

# 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

## 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.



## 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**

**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.

## 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.

**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.