

Drugs and Alcohol: Health Risks

Alcohol. Alcohol consumption causes a number of changes in behavior and physiology. Even low doses significantly impair judgment, coordination, and abstract mental functioning. Statistics show that alcohol use is involved in a majority of violent behaviors on college campuses, including acquaintance rape, vandalism, fights, and incidents of drinking and driving. Continued abuse may lead to dependency, which often causes permanent damage to vital organs and deterioration of a healthy lifestyle.

Cannabis (Marijuana, Hashish). The use of marijuana may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce coordination and energy level. Users often have a lowered immune system and an increased risk of lung cancer. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is stored in the fatty tissues of the brain and reproductive system for a minimum of 28 to 30 days.

Hallucinogens. Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even when use has ceased. Phencyclidine (PCP) affects the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instincts in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

Cocaine/Crack. Cocaine users often have a stuffy, runny nose and may have a perforated nasal septum. The immediate effects of cocaine use include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature, followed by depression. Crack, or freebase rock cocaine, is extremely addictive and can cause delirium, hallucinations, blurred vision, severe chest pain, muscle spasms, convulsions, and even death.

Amphetamines. Amphetamines can cause a rapid or irregular heart beat, tremors, loss of coordination, collapse, and death. Heavy users are prone to irrational acts.

Heroin. Heroin is an opiate drug that causes the body to have diminished pain reactions. The use of heroin can result in coma or death due to a reduction in heart rate.

MOTOR VEHICLES (SECTION 26)	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE
a. Driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled drug or any combination of intoxicating liquor and controlled drug	Revocation of license for not less than 90 days and up to 2 years Class B misdemeanor; fine not less than \$500.	2 nd offense within 10 years; Class A misdemeanor; fine not less than \$500; 10 consecutive days mandatory sentence, 7 of which is in multiple DWI offender intervention center, at own cost; and 24 hour days in a county correctional facility; revocation of driver's license or driving privileges for not less than 3 years
b. Driving with blood alcohol level of 0.08 or more (.02 for drivers under the age of 21)	Revocation of license for not less than 90 days and up to 2 years Class B misdemeanor; fine not less than \$500; issue 30 day temporary license at time of arrest.	Misdemeanor; fine up to \$1,000; 10 days mandatory sentence, 7 of which is in offender intervention center. Same as above.
c. Alcohol-related traffic accident, death resulting	Class A Felony; (7+ year in prison)	
d. Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated – If while under the influence of intoxicating substances or with blood alcohol level of .08 or more: exceeds prima facie speed limit by 30 mph; or is involved in motor vehicle accident resulting in serious bodily injury; or attempts to elude law enforcement; or, if with blood alcohol level of .16 or more; carries a passenger person under the age of 16.	Fine not less than \$500. Driver's license or driving privilege revoked for not less than 18 months and up to 2 years. Class A misdemeanor; mandatory sentence of not less than 10 consecutive days in jail; Aggravated DWI with serious bodily injury, Class B felony; fine not less than \$1,000; mandatory sentence of not less than 21 consecutive days in jail and license revoked for not less than 18 months and not to exceed 2 years.	2 nd offense within 10 years: Class A misdemeanor; fine not less than \$500; 10 consecutive days mandatory sentence, 7 of which are in multiple DWI offender intervention center, at own cost; revocation of driving license or privilege to drive for not less than 3 years.
e. Alcohol-related traffic accident, death resulting	Class A Felony; (in excess of 7 years in prison).	
f. Possession of drugs	Misdemeanor, license revoked for a min. of 60 days, max. 2 years.	
g. Transporting of Alcoholic Beverages – No driver or passenger shall carry unsealed liquor or “beverage” in passenger area of car. Open containers, if transported, must be in trunk or if not trunk, then in least accessible area of vehicle. Includes roads and public parking areas.	Violation; if driver, license suspended for 60 days.	Violation; if driver, license suspended up to one year.
h. Transporting of Alcoholic Beverages by Minors – No driver under 21 shall transport liquor or beverage except when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or legal age spouse. Exception: if employed under RSA 179:23, may transport if at least 18 years old.	Violation; license suspended for 60 days.	

In New Hampshire, a violation is punishable by a fine. A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail. A Class B Felony is punishable by 1½ to 7 years in jail; a Class A Felony is punishable by in excess of 7 years in jail. The Court may impose fines for misdemeanors and felonies.

Other Relevant New Hampshire Laws:

Chapter 149 – Professional Use of Marijuana: RSA 318-B:10-VI is amended to allow attending physicians in the course of their professional practice to administer FDA-approved and classified Cannabis-type drugs, or cause them to be administered by a nurse or intern under the physician's directions and supervision.

False ID's: RSA 179:62 prohibits the manufacture, sale, or possession of false ID's that purport to be official documents and that contain false or inaccurate information, under penalty of a misdemeanor, or a Class B Felony if a subsequent conviction or if the act was done as a business transaction. Materials used to produce them are subject to forfeiture.

Keg Registration: 179:5 requires the identification of kegs of malt beverages. A “keg” means any brewery-sealed, individual container of malt beverage having a liquid capacity of more than 7 gallons. A purchaser found to have provided beer to minors faces misdemeanor charges and criminal penalties of up to a year in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine.

644:18 Facilitating a Drug or Underage Alcohol House Party-

1. A person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if such person owns or has control of the occupied structure, dwelling, or curtilage, where a drug or underage alcohol house party is held and such person knowingly commits an overt act in furtherance of the occurrence of the drug or underage alcohol house party knowing persons under the age of 21 possess or intend to consume alcoholic beverages or use controlled drugs at such drug or underage alcohol house party.
2. “Drug or underage alcohol house party” means a gathering of 5 or more people under the age of 21 at any occupied structure, dwellings, or curtilage, who are unrelated to the person who owns such occupied structure, dwelling, or curtilage or has control thereof, where at least one person under the age of 21 unlawfully possesses or consumes an alcoholic beverage or controlled drug.

Drug Schedule	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	Quantity	Drug	Quantity	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
I and II	Not less than 5 years. Not more than 40 years.	Not less than 10 years. Not more than life.	10-99 gm pure or 100-999 gm mixture	Methamphetamine	100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture	* Not less than 10 years. Not more than life. * If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years or more than life. * Fine of not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.	* Not less than 20 years. Not more than life. * If death or serious injury, not less than life. * Fine of not more than \$8 million individual, \$20 million other than individual.
			100-999 gm mixture	Heroin	1 kg or more mixture		
	If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years or more than life.	If death or serious injury, not less than life.	500-4,999 gm mixture	Cocaine	5 kg or more mixture		
			5-49 gm mixture	Cocaine Base	50 gm or more mixture		
			10-99 gm pure or 100-999 gm mixture	PCP	100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture		
	Fine of not more than \$2 million individual, \$5 million other than individual.	Fine of not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual.	1-9 gm mixture	LSD	10 gm or more mixture		
			40-399 gm mixture	Fentanyl	400 gm or more mixture		
		10-99 gm mixture	Fentanyl Analog	100 gm or more mixture			

Drug Schedule	Description	Drugs	Quantity	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
I	1. Has a high potential for abuse. 2. Has no current accepted medical use in the US. 3. A lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.	Includes GHB, ecstasy, methaqualone and others. Law does not include marijuana, hashish or hashish oil.	Any	Not more than 20 years. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life. Fine \$1 million individual, \$5 million not individual	* Not more than 30 years * If death or serious injury, life * Fine \$2 million individual, \$10 million not individual
II	1. Has a high potential for abuse. 2. Has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the US or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions. 3. Abuse may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.	Includes morphine, methadone, Ritalin and others	Any	Not more than 20 years If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life Fine \$1 million individual, \$5 million not individual	* Not more than 30 years * If death or serious injury, life * Fine \$2 million individual, \$10 million not individual
III	1. Has potential for abuse less than the drugs or substances in Schedules I and II. 2. Has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the US. 3. Abuse may lead to moderate or low physical or high psychological dependence.	Includes Ketamine, anabolic steroids, codeine and hydrocodone with aspirin or Tylenol, some barbiturates and others.	Any	Not more than 5 years Fine not more than \$250,000 individual, \$1 million not individual	* Not more than 10 years * Fine not more than \$500,000 individual, \$2 million not individual
IV	1. Has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in Schedule III. 2. Has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the US. 3. Abuse may lead to limited physical or psychological dependence.	Includes Darvon, Talwin, Equanil, Valium, Xanax, Rohyphnol and others.	Any	Not more than 3 years Fine not more than \$250,000 individual, \$1 million not individual	* Not more than 6 years * Fine not more than \$500,000 individual, \$2 million not individual
V	1. Has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in Schedule IV. 2. Has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the US. 3. Abuse may lead to limited physical or psychological dependence.	Includes over the counter cough medicines with codeine and others.	Any	Not more than 1 year Fine not more than \$100,000 individual, \$250,000 not individual	* Not more than 2 years * Fine not more than \$200,000 individual, \$500,000 not individual

Description	Quantity	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
Marijuana	1,000 kg or more mixture; or 1,000 or more plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not less than 10 years, not more than life * If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life * Fine not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not less than 20 years, not more than life * If death or serious injury not more than life * Fine not more than \$8 million individual, \$20 million other than individual
Marijuana	100kg-999kg mixture; or 100 to 999 plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not less than 5 years, not more than 40 years * If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life * Fine not more than \$2 million individual, \$5 million other than individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not less than 10 years, not more than life * If death or serious injury not more than life * Fine not more than \$4 million individual, \$10 million other than individual
Marijuana	50-99 kg mixture; or 50 to 99 plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not more than 20 years * If death or serious injury, not less than 20 years, not more than life * Fine not more than \$1 million individual, \$5 million other than individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not more than 30 years * If death or serious injury not more than life * Fine not more than \$1 million individual, \$5 million other than individual
Marijuana	Less than 50 kg mixture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not more than 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Not more than 10 years
Hashish	10 kg or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fine not more than \$250,000 individual, \$1 million other than individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fine not more than \$500,000 individual, \$2 million other than individual
Hashish oil	1 kg or more		

Alcohol – Under Age of 21	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
Sells to a minor (person under 21), engages in other prohibited sales, advertises, employs a youth (person under 15), transports liquor	Any natural person – Misdemeanor Any other person – Felony – loss or suspension of license	
Minor who has in his/her possession an alcoholic beverage (open or unopened)	Violation; minimum fine of \$250	Minimum fine of \$500
Misrepresentation of age for purpose of obtaining alcoholic beverages.	Misdemeanor.	
Furnish false or altered evidence of age.	Misdemeanor.	
Have in possession false or altered identification of any type that misrepresents age for purpose of obtaining alcoholic beverages.	Misdemeanor.	
Be in an area where alcoholic beverages are being served under permit unless accompanied by a person 21 years of age (except an establishment with a club license).	Misdemeanor.	

Alcohol – Applies to Anyone Regardless of Age	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
To sell, give away, cause, permit, or procure to be sold, delivered, or given away alcoholic beverage to a minor or an individual who is intoxicated.	Misdemeanor, individual; Class B Felony, corporation.	
To charge for alcoholic beverage without a license.	Misdemeanor, individual; Class B Felony, corporation.	
For any person to consume or possess in an open contained any alcoholic beverages while in or upon public place (“public place” is an area where general public can gain access).	Violation.	
To manufacture, advertise for sale, sell, or possess a facsimile or simulated driver’s license or non-driver’s license identification card.	Misdemeanor.	
To lend a driver’s license or permit to another person to use for unlawful purpose.	Misdemeanor.	
To photograph or duplicate or possess such a reproduction of a driver’s license or non-driver’s identification card that it be mistaken for valid identification.	Misdemeanor.	