DRUG IMPAIRED
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Presented by Impaired Driving Unit
INTRODUCTIONS

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OBJECTIVES

• Identify signs and symptomology of certain drug categories
• Identify packaging commonly used in the drug trade
• Observe the application of Standardized Field Sobriety
HOW POLICE DETERMINE DRUG IMPAIRMENT

• Police gain Reasonable Suspicion to conduct Standardized Field Sobriety Tests.

• Subject fails SFSTs and a specially trained Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) conducts an evaluation.

• Involves physical tests along with clinical symptomology.
DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE)

• Specially trained police officer that uses a 12 step standardized and systematic evaluation to determine if a subject is impaired by drugs and by which drug category(s).

• A DRE calls impairment by a drug category, not a specific drug.

• A DRE’s call must be confirmed by toxicological exhibit (urine/blood) prior to criminal charges.

• Edmonton DRE’s 95%+ correct.
HOW THE AUSTRALIAN'S USE DRE'S
VOLUNTARY ORAL FLUID TESTING

2016 Road Safety Survey

Proportion of drivers testing positive

- Drug Positive: 10%
- Drug Negative: 90%

- 53% Marijuana
- 31% Cocaine
- 12% Opioids
- 2% Benzodiazepines
- 2% Amphetamines/Methamphetamines

Tested cases: 1,230
7 DRUG CATEGORIES

1. CNS Depressants
2. Inhalants
3. Dissociative Anesthetics
4. CNS Stimulants
5. Hallucinogen
6. Narcotic Analgesics
7. Cannabis
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DEPRESSANT

A Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressant is a substance that can slow down brain activity.

Common examples include:

- anti-anxiety medications (e.g., Valium),
- sleeping pills
- some antihistamines (e.g., Gravol, ZzzQuil)
- muscle relaxants (e.g., Robaxacet),
- Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT CNS DEPRESSANTS USAGE?

- Drowsy
- Disorientated
- Uncoordinated
- Droopy Eyelids
- Thick Slurred Speech
- Sluggish
- A common sign is a person who you think may be drunk but there is no odor of alcohol beverage
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS) DEPRESSANT

Paraphernalia:
Empty pill bottles, drug rig, cut up straws, pill splitter
DISSOCIATIVE ANESTHETIC

A form of general anesthesia.

• Dissociative: disconnect of mind and body
• Anesthetic: numbness to pain

Common examples include:
• Ketamine
• Phencyclidine (PCP)
• Dextromethorphan (DXM or DM)  Slang term used may be Triple C or CCC
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT DISSOCIATE ANESTHETIC USAGE?

- Hallucinations
- Blank Stare
- “Moon Walking”-taking careful steps
- Chemical Odor
- Repetitive Speech
- Incomplete Responses
- Perspiring
- Confusion
- Agitation
- Resting nystagmus (jerky eye movement even when eyes are looking straight ahead)
- Behaviour can be unpredictable and cycle between cooperative and combative or violent
- Risk of self-harm (lack of pain perception)
DISSOCIATIVE ANESTHETIC

Paraphernalia:
Cold medication packaging, small drug packaging, drug rig, empty bottles of cough syrup, menthol cigarettes, eye droppers
A Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulant is a drug that can boost brain activity.

Common examples include:

- Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) drugs (Ritalin and Adderall)
- Narcolepsy drugs (Ritalin and Adderall)
- Weight loss drugs
- Cocaine (including crack cocaine)
- Methamphetamine (speed, ice and crank)
- Designer Drugs (bath salts) (MDPV)
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT CNS STIMULANT USAGE?

- Bizarre behaviours
- Talkative
- Dry mouth
- Excited
- Agitated
- Anxious
- Irritable
- Decreased appetite
- Insomnia
- Increased alertness

Restlessness
Nasal Redness
Runny Nose
Euphoria
Muscle Tremors
Fast and jerky movements
Dilated pupils
Sweating
Overconfidence
Very high heart rate
A substance that can boost brain activity.

Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants

Crack Cocaine

Bath Salts

Methamphetamine Tablets

Drug “flaps” or “bindles”

Paraphernalia:
Corners of plastic bags, cut straws, mirror or other hard surface with residue, crack pipes (glass pipe, steel wool, etc.), drug rig
CNS Stimulant usage is often accompanied later by a “crash” phase. This is also referred to as the “downside” of a stimulant. This phase is characterized by:

- Excessive drowsiness, irritability, anxiety, slow movements and small pupils.
- Finding someone asleep at the wheel, single motor vehicle collision (MVC), or swerving.
- Extreme fatigued, unable to focus on tasks.

This phase is just as dangerous as the “high”. Their behaviour may mimic impairment, which is consistent with being impaired by a Narcotic Analgesic.
A Narcotic Analgesic is a drug that relieves acute and chronic severe pain.

- Narcotic = From narcosis “to induce sleep”.
- Analgesic = Relief of pain.

This class of drugs are derived from opium (These drugs are also known as opioids). Does NOT include regular pain relievers like Tylenol and Advil.

Common examples include:
- Heroin
- Morphine
- Methadone
- Oxycodone (e.g., Percocet)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- Fentanyl
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT NARCOTIC ANALGESIC USAGE?

- Drowsiness
- Droopy eyelids
- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow movements
- Incoordination,
- “On The Nod” – a state of deep relaxation that looks like sleep but person can perk up and respond when spoken to
- Pasty mouth
- Dry mouth i.e. a white sticky substance in the corners of their mouth
- Low, Slow or raspy speech
- Track marks
- Fresh punctures
- Nausea
- Depressed reflexes
- Facial itching
- Euphoria
CONSTRICTED PUPILS
CANNABIS

A psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical or recreational use.

The main active impairing substance in Cannabis is *delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol* (THC)

Cannabis is also known as

- Grass
- Hashish
- Shatter
- Marijuana
- Pot
- Oil
- Weed
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RECENT CANNABIS USAGE?

- Red and blood shot eyes
- Increased appetite
- Odor of Cannabis
- Impaired awareness of time/distance
- Relaxed inhibitions
- Disorientation
- Muscle tremors
- Eyelid tremors
- Possible dilated pupils
CANNABIS

Paraphernalia:
Packaging (e.g. baggies, ziplockbags, shatter envelopes), cigarettes, rolling papers, marihuana grinder (i.e. busters), vaporizers, pipes, bongs/oil rigs, butane torches
CANNABIS

More ways than one....

Edible  Vaporisers/Epen  Energy Drinks  Candies
CANNABIS FACTS

• THC concentrations have steadily increased over time. As THC is the active impairing substance this will have a significant effect on behaviour

• Bud/Flower - It used to be common to see 2 % THC. Now many strains are pushing mid to high 20s% THC with some even higher

• Hash/Hash Oil – 40- 60 % THC

• Shatter/Dabs/Honey Oil – 70-91% THC
NEW AALS PROVISIONS

• New Provincial license suspensions effective April 9, 2018.

• Impaired Charge-90 Day license suspension—Either continued suspension for a year or Interlock Device Required for a year.

• If driving with restricted license must have Interlock in the vehicle. 30 day vehicle seizure if not complying with restrictions.
STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TEST (SFST)

- SFST trained members use 3 validated tests to determine impairment.
- Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus
- Walk and Turn
- One Leg Stand
HORIZONTAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS
QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
CONCERNS?