

# 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. <sup>3</sup>

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. <sup>5</sup>

**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. <sup>5</sup>

**Leads to Other Drugs:** Youth who start using marijuana early are more likely to use other drugs. <sup>6</sup>

## PROBLEMS in School

**Lower Grades:** Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades. <sup>4</sup>

**Drop Out Rates:** Students who use marijuana before age 15 are 3X more likely to leave school by age 16. <sup>4</sup>

**Mental Health:** Marijuana use is associated with anxiety, depression, a-motivational syndrome and schizophrenia. <sup>7</sup>

## What to Watch For

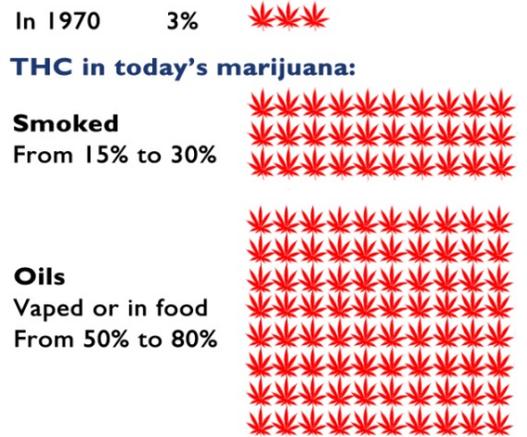
### Watch for behaviors:

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. <sup>8</sup>

### 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. <sup>2</sup>



## 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. <sup>9</sup>

### Addiction

**17%** of youth who start using marijuana in their teens, will become dependent upon it. <sup>10</sup>

**25% to 50%** of those who smoke marijuana daily are more likely to become dependent upon it. <sup>10</sup>

- 1 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2009 Report, 2015 Report to the Chemical Society of America and NIDA
  - 2 Denver Post 10/20/14
  - 3 <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/how-does-marijuana-use-affect-your-brain-body>.
  - 4 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, 2010 Drug and Alcohol Use and Academic Performance Report. 2010.  
[www.cadca.org](http://www.cadca.org)
  - 5 National Institute on Drug Abuse <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/letter-director>
  - 6 Office of National Drug Control Policy 'What Americans Need to Know About Marijuana' publication
  - 7 <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/there-link-between-marijuana-use-mental-illness>
  - 8 <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-parents-need-to-know/want-to-know-more-some-faqs-about-marijuana>
  - 9 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by Dr. Madeline Meier of Duke University,  
<http://www.pnas.org/content/109/40/E2657.full>
  - 10 <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-addictive>
- Edible data The Denver Post 12/26/201 By Jordan Steffen Pot edibles were big surprise in first year of recreational sales

