

2026 Impaired Driving Survey Results

Virginia Cannabis Control Authority

10/22/26



Background

Methodology

- The 2026 Virginia Statewide Impaired Driving Survey was conducted online among Virginia drivers ages 16 and older from September 2-14, 2026.
- **804** Virginia residents ages 18 and older with a driver's license were surveyed, including 308 who identified as past 3-month marijuana users.*
- The CCA, with input from SSRS, developed the questionnaire. SSRS formatted, programmed, and thoroughly checked the questionnaire prior to study launch.
- SSRS managed data collection. Once field was completed, SSRS processed, coded, cleaned, and weighted the data. Final deliverables included crosstabulations, a weighted SPSS file, and this report.
- Data were weighted to be representative of Virginia residents aged 18 or older with a driver's license.

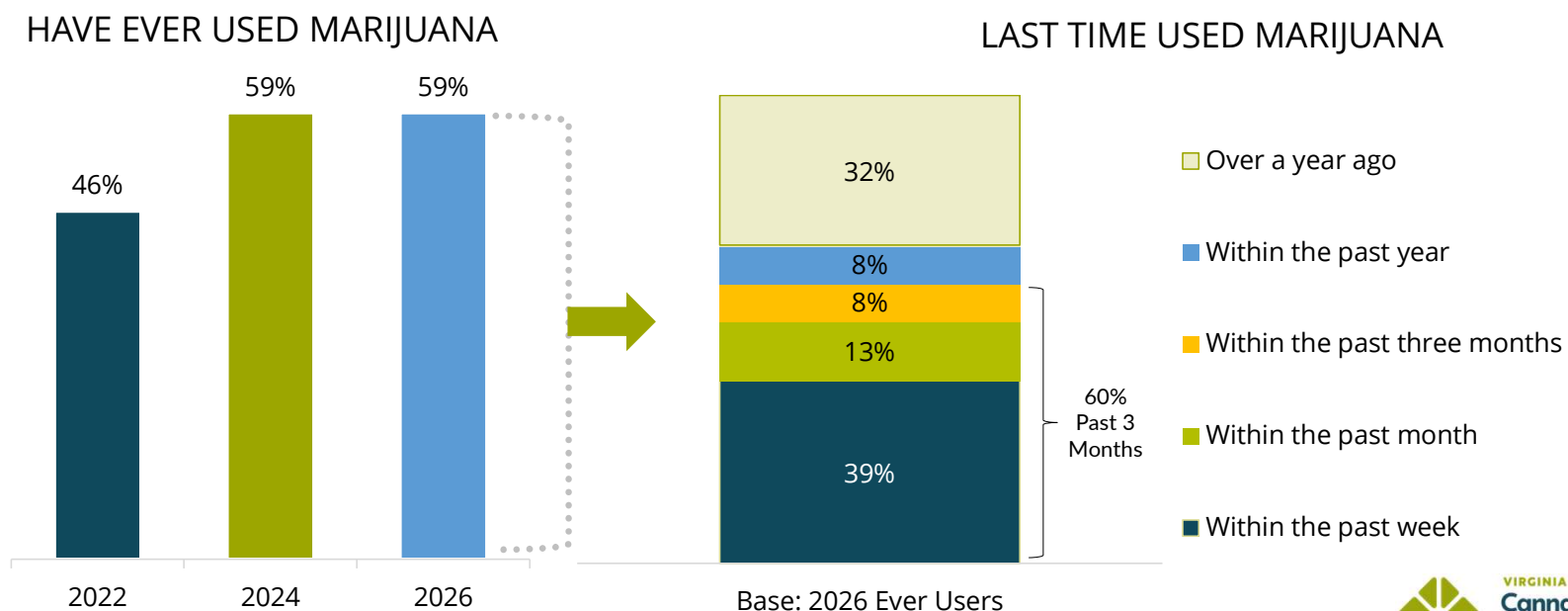
*While 16-17-year-olds were targeted as part of the sampling, no completed interviews were obtained from this age group.

Survey Findings

Marijuana Use

Marijuana Use

- In 2026, three out of five Virginia drivers (59%) have ever used marijuana. Of those users, two-in-five (39%) have used the drug within the past week (a slight increase from 33% in 2024).



Q8. Have you ever used marijuana, in any form, for medical or recreational purposes? Base: Total Respondents (2022 n=783; 2024 n=783; 2026 n=804)
Q8a. When was the last time you used marijuana? Base: Marijuana Users (2022 n=468, 2024 n=510, 2026 n=515)

Attitudes Surrounding Marijuana and Driving

Perceptions of Drivers Who Consume Marijuana

- One third (34%) of Virginia drivers believe those who consume marijuana are usually safer drivers. These perceptions are up slightly from 2024 (30%).

People who consume marijuana are a danger to others while driving and their driving behavior is impaired
66%

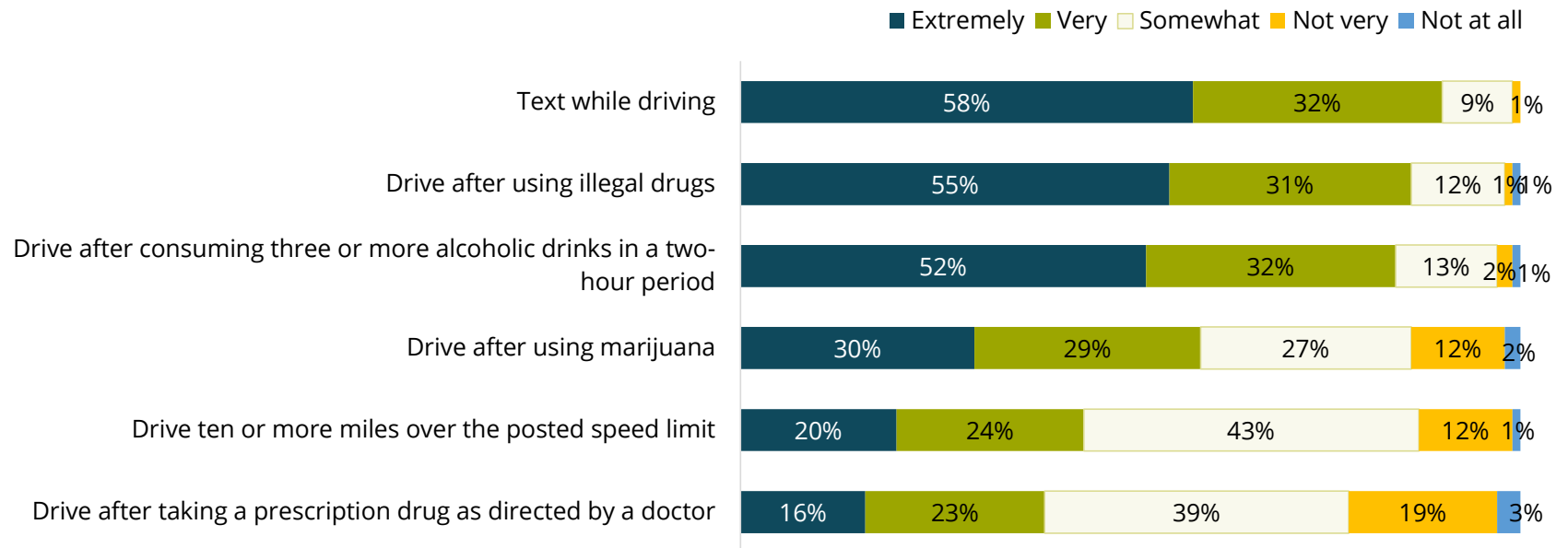


People who consume marijuana tend to drive slower and more cautiously and are usually safer drivers
34%

Q14. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view (even if neither is exactly right)? Base: Total Respondents 2024 n=783; 2026 n=804)

Perceived Danger Levels of Various Behaviors and Driving

- Similar to 2022 and 2024, Virginia drivers continue to rate texting while driving, as well as driving after using illegal drugs or consuming alcohol, as extremely dangerous compared to driving after using marijuana.

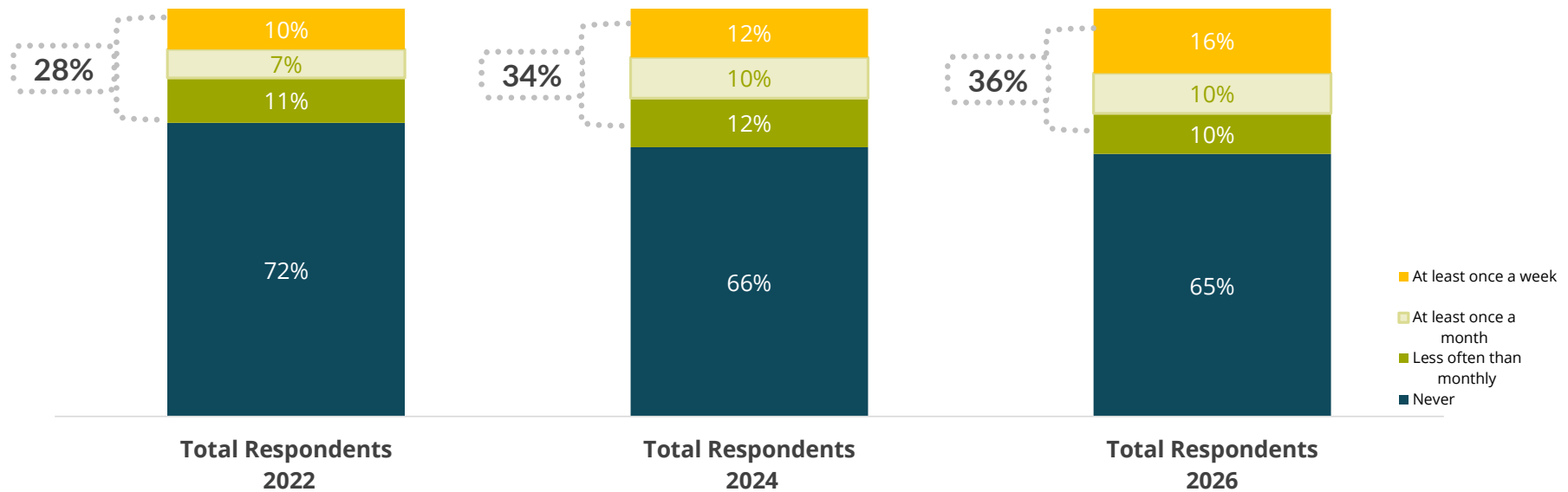


Q11. How dangerous do you believe it is to (INSERT ITEM)? Base: Total Respondents (2026 n=804)

Personal Experience with Marijuana & Driving

Frequency of Being a Passenger of Someone that Used Marijuana

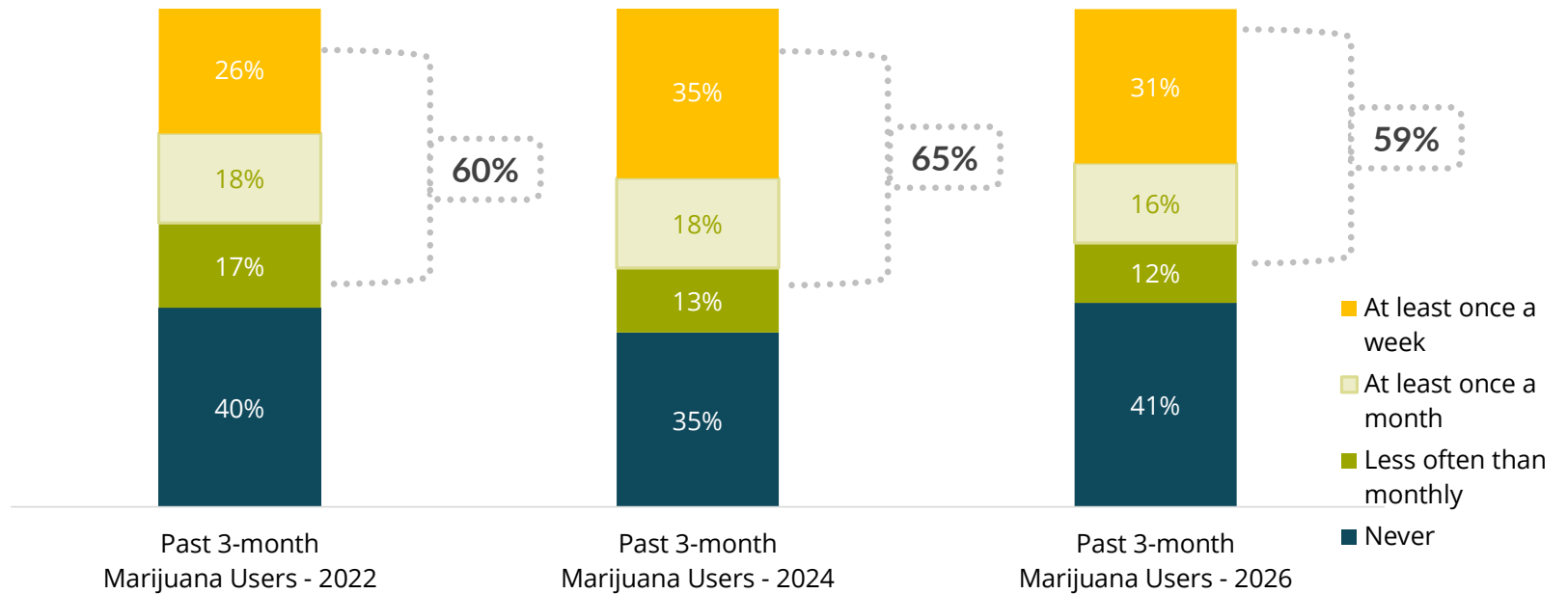
- In 2026, over one-third of Virginia drivers (36%) admit to having previously been a passenger in a car driven by someone that has used marijuana. This metric continues to inch higher since 2022 (28% in 2022, 34% in 2024).



Q18. In the past year, how often have you been a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone after that person used marijuana? Base: Total Respondents (2022 n=783; 2024 n=783; 2026 n=804); Base: Past 3-Month Marijuana Users (2022 n=304; 2024 n=310; 2026 n=308)

Frequency of Driving After Marijuana Use

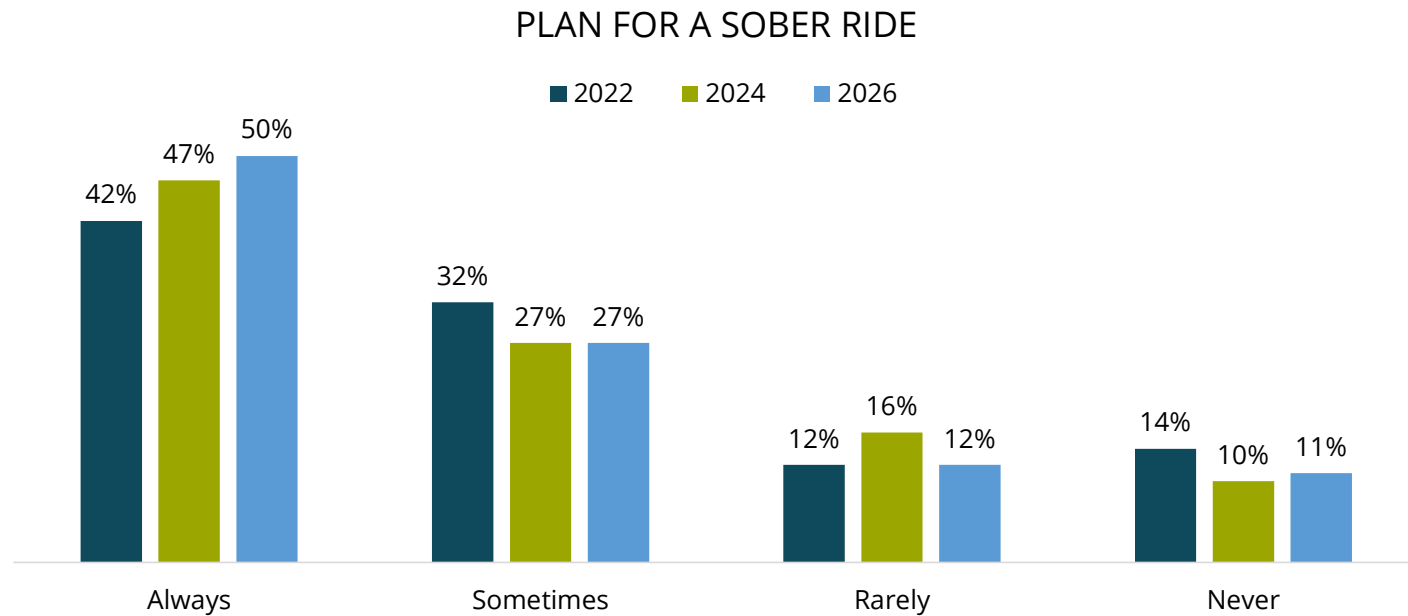
- Just under six in ten past 3-month users (59%) have ever driven after using marijuana, including 31% at least once a week.



Q19. In the past year, how often have you driven after using marijuana (within a few hours of use)? Base: Past 3-Month Marijuana Users (2022 n=304; 2024 n=310; 2026 n=308)

Plan For a Sober Ride

- Half (50%) of recent users (past 3-month) claim to always have a plan for a sober ride home, an encouraging positive trend since 2022. Yet, one in ten (11%) still say they never have a plan.

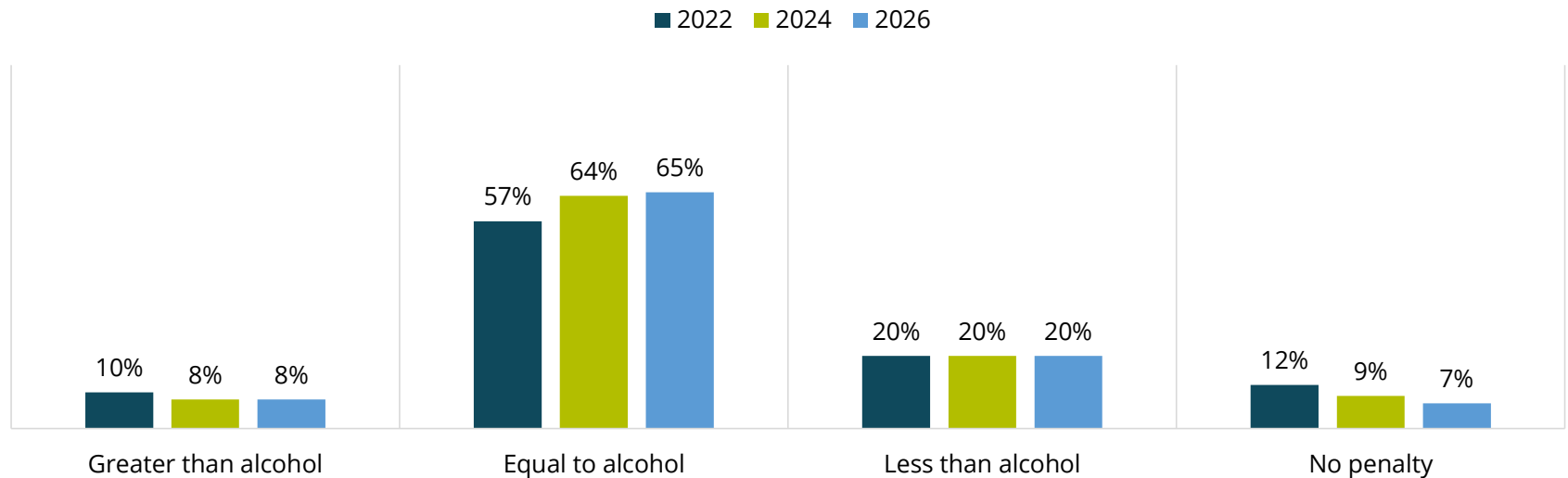


Q16. Prior to using marijuana, how often do you have a plan for a sober ride to drive you? Base: Past 3-Month Marijuana Users (2022 n=304; 2024 n=310; 2026 n=308)

Safety and Legal Status

Perceived Legal Penalty of Marijuana vs Alcohol

- About two-thirds of Virginia drivers (65%) believe the penalty for driving under the influence of marijuana is equal to that for driving under the influence of alcohol. Encouragingly, those who feel there is no penalty shows a declining trend.



Q20. Compared to alcohol, the legal penalty for driving while under the influence of marijuana is...? Base: Total Respondents (2022 n=783; 2024 n=783; 2026 n=804)

Enforcement Activity

Compliance and Enforcement

- Compliance inspections of vape, tobacco, and CBD retail stores have begun
- Repeat complaints from the tip line receive a cease-and-desist letter and compliance inspection
- Civil penalties will be assessed for unlawful sale of marijuana

Joint Enforcement Efforts

- Coordination efforts between Virginia State Police, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, and the Office of Attorney General have begun.
- Point of contacts for each agency have been established and shared.
- Law enforcement will be updated monthly on new facilities, licenses, and permit statues.

Thank you!

