



# FACTS ABOUT MARIJUANA

**1** Marijuana is a product of the hemp plant *Cannabis sativa*. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC, is the main active chemical in marijuana.

**2 Short-term effects of marijuana:** Memory loss, distorted perception (sights, sounds, time, touch), trouble with thinking and problem solving, loss of motor coordination, increased heart rate, and anxiety. These effects are even greater when other drugs are used with marijuana.

**3 Long-term effects of marijuana:** Marijuana smoke contains some of the same cancer-causing compounds as tobacco. Studies have shown that someone who smokes five marijuana joints per week may be taking in as many cancer-causing chemicals as someone who smokes a full pack of cigarettes every day.

**4 It's dangerous to do drugs and drive.** You've probably heard a lot about the dangers of drinking and driving. Well, doing drugs like marijuana and getting behind the wheel of a car is just as dangerous as drinking and driving. The short-term effects of smoking marijuana—like loss of motor coordination, distorted perception, and anxiety—can adversely affect a person's ability to drive a car properly.

**5 Marijuana is more potent today than it has been in the past.** The THC content in marijuana can be as high as 20 percent. THC is dangerous because it suppresses neurons in your brain, making it harder for your brain to process information.

**6 If you're depressed, marijuana can make you feel worse.** Studies have shown that using marijuana as frequently as once a week can double a teen's risk of suffering serious depression. Teens girls are especially at risk. Daily use of marijuana can increase the chances of girls feeling depressed or anxious by five times, according to studies.

**7 Marijuana is also called the following names:**

Aunt Mary  
Boom  
Chronic  
Dope  
Gangster  
Grass  
Hash  
Herb

Kif  
Mary Jane  
Pot  
Reefer  
Sinsemilla  
Skunk  
Weed

If anyone offers you a drug called by one of the names listed above, they are offering you marijuana.