

YOUTH

FAST FACTS on Marijuana Risks



Marijuana is illegal, addictive and harmful to the body, especially developing brains.

Today's Marijuana is a Powerful Drug

THC is the mind-altering chemical found in marijuana.

THC alters the way your brain works. Today's marijuana has a high THC potency. The drug changes you in many ways:¹

- Short term memory loss
- Attention problems
- Judgement changed
- Thinking distorted
- Coordination lessened
- Heart rate jumps 20-100%
- Chance of psychotic episode

Amount of THC in a Marijuana Cigarette of Today

Marijuana producers are increasing the drug potency levels.

THC in one smoked joint today can be as high as 30%.

One joint in 2016 is like smoking 10 joints in the 1970's or 80's.



Smoking 1 joint in 2016 = 10 joints of the 80's

Why it Matters

Lower Grades: Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades.³

Drop Out Rates: Students using marijuana before age 15 are **3X** more likely to leave school by age 16.³

Poor Judgment: It causes changes to your sense of judgment that can lead to risky behaviors.⁵

Accidents: Sense of time and coordination are altered, raising the risk of accidents in sports or car crashes.⁴

Does it lead to other drugs?: Using marijuana can put you on the path to using other drugs.⁵

Is it Worth the Risk?

5X

3X

How about psychosis?: The increased potency of TODAY's marijuana increases the chance of psychotic episodes, even on first-use. Regular users are 5X more likely than non-users to have a psychotic disorder. Occasional users are 3X more likely than non-users to have a psychotic disorder.⁶

A Look to the Future..You Decide

Drop in Intelligence → Addiction

8 points – Frequent persistent marijuana users who began using as youth can experience an 8 point drop of IQ, lowering intelligence permanently.¹

17% of youth who start using marijuana in their teens, will become dependent upon it.¹

25% to 50% of those who smoke marijuana daily are more likely to become dependent upon it.¹

¹ NIDA and report for the Chemical Society of America

² <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/how-does-marijuana-use-affect-your-brain-body>.

³ Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, 2010 Drug and Alcohol Use and Academic Performance Report. 2010. www.cadca.org

⁴ National Institute on Drug Abuse <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/letter-director>

⁵ Office of National Drug Control Policy 'What Americans Need to Know About Marijuana' publication

⁶ Proportion of patients in south London with first-episode psychosis attributable to use of high potency cannabis: thelancet.com/psychiatry, February 18, 2015