

# Educators

## FAST FACTS on Marijuana Risks

### Marijuana Use Impacts Teachers, Administrators and Students

Short-term memory loss  
 Attention problems  
 Judgment changed  
 Thinking distorted  
 Coordination lessened  
 Balance lessened  
 Heart rate jumps 20-100%  
 Chance of psychotic episode

**Lower Grades:** Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades.

**Drop-out Rates:** Students who use marijuana before age 15 are 3X more likely to leave school by age 16.

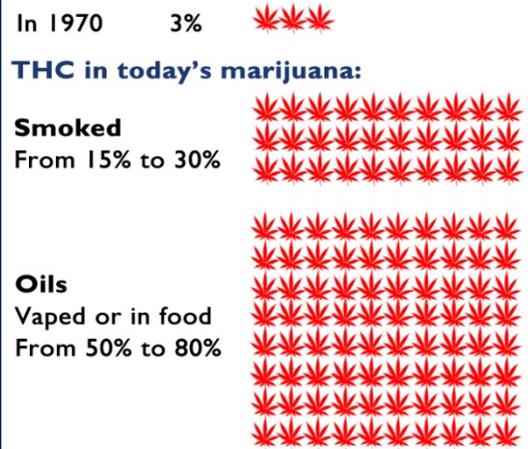
**Poor Judgment:** It causes changes to a person's sense of judgment that can lead to risky behaviors.

**Accidents:** Sense of time and coordination are altered, raising the risk of accidents in sports or car crashes.

45% of the marijuana consumed in Colorado is in edible form.

- A recent study found that those who used cannabis heavily in their teens and continued through adulthood showed a permanent drop in IQ of 8 points.
- Marijuana continues to negatively affect attention span, memory, learning, and intelligence after the intoxicating effects of the drug have subsided.
- Youth who are persistent cannabis users have significantly more memory and attention problems; easily getting distracted, misplacing things, forgetting to keep appointments, or returning calls.
- Youth with an average grade of D or below were four times more likely to have used marijuana in the past year than youth with an average grade of A.

#### THC Levels and Increased Potency

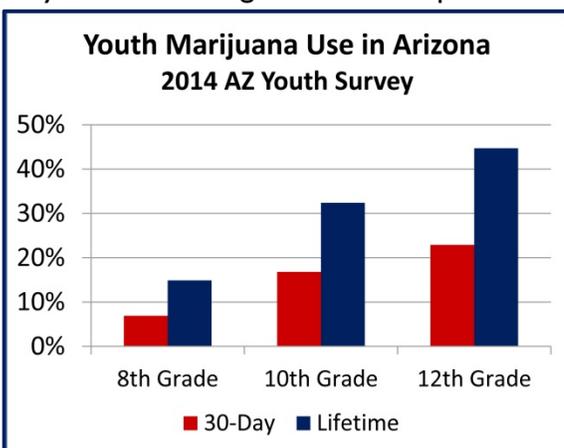


Source: NIDA and Report for the American Chemical Society.

Marijuana affects brain development and is associated with poorer academic performance.

### An Impact on Learning

Almost 25% of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students report using the drug marijuana in the past 30 days, which is a sign of more frequent use.



### Impact on Youth Mental Health

Marijuana use can worsen depression, leading to more serious mental illnesses such as psychosis, schizophrenia, anxiety, and even suicide.

#### Addiction

**17%** of youth who start using marijuana in their teens, will become dependent upon it.

**25% to 50%** of those who smoke marijuana daily are more likely to become dependent upon it.