



National Drug Awareness Program

What You Should Know About...

MARIJUANA

Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug in America.



What is marijuana?

Marijuana is a mindaltering (psychoactive) drug produced by the Cannabis Sativa plant. THC is the main chemical ingredient that produces the psychoactive affect. Pot, weed, reefer, skunk, and mary jane are some other names for marijuana.

How is marijuana used?

Marijuana is usually smoked as a cigarette (called a joint) or in a pipe or bong.

Is marijuana addictive? Yes.

What is the effect of using marijuana?

- Marijuana use may cause problems with short-term memory, attention, judgment, learning skills, coordination and balance, heart rate, and psychotic episodes.
- Long term use may increase the risk of chronic cough and bronchitis, depression, anxiety.
- It increases the risk of schizophrenia in vulnerable persons.
- The brain is still developing through young adulthood. Current research shows marijuana use may negatively affect the teen brain and teen development.

What is the Scope of Marijuana Use?

- In 2009, a national survey reported that 20.8 percent of students were current marijuana users.
- In a 2008 national survey, 68 percent of youth ages 12 to 17 in substance abuse treatment facilities reported marijuana as the primary substance for their treatment admission.

True or False?

- According to a 2009 national survey, 82 percent of youth ages 12 to 17 disapprove of friends using marijuana once a month or more? **TRUE**
- Ninety percent of youth ages 12 to 17 reported in a 2009 national survey that their parents would strongly disapprove of their trying marijuana once or twice.

TRUE

Fiction: Marijuana Can Be Used As Medicine

- The scientific community has not approved marijuana as medicine.
- In 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ruled that “no sound scientific studies” supported the medical use of marijuana.

Sources:

CDC, 2009, Youth Risk Behavior Survey;
SAMHSA Treatment Episode Date Set (1998-2008);
SAMHSA, 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

For more information contact your local Elks Lodge or to order free drug educational materials visit:

www.elks.org/dap

For drug prevention information visit DEA's website:

for parents: www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com;

for teens: www.JustThinkTwice.com

The Elks Drug Awareness Program is fully funded by the Elks National Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA. The Elks are committed to providing a healthy future for America's youth. In addition to educating young people about the dangers of drugs, the Elks provide positive alternatives such as the Hoop Shoot® and Soccer Shoot athletic programs. The Foundation also annually awards nearly \$3.6 million in college scholarships. For more information, contact your local Elks Lodge or visit the Elks website at www.elks.org.

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