

# PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS FAST FACTS on Marijuana Risks

## TODAY'S Marijuana is a Powerful Drug

THC is the mind-altering chemical found in marijuana. THC changes the way a child's brain works.

Short-term memory loss  
Attention problems  
Judgment changed  
Thinking distorted

Coordination lessened  
Balance lessened  
Heart rate jumps 20-100%  
Chance of psychotic episode

## TODAY'S Marijuana has a High Potency Intoxication and Impairment

**Poor Judgment:** Marijuana use compromises judgment, which can lead to engaging in risky behaviors.

**Accidents:** Marijuana use raises the risk of injury or death from accidents, such as in sports or autos. These effects can last up to 24 hours after use.

**Leads to Other Drugs:** Youth who start using marijuana early are more likely to use other drugs.

## PROBLEMS in School

**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.

**Mental Health:** Marijuana use is associated with anxiety, depression, a-motivational syndrome and schizophrenia.

## What to Watch For

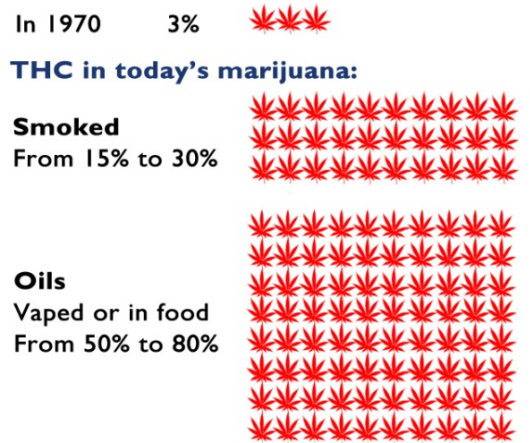
### Watch for behaviors:

Marijuana causes changes in behavior such as lethargy, listlessness, food cravings, lack of coordination, very red and bloodshot eyes, acting unusually giggly or having a hard time remembering things.

### Watch for weed, buds, oils, dabs, edibles, vaping:

Note: Potent hash oil is used in vaporizing devices, and does not emit an odor. (Is marketed for 'discreet use.')

## THC Levels and Increased Potency



Source: NIDA and Report for the American Chemical Society.

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



## What is in Your Child's Future?

### Lower Intelligence – 8 point IQ drop

Studies show, young and frequent marijuana users can have a drop in IQ of 8 points, lowering intelligence.

### 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.