



# An Introduction to Marijuana

A PRESENTATION PROVIDED BY [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)



GetSmart*AboutDrugs*  
A DEA Resource for Parents



COMMUNITIES  
*of* PRACTICE



## An Introduction to Marijuana

[www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)

- An educational outreach and awareness website that helps parents and caregivers identify and prevent drug use.
- Located at [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)
- Provides a number of resources parents can use to get help if they suspect their child has a problem with drugs.



## Presentation Outline

- An Overview of Marijuana
- The Consequences of Marijuana Use
- Signs of Marijuana Use
- Addressing Marijuana Use with Your Children



## Overview of Marijuana

- A mind-altering (psychoactive) drug
- Produced by the Cannabis sativa plant
- Contains more than 400 chemicals
- THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the main chemical ingredient that produces the psychoactive effect
- One of the most commonly used drugs by teenagers<sup>1</sup>
- High potential for abuse
- Research finds that approximately 9% of marijuana users become dependent
- Research also indicates that the earlier young people start using marijuana, the more likely they are to become dependent on marijuana or other drugs later in life

<sup>1</sup>Source: <http://monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2011.pdf>



## Street Names

- Aunt Mary
- BC Bud
- Blunts
- Boom
- Chronic
- Dope
- Gangster
- Ganja
- Grass
- Hash
- Herb
- Hydro
- Indo
- Joint
- Kif
- Mary Jane
- Mota
- Pot
- Reefer
- Sinsemilla
- Skunk
- Smoke
- Weed
- Yerba



## Forms of Marijuana

- Dry, shredded mix of flowers, stems, seeds, and leaves from the *Cannabis sativa* plant
- Typically green, brown, or gray in color
- May resemble tobacco



## Methods of Marijuana Use

- Methods of use include:
  - Smoked as cigarette (joint)
  - Smoked in pipe or bong
  - Smoked in blunts (cigars emptied of tobacco and refilled with marijuana)
  - Mixed with foods
  - Brewed as tea



## Legal Status

- Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA)
  - High potential for abuse
  - Lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision
  - Currently no accepted medical use in treatment





## Other Drugs Made from the Cannabis Plant

- Hashish (hash)
  - Made from resinous material of cannabis plant
  - Forms include balls, cakes, or cookie-like sheets
  - Smoked in pipes or mixed with tobacco
- Hashish oil
  - Color and odor varies
  - Can be added to a cigarette
  - 1-2 drops is equal to a single marijuana joint



## The Consequences of Marijuana Use

- The effects of marijuana on:
  - The mind
  - The body
  - Our environment
- Legal consequences
- Social consequences



## Effects on the Mind: Short-Term

- Problems with memory and learning
- Distorted perception
- Difficulty in thinking and problem-solving
- Loss of coordination



## Effects on the Mind: Long-Term

- Amotivational Syndrome, characterized by:
  - Apathy
  - Impairment of judgment, memory, and concentration
  - Loss of motivation, ambition, and interest in pursuit of personal goals
- Increased risk of depression
- Increased risk and earlier onset of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders
- High doses can result in mental confusion, panic reactions, and hallucinations



## Effects on the Body: Short-Term

- Sedation
- Bloodshot eyes
- Increased heart rate
- Coughing from lung irritation
- Increased appetite
- Decreased blood pressure
- Serious health problems similar to tobacco smokers:
  - Bronchitis
  - Emphysema
  - Bronchial asthma



## Effects on the Body: Long-Term

- Suppression of the immune system
- Increased risk of cancer of the head, neck, lungs, and respiratory track
- Withdrawal from chronic use of high doses of marijuana causes physical signs including:
  - Headache
  - Shakiness
  - Sweating
  - Stomach pains and nausea
  - Restlessness
  - Irritability
  - Sleep difficulties
  - Decreased appetite



## Effect on the Environment<sup>1</sup>

- Cannabis grown in U.S. National Forests
- Growers chop down trees and burn off plants, destroying natural wildlife habitats
- Toxic pesticides, fertilizers, and insecticides seep into creeks and municipal watersheds

<sup>1</sup>Source:

[http://www.justthinktwice.com/factsfiction/fiction\\_drug\\_production\\_does\\_not\\_damage\\_the\\_environment.html](http://www.justthinktwice.com/factsfiction/fiction_drug_production_does_not_damage_the_environment.html)



## Legal Consequences<sup>1</sup>

- Athletics
- Career
- Military
- College loans
- Prison

<sup>1</sup>Source: <http://www.justthinktwice.com/content/consequences.html>





## Social Consequences<sup>1</sup>

- Relationships
  - Family
  - Friends
- Academics
- Risky behavior

<sup>1</sup>Source:

[http://www.justthinktwice.com/factsfiction/fiction\\_marijuana\\_is\\_harmless.html](http://www.justthinktwice.com/factsfiction/fiction_marijuana_is_harmless.html)



## Drugged Driving<sup>1</sup>

Marijuana can alter:

- Perception
- Attention
- Balance
- Coordination
- Reaction time

<sup>1</sup>Source:

[http://www.justthinktwice.com/consequences/drugged\\_driving\\_you\\_get\\_high\\_and\\_drive.html](http://www.justthinktwice.com/consequences/drugged_driving_you_get_high_and_drive.html)



## Signs of Marijuana Use

- Physical
- Behavioral
- Paraphernalia



## Physical Signs of Marijuana Use

- Bloodshot eyes
- Increased heart rate
- Smell of marijuana

Learn more: [http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/signs\\_of\\_drug\\_use.html](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/signs_of_drug_use.html)



## Behavioral Signs of Marijuana Use

- Restlessness
- Irritability
- Sleep difficulties
- Change in appetite
- Mental confusion
- Panic reactions
- Hallucinations

Learn more: [http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/signs\\_of\\_drug\\_use.html](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/signs_of_drug_use.html)



## Marijuana Paraphernalia

- Rolling papers
- Cigars to make a “blunt”
- Small plastic baggies and “stash cans”
- Deodorizers, incense, and room deodorizers used to disguise the smell of marijuana
- Pipes (metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, or ceramic)
- Bong
- Roach clips



## Addressing Marijuana Use with Your Children

- Children who learn about the risks of drug use from their parents are 50% less likely to use drugs than those who do not
- Take advantage of “teachable moments”
- Encourage your children to act and think responsibly



## Finding Treatment: Hotlines

Hotlines for drug use:

- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Hotline  
800-662-HELP (4357)
- Girls and Boys Town National Hotline  
800-448-3000
- National Alcohol and Substance Abuse Information Center  
800-784-6776

For more resources, visit: <http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html>





## Finding Treatment: Online

Online resources for finding treatment:

- The Partnership at Drugfree.org's "Get Treatment" page:  
<http://www.drugfree.org/get-treatment>
- Just Think Twice, "Find Help" page:  
[http://www.justthinktwice.com/content/find\\_help.html](http://www.justthinktwice.com/content/find_help.html)
- SAMHSA Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator:  
<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>
- NIDA Treatment Research:  
[www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/treatment-research](http://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/treatment-research)

*For more resources, visit:*

<http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html>



## Online Resources: Government Agencies

- DEA:
  - [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)
  - [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
  - [www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)
  - [www.teens.drugabuse.gov](http://www.teens.drugabuse.gov)
- The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP):
  - [www.prevention.samhsa.gov](http://www.prevention.samhsa.gov)



## Online Resources: Drug Prevention Organizations

- The Partnership at Drugfree.org:  
<http://www.drugfree.org>
- American Council for Drug Education (ACDE):  
[www.acde.org](http://www.acde.org)
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA):  
[www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)
- The Anti-Drug:  
[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)
- D.A.R.E. America:  
[www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com)
- Join Together:  
[www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org)



## Conclusion

- Know the facts about marijuana
- Be aware of the risks associated with marijuana
- Learn to detect signs of marijuana use
- Talk to your children about the risks associated with marijuana, and keep them safe
- Share your knowledge about marijuana with others



## Local Information



## Local Information