



Signs of Marijuana Abuse

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Marijuana is a mind-altering (psychoactive) drug, produced by the Cannabis sativa plant. The most widely abused illicit drug among teens, marijuana has a high potential for addiction. The following are signs of possible marijuana abuse.

Physical Signs

- Bloodshot eyes
- Increased heart rate
- Smell of marijuana – Marijuana has a telltale smell that can often be detected on breath or clothing

Behavioral Signs

Marijuana use leads to many behavioral changes. While some of these changes are typical of adolescence in general, many are brought on by drug use.

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

Paraphernalia

Paraphernalia is also a strong indicator of possible marijuana use. Items that suggest this include:

- 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

Source: *The Partnership for a Drug-Free America*, www.drugfree.org/Parent/HowToSpotUse/Articles/Is_Your_Teen_Using.aspx



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