

## GLOSSARY

---

**Addiction:** A chronic, relapsing disease, characterized by compulsive drug-seeking and use, and by neurochemical and molecular changes in the brain.

**Anxiety:** Apprehension, tension, or uneasiness from anticipation of danger, the source of which is largely unknown or unrecognized.†

**Cannabinoid receptors:** Sites on nerve cells in the brain to which THC attaches, affecting the way those cells work. Cannabinoid receptors are abundant in parts of the brain that regulate movement, coordination, learning and memory, higher cognitive functions such as judgment, and pleasure.

**Cognitive deficits:** Difficulties in reasoning, judgment, intuition and memory, or a lack of awareness and insight.

**Dependence:** Often called physical dependence, an adaptive physiological state that occurs with regular drug use and results in a withdrawal syndrome when drug use is stopped.

**Depression:** A psychiatric disorder characterized by feelings of sadness, hopelessness, guilt, changes in appetite, low energy, and difficulty concentrating.

**Longitudinal study:** A study in which the same group of individuals is interviewed at intervals over a period of time.

**Neurotransmitter:** A chemical produced by specialized cells called neurons in the brain and body to transmit messages to other neurons.

† Shahrokh, NC, and Hales, RE. American Psychiatric Glossary, Eighth Edition. Washington, DC. American Psychiatric Publishing Inc., 2003.

**Schizophrenia:** A chronic, severe, and disabling brain disease characterized by illogical patterns of thinking, delusions, and hallucinations.

**Sinsemilla:** From the Spanish for “seedless.” Sinsemilla, a higher potency marijuana, contains only the leaves and buds of the unpollinated female cannabis plant, where THC is most concentrated.

**THC:** Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the main active ingredient in marijuana and the chemical that acts on the brain to produce the drug’s effects.

**Withdrawal:** Symptoms that occur after use of a drug is reduced or stopped.