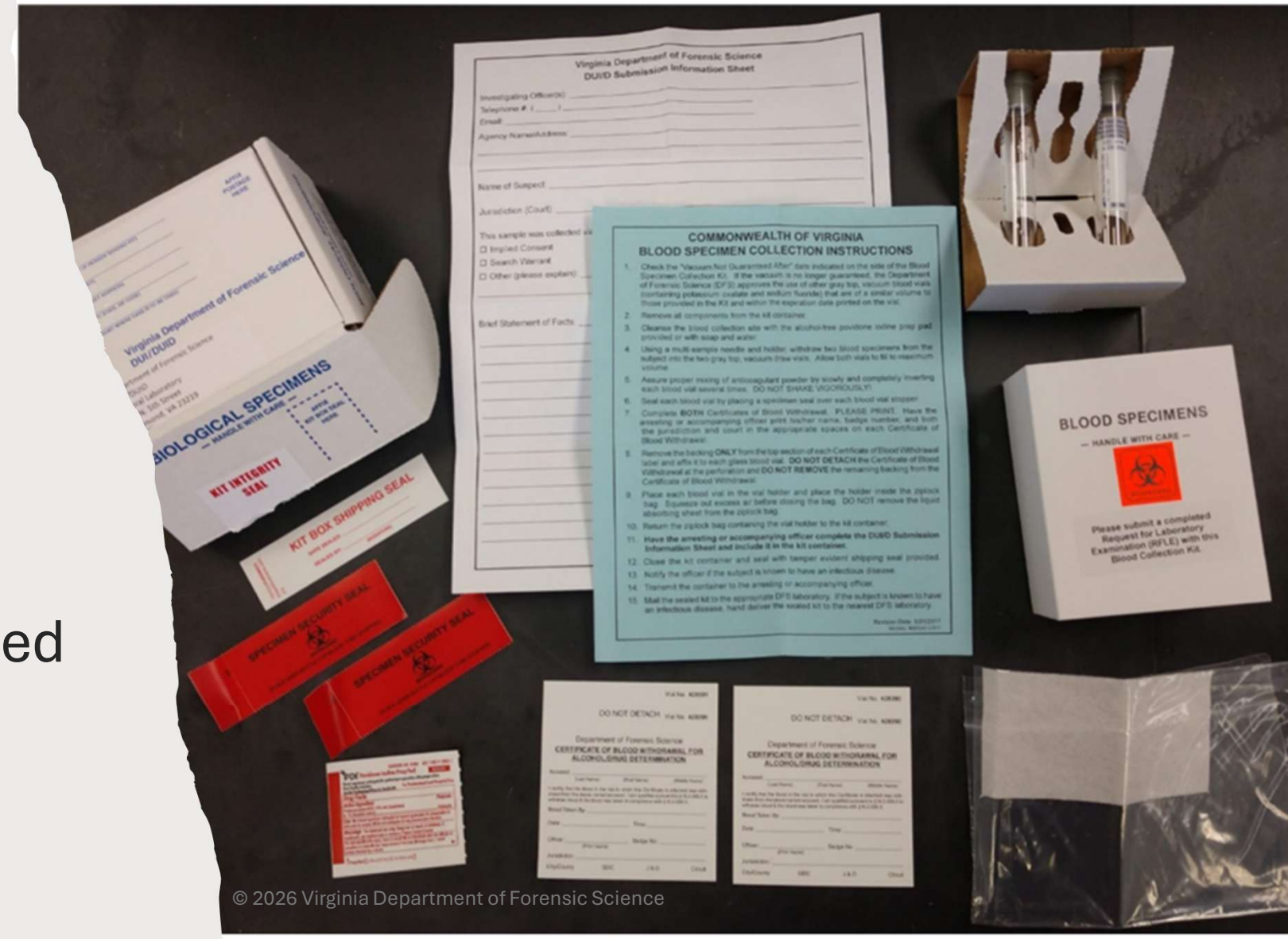
Impaired Driving Trends in Virginia

James Hutchings, Ph.D.
Toxicology Program Manager
Virginia Department of Forensic Science

© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science

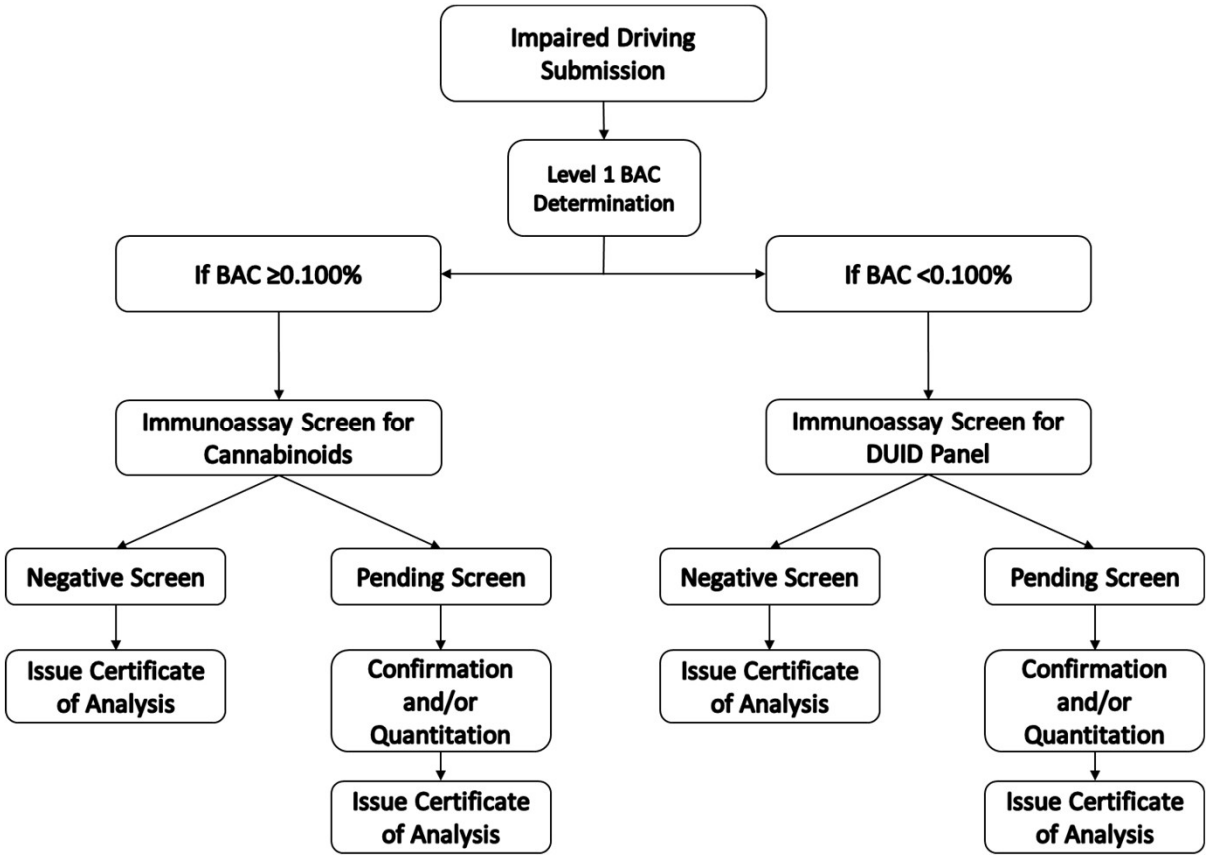
DFS-Provided Blood Kit



© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Impaired Driving Laboratory Testing

- Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)
- Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) Drug Screen
- Confirmatory testing



© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science

DUID Panel Drug Screen

Presumptive positive results sent to confirmation/quantitation analysis

Cocaine/Benzoylecgonine (BE)	Methadone	Marijuana (THC)
Opiates	Barbiturates	Diphenhydramine/Cyclobenzaprine
Oxymorphone/Oxycodone	Benzodiazepines	Dextromethorphan
Methamphetamine/MDMA	Carisoprodol/Meprobamate	Tramadol
Phencyclidine (PCP)	Zolpidem (Ambien)	Tricyclic Antidepressants
Fentanyl	Buprenorphine/Norbuprenorphine	Amphetamine

© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science

What drugs are commonly detected in VA drivers?

* THC screening expanded to all impaired driving cases in 2023

Year	2021	2022	2023*	2024	2025
1	THC (1221)	THC (1135)	THC (1718)	THC (1838)	THC (1575)
2	Fentanyl (848)	Fentanyl (633)	Fentanyl (627)	Methamphetamine (554)	Methamphetamine (503)
3	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine (619)	Fentanyl (482)	Fentanyl (371)
4	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cocaine (327)	Cocaine (324)
5	Alprazolam	Alprazolam	Alprazolam	Alprazolam (167)	Alprazolam (199)
6	Etizolam	Methadone	Bromazolam	Bromazolam (133)	Methadone (167)
7	Morphine	Buprenorphine	Methadone	Methadone (123)	Buprenorphine (146)
8	Methadone	p/m-fluorofentanyl	Buprenorphine	Buprenorphine (117)	Delta-8-THC (121)
9	Buprenorphine	Morphine	Clonazepam	Clonazepam (85)	Bromazolam (108)
10	PCP	Clonazepam	Diazepam	Diazepam (85)	Diazepam (84)
Total Impaired Driving Cases	4977	4910	4598	4609	4516

© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Closer look at THC concentrations…

* THC screening expanded to all impaired driving cases in 2023

THC Values (mg/L)				
Year	Median	Average	Max	Cases
2020	0.0040	0.0061	0.0940	1205
2021	0.0040	0.0067	0.1000	1221
2022	0.0047	0.0071	0.0890	1135
2023*	0.0041	0.0069	0.1000	1718
2024	0.0043	0.0072	0.0730	1655
2025	0.0044	0.0069	0.1000	1575

© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Thank you for your time and attention.

- James Hutchings
- James.Hutchings@dfs.virginia.gov
- 804-588-4014

© 2026 Virginia Department of Forensic Science