

MYTH 4

Marijuana makes you mellow.

Not always. Research shows that kids who use marijuana weekly are nearly four times more likely than non-users to report they engage in violent behavior. One study found that young people who had used marijuana in the past year were more likely than non-users to report aggressive behavior. According to that study, incidences of physically attacking people, stealing, and destroying property increased in proportion to the number of days marijuana was smoked in the past year. Users were also twice as likely as non-users to report they disobey at school and destroy their own things.⁴⁰

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In another study, researchers looking into the relationship between ten illicit drugs and eight criminal offenses found that a greater frequency of marijuana use was associated with a greater likelihood to commit weapons

offenses; except for alcohol, none of the other drugs showed such a connection. That study, published in the *Journal of Addictive Diseases* in 2001, also found a link between marijuana use and the commission of attempted homicide and reckless endangerment offenses.⁴¹