



Marijuana Fact Sheet

What Teens Should Know

- Marijuana might be natural, but that does not mean it is safe...Marijuana smoke contains 50—70% more cancer causing chemicals than tobacco smoke. (NIDA)
- THC (Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol) is rapidly absorbed by fatty tissues in various organs, including the brain. This fact is especially concerning when we consider the fact that the human brain can be up to 60% fat. (fitbrains.com) It is the fattiest organ in the human body.
- Withdrawal symptoms can make it hard for someone to quit using marijuana. Symptoms usually peak a few days after marijuana use has stopped. Symptoms can include: irritability, sleeping difficulties, anxiety and craving. (NIDA—Marijuana facts for teens)
- Within a few minutes after inhaling marijuana smoke, an individual's heart rate speeds up, the bronchial passages relax and become enlarged and blood vessels in the eyes expand, making the eyes look red (NIDA: Infobox Marijuana 2010). Even infrequent marijuana use can cause burning and stinging of the mouth and throat, often accompanied by a heavy cough.
- Smoking marijuana creates respiratory problems (cough, phlegm, acute chest illnesses and greater risk of lung infection) over time. (NIDA)
- Marijuana use is linked to higher dropout rates; a teenage marijuana user is 2 times more likely to drop out of school than a non-user. (NIDA)
- Weekly use of marijuana DOUBLES a teen's risk of depression and anxiety. (NIDA)
- The teen years are a very important developmental time. Marijuana use during this time can have a negative affect on social, emotional and cognitive development. (ONDCP)
- Marijuana use negatively affects judgment which can lead to poor decisions related to sex, criminal activity, driving under the influence, etc. (ONDCP)
- The National Institute of Health found that the EARLIER marijuana use begins, the HIGHER the risk of drug abuse and addiction.
- Seventeen percent (about 1 in 5) of crash victims under the age of 18 tested positive for marijuana. (ONDCP)
- One in 400 students (over 40,000) nationwide is denied federal financial aid because of a drug conviction. (US Dept. of Education)
- Teens tend to think that most of their peers are smoking pot, but the truth is that only 16 percent of Oakland County teens have used marijuana in the past 30 days.