



# Marijuana

IS THE MOST COMMONLY USED ILLICIT DRUG IN THE UNITED STATES

# What is it?

- ▶ Is the dried leaves, flowers, stems and seeds from cannabis sativa or Cannabis indica.
- ▶ The plant contains the mind-altering chemical THC
  - ▶ Also contains over 400 other chemicals



# Street Names

- ▶ Pot
- ▶ Herb
- ▶ Weed
- ▶ Buds
- ▶ Blaze
- ▶ Grass
- ▶ Mary Jane
- ▶ Ganja
- ▶ Hemp
- ▶ Reefer
- ▶ Dagga
- ▶ Dope
- ▶ White Widow

# How Is It Used?

- ▶ Smoke
  - ▶ Hand-rolled cigarettes (joints)
  - ▶ Pipes
  - ▶ Water pipes (bongs)
  - ▶ Emptied cigars (blunts)
  - ▶ Vaporizers
- ▶ Mix it in Food



# Dabbing



- ▶ THC extracted into oil is heated quickly
- ▶ Inhaled through a special apparatus called a “dap rig”, or an “oil rig”
- ▶ When a person inhales a concentrated hit of dapping, the effects are intensified.
- ▶ The THC content can range from 60%-90%
- ▶ The harmful effects of dapping are not yet known.
- ▶ Can create psychotic breaks, hallucinations, and having sensations like insects crawling under the skin
- ▶ The concentrates are very that people have been overdosing from dabbing.



# Short-Term Effects

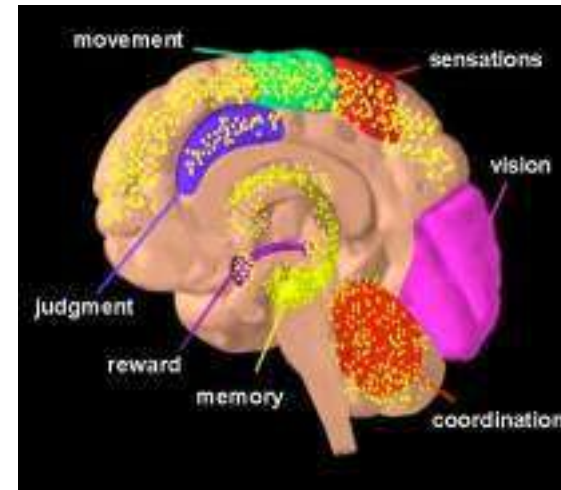
- ▶ Marijuana has both short and long term effects on the brain
- ▶ When marijuana is smoked, THC quickly passes from the lungs into the bloodstream.
- ▶ The blood carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body.
- ▶ THC acts on a specific brain cell receptors which effects brain development and function.
- ▶ Marijuana over activates parts of the brain the contain the highest numbers of these receptors.

# Short-Term Effects

- ▶ Altered senses
- ▶ Altered sense of time
- ▶ Changes in mood
- ▶ Impaired body movement
- ▶ Difficulty with thinking and problem-solving
- ▶ Hallucinations (when taken in high doses)
- ▶ Delusions (when taken in high doses)
- ▶ Psychosis (when taken in high doses)
- ▶ Affects memory, judgement and perception-can last for days.
- ▶ Paranoia
- ▶ Dry Mouth
- ▶ Blood Shot eyes
- ▶ Increased HR
- ▶ Increased appetite

# Effect on Brain

- ▶ Marijuana use directly affects the brain
  - ▶ Memory
  - ▶ Learning
  - ▶ Attention
  - ▶ Decision Making
  - ▶ Coordination
  - ▶ Emotions
  - ▶ Reaction Time





# Long-Term Effects

- ▶ Affects brain development when used as a teenager
  - ▶ Impair thinking, memory and learning functions.
- ▶ Cancer
- ▶ Heart Health- High HR and Blood pressure
- ▶ Lung Health
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Decreased athletic ability
- ▶ Lower IQ in teenage users.

## How Does Marijuana Affect a Person's Life?

Compared to those who don't use marijuana, those who frequently use large amounts report the following:

- lower life satisfaction
- poorer mental health
- poorer physical health
- more relationship problems

People also report less academic and career success. For example, marijuana use is linked to a higher likelihood of dropping out of school. <sup>16</sup> It's also linked to more job absences, accidents, and injuries. <sup>17</sup>

# Facts/Statistics

- ▶ Marijuana can be addictive. Around 30% of users develop some sort of use disorder.
- ▶ Studies report that people who begin using marijuana before the age of 18 are 4-7 times more likely to develop a marijuana disorder.
- ▶ Long-term marijuana users who try quit report withdrawal symptoms
  - ▶ Grouchiness
  - ▶ Sleeplessness
  - ▶ Decreased appetite
  - ▶ Anxiety
  - ▶ Cravings

# Medical Marijuana

- ▶ Refers to using the whole unprocessed marijuana plant or its basic extracts to treat symptoms of illness and other conditions.
- ▶ The U.S. FDA has NOT recognized or approved the marijuana plant as medicine.
- ▶ However, the FDA has approved 2 drugs containing a synthetic versions of a substances in marijuana.
  - ▶ One is to treat muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis
  - ▶ Once is to treat nausea in patients undergoing chemotherapy or AIDS patients suffering from loss of appetite.

# Legalization: Fact/Statistics

- ▶ It is illegal to buy, sell or carry marijuana under federal law.
- ▶ Cannabis is classified as a Schedule 1 drug, which means it is viewed as highly addictive with no medical value.
- ▶ 29 states and the District of Columbia currently have laws broadly legalizing marijuana in some form.
- ▶ 7 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the most expansive laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use.
- ▶ A number of states have also decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana
- ▶ **Because of the developing teen brain and the risk of driving under the influence, marijuana use by people under the age of 21 is prohibited in all states.**

# Why do people use it?

- ▶ To fit in
- ▶ To escape or relax
- ▶ To relieve boredom
- ▶ To seem grown up
- ▶ To Rebel
- ▶ To experiment
- ▶ Belief that it is not harmful

