



## WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA?

Users of marijuana suffer memory loss and attention problems that can affect their work, their life, and their ability to learn. Long-term marijuana use can lead to addiction for some people, that is they use the drug compulsively even though it often interferes with family, school, work, and recreational activities.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF MARIJUANA USE

- Sleepiness
- Difficulty keeping track of time, impaired or reduced short-term memory
- Reduced ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, such as driving a car
- Increased heart rate
- Potential cardiac dangers for those with pre-existing heart disease
- Bloodshot eyes
- Dry mouth and throat
- Decreased social inhibitions
- Paranoia, hallucinations
- Impaired or reduced comprehension
- Altered motivation and cognition, making the acquisition of new information difficult
- Psychological dependence
- Impairments in learning, memory, perception, judgment, difficulty speaking, listening effectively, thinking, retaining knowledge, problem solving and forming concepts
- Anxiety or panic attacks
- Increased thirst and appetite called the "munchies".

For additional information related to the contents of this brochure, please contact the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

### Truth & Choices

The Office of Attorney General has created this new anti-drug program to introduce middle and high school students to Shane. A popular kid from a suburban Pennsylvania school, Shane shares this true story of hard choices and near death experiences due to drugs and alcohol. The presentation features interviews with Shane (from prison), his family, law enforcement and the medical community. It's a reality check for all students and will open a unique dialogue about the realities of substance abuse. There is also a program for parents. Both programs are available on DVD and can be ordered free-of-charge from the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

To order a copy of the DVD and/or to request a "Truth & Choices" school or community presentation to be given by the Office of Attorney General, please contact our Education & Outreach Unit toll-free at **800-525-7642** or via email at [education@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:education@attorneygeneral.gov).

**MARIJUANA**

pot

herb

weed

dope

reefer

Mary Jane

MJ

grass

*Marijuana is the nation's most commonly used illicit drug and continues to be a problem throughout Pennsylvania.*

*Individuals of every age and economic status are using the drug, though it is most popular with high school and college students because of its availability and relatively low price.*

*Marijuana comes from growers outside the United States, or from "home grown" operations, in fields, homes and other locations right here in Pennsylvania. Marijuana has a high potential for abuse and can cause memory loss as well as addiction for long-term users.*

*Please read over the information in this brochure, educate yourself about the problem and report suspected marijuana use or production to the Office of Attorney General or your local police department.*

## **WHAT IS MARIJUANA?**

Marijuana is the nation's most commonly used illicit drug. Marijuana is a green, brown, or gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds and flowers of the hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa*). Cannabis is a term that refers to marijuana and other drugs made from the same plant. Other forms of cannabis include sinsemilla, hashish, and hash oil.

All forms of cannabis are mind-altering (psychoactive) drugs. The major active chemical in marijuana/hashish is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which causes the mind-altering effects of marijuana/hashish intoxication, but more than 400 other chemicals also are in the plant.

The amount of THC (which is also the psychoactive ingredient in hashish) determines the potency and, therefore, the effects of marijuana.

THC in marijuana is strongly absorbed by fatty tissues in various organs. Generally, traces (metabolites) of THC can be detected by standard urine testing methods several days after smoking. However, in heavy chronic users, traces can sometimes be detected for weeks after they have stopped using marijuana.

It is a schedule I controlled substance. Schedule I controlled substances have a high potential for abuse.

## **HOW IS IT USED?**

Most users roll loose marijuana into a cigarette called a "joint." A typical joint contains between .5 and 1.0 gram of cannabis plant matter, which varies in THC content between 5 and 150

milligrams. Marijuana cigarettes or blunts often include crack cocaine, a combination known by various street names such as "primos" or "woolies." Joints and blunts often dipped in PCP are called "happy sticks," "wicky sticks," "love boat" or "tical." The drug can also be smoked in a water pipe called a "bong." Some users mix marijuana into foods or use it to brew tea.

Hash users either smoke the drug in a pipe or mix it with tobacco and smoke it as a cigarette.

## **WHERE DOES IT COME FROM:**

Mainly Mexico, Jamaica, and "Home Grown" in the US, in fields and indoors. Hashish, or hash, is made by taking the resin from the leaves and flowers of the marijuana and may contain five or ten times as much THC.

## **WHO USES MARIJUANA?**

Individuals of every age and economic status are using the drug. Marijuana is very popular with high school students as it is easy assessable and is very inexpensive.

## **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

Cost varies, however, one gram of marijuana usually costs about \$10.00

## **STREET NAMES:**

### **PACKAGING:**

Plastic baggies and brown paper envelopes.

<b>pot</b>	<b>reefer</b>
<b>herb</b>	<b>Mary Jane</b>
<b>weed</b>	<b>MJ</b>
<b>dope</b>	<b>grass</b>