# Youth FAST FACTS on Marijuana Risks

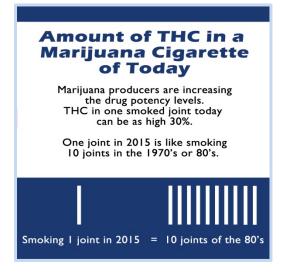


### **TODAY'S Marijuana is a Powerful Drug**

THC is the mind-altering chemical found in marijuana.

THC alters the way your brain works. Today's marijuana has a high THC potency. The drug changes you in many ways:

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



## Why It Matters to You

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

**Drop Out Rates:** Students using marijuana before age 15 are **3X** more likely to leave school by age 16.

**Poor Judgment:** It causes changes to your 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.

Does it lead to other drugs?: Using marijuana can put you on the path to using other drugs.

#### **is it Worth the Risk?**

5X

EXX

How about psychosis?: The increased potency of TODAY's marijuana increases the chance of psychotic episodes, even on first-use. Regular users are 5X more likely than non-users to have a psychotic disorder. Occasional users are 3X more likely than non-users to have a psychotic disorder.

## A Look to the Future - You Decide ● Drop in Intelligence ● Addiction

8 points - Young and frequent marijuana users can have a drop in IQ of 8 points, lowering intelligence.

7% 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.