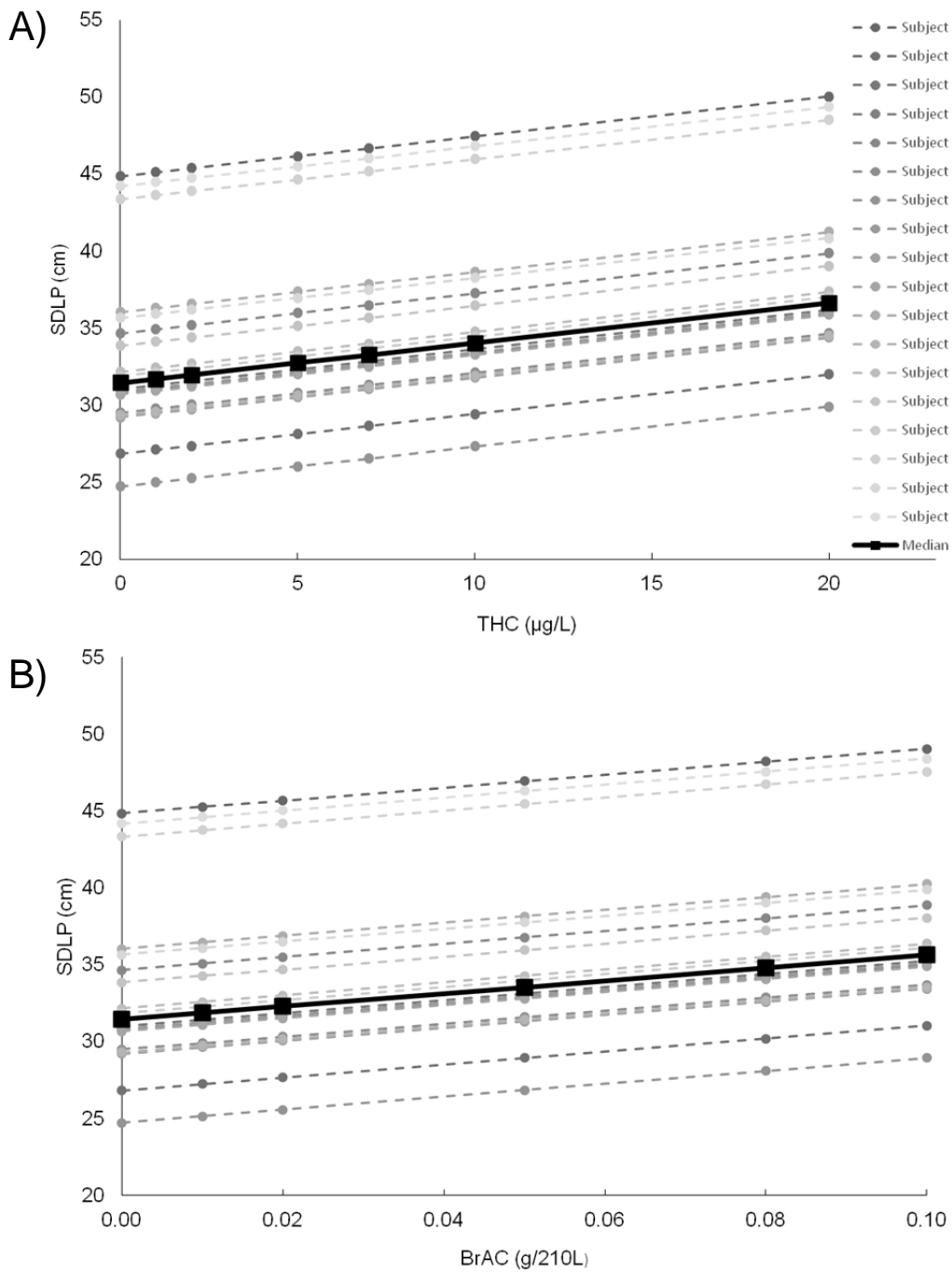
Abbreviations: DF, degrees of freedom; THC, blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol concentration; BrAC, breath alcohol concentration

Supplemental Table 2. Standard deviation of lateral position (SDLP) associated with specific blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentrations and breath alcohol concentrations (BrAC) during driving based on transformed  $\ln(\text{SDLP})$  GLM Select model.

During-Drive Concentration		Standard Deviation of Lateral Position (SDLP)		
THC ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	BrAC (g/210L)	Median [range] Predicted SDLP (cm)	Difference <sup>a</sup> (cm)	Percent Increase <sup>a</sup> (%)
<b>0</b>	0	26.5 [20.6-40.5]	--	--
<b>1</b>	0	26.8 [20.8-40.8]	0.2	0.8
<b>2</b>	0	27.0 [21.0-41.2]	0.4	1.6
<b>5</b>	0	27.6 [21.5-42.2]	1.1	4.2
<b>7</b>	0	28.1 [21.8-42.9]	1.6	5.9
<b>10</b>	0	28.8 [22.4-43.9]	2.3	8.5
<b>20</b>	0	31.2 [24.3-47.7]	4.7	18
0	<b>0.01</b>	26.9 [20.9-41.1]	0.4	1.4
0	<b>0.02</b>	27.3 [21.2-41.7]	0.8	2.9
0	<b>0.05</b>	28.5 [22.1-43.5]	2.0	7.4
0	<b>0.08</b>	29.7 [23.1-45.4]	3.2	12
0	<b>0.10</b>	30.6 [23.8-46.7]	4.1	15
<b>2</b>	<b>0.05</b>	29.0 [22.5-44.2]	2.4	9.1
<b>5</b>	<b>0.05</b>	29.7 [23.1-45.3]	3.1	12

Data generated from 18 healthy occasional cannabis smokers 0.5-1.3h after ingesting placebo or active oral alcohol and inhaling placebo or active vaporized bulk cannabis. Values obtained by assessing GLM Select results at specific THC concentrations and BrAC, speed limit 55 miles/h (89 km/h), straight road.

<sup>a</sup>Relative to median.



Supplemental Figure 1. Median and individual subject model-predicted standard deviation of lateral position (SDLP) for various blood  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentrations (A) and breath alcohol concentrations (BrAC) (B). Data generated from 18 healthy occasional cannabis smokers 0.5-1.3h after ingesting placebo or active oral alcohol and inhaling placebo or active vaporized bulk cannabis. Values obtained by assessing GLM Select results at specific THC concentrations and BrAC, speed limit 55 miles/h (89 km/h), straight road