

NEGATIVE SOCIAL IMPACT OF DRUG USE

Prolonged use of Marijuana may cause:

- Strained relationships with family and friends
- Monetary strain which can lead to job loss and homelessness
- Increased susceptibility to stress and mental health disorders such as depression and schizophrenia



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MARIJUANA /WEED USE

WHAT IS MARIJUANA?

Marijuana is popularly known as ganja, weed or herb, and refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems and seeds from the cannabis sativa and indica plant. It contains the mind altering chemical known as THC (Delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol) and other similar compounds.

Marijuana contains over 400 naturally occurring chemicals. Some of the by-products of these chemicals are eliminated within 24 hours of consumption, but the rest can stay in organs with a high fat content (brain, heart, sex organs, kidney and liver) for months after use.

Marijuana is usually smoked in a cigarette or pipe; however it is also widely infused in products that you can eat or drink (edibles). Edibles have a high potential for overdose due to the delayed onset of effects.



HEALTH EFFECTS

Whether consumed through smoking or ingesting (edibles), marijuana can cause:

- Inflammation of the lungs, increased risk of chest infections, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, lung, mouth and throat cancer.
- Cancer due to high levels of tar and other cancer-causing substances
- Increased appetite, distorted perception, bloodshot eye, dry mouth and throat
- Slowed reflexes and/or coordination
- Increased heart rate and/or pulse rate
- Problems with memory, learning, concentration and coordination
- Inhibition of cell growth
- Impaired functioning of the nervous system
- Stomach and intestine linings become tender; bleeding and ulcers
- Hormone changes and/or infertility (for both man and women)
- Damage to offspring: Use during pregnancy can be harmful to a baby's health and may cause serious problems including stillbirth, preterm birth and growth and development issues

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

The use of marijuana may cause:

- Psychosis
- Decreased motivation
- Slowed learning ability
- Impaired short term memory
- Paranoia
- Difficulty thinking and problem solving
- Anxiety and panic attacks
- Addiction
- Lack of feeling or emotion; apathy

