

# 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:<sup>1</sup>

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

## Amount of THC in a Marijuana Cigarette of Today

Marijuana producers are increasing the drug potency levels. THC in one smoked joint today can be as high 30%.

One joint in 2015 is like smoking 10 joints in the 1970's or 80's.

Smoking 1 joint in 2015 = 10 joints of the 80's

## Why It Matters to You

**Lower Grades:** Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades.<sup>3</sup>

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

**Poor Judgment:** It causes changes to your sense of judgment that can lead to risky behaviors.<sup>5</sup>

**Accidents:** Sense of time and coordination are altered, raising the risk of accidents in sports or car crashes.<sup>4</sup>

**Does it lead to other drugs?:** Using marijuana can put you on the path to using other drugs.<sup>5</sup>

## Is It Worth the Risk?

**5X**

**3X**

**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.<sup>6</sup>

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

**17%** of youth who start using marijuana in their teens, will become dependent upon it.<sup>1</sup>

**25% to 50%** of those who smoke marijuana daily are more likely to become dependent upon it.<sup>1</sup>

1 NIDA and report for the Chemical Society of America

2 <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/how-does-marijuana-use-affect-your-brain-body>.

3 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, 2010 Drug and Alcohol Use and Academic Performance Report. 2010. [www.cadca.org](http://www.cadca.org)

4 National Institute on Drug Abuse <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/letter-director>

5 Office of National Drug Control Policy 'What Americans Need to Know About Marijuana' publication

6 Proportion of patients in south London with first-episode psychosis attributable to use of high potency cannabis: [thelancet.com/psychiatry](http://thelancet.com/psychiatry), February 18, 2015