

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE
ABUSING MARIJUANA, CONTACT A GATEWAY
TREATMENT CENTER NEAR YOU.

ILLINOIS

Aurora

Bloomington

Carbondale

Caseyville

Chicago Northwest

Chicago River North

Chicago West

Lake Villa

Pekin

Springfield

Swansea

Get the Facts on:

Marijuana

24-Hour Helpline
877-505-HOPE (4673)
RecoverGateway.org

MORE WAYS TO STAY INFORMED



Real Answers for Lasting Recovery

Sources: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center
for Substance Abuse Prevention.

*Adapted by CESAR from The Partnership at Drugfree.org and the
MetLife Foundation, The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study: 2011
Parents and Teens Full Report, 2012.*

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Real Answers for Lasting Recovery

MARIJUANA

Also known as: *Weed, Pot, Grass, Reefer, Ganja, Mary Jane, Blunt, Joint, Roach, Nail*

It can be hard to tell if someone has been using marijuana. If teens show the following warning signs, they may be using marijuana:

KNOW THE SIGNS

- Seeming dizzy and having trouble walking
- Having red, bloodshot eyes and smelly hair and clothes
- Having a hard time remembering things that just happened
- Acting silly for no apparent reason

YOUR BRAIN

THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) affects the nerve cells in the part of the brain where memories are formed. The effects on both the body and the brain are potentially more intense now than in the past because marijuana of today is more potent.

YOUR LUNGS

Marijuana smoke deposits four times more tar in the lungs and contains 50-70% more cancer-causing substances than tobacco smoke does.

YOUR HEALTH

Marijuana can limit your body's ability to fight off infection. Heavy marijuana use also has been linked with depression, anxiety and personality disturbances.

CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Not everyone who uses marijuana becomes addicted, but some users do develop signs of dependence. In 2010, approximately 353,000 Americans ages 12 or older entered drug treatment programs to kick their marijuana habit.

KNOW THE RISKS

Marijuana affects your judgment, drains your motivation and can make you feel anxious. It affects your coordination and reaction time, raising your risk of injury or death from car crashes and other accidents. In 2011, nearly 456,000 people were admitted to emergency rooms suffering from marijuana-related problems. This represents a 52% increase since 2004.

IT'S NOT WHAT IT MAY SEEM

Marijuana can be laced with substances such as PCP, formaldehyde or codeine cough syrup without your knowledge. "Blunts," hollowed-out cigars filled with marijuana, sometimes have crack cocaine added.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT MARIJUANA

- Smoking marijuana can cause health problems, such as chronic coughing, chest colds, lung infections, breathing problems and cancer.
- New growing and harvesting techniques produce marijuana that is about **275%** more potent than it was just 10 years ago.
- Smoking marijuana is worse than smoking cigarettes. **One joint a day can be as harmful as four cigarettes a day.**

TEENS AND MARIJUANA

Most adolescents aren't smoking marijuana. A 2011 SAMHSA survey of drug use found that 58 percent of Americans ages 12 and older had never used marijuana.

It has not yet been proven that using marijuana leads to using other drugs, but most teens who try drugs start with marijuana, alcohol or tobacco.

In 2012, nearly one in ten high school students (9%) reported using marijuana 20 times or more in the past month.

KNOW THE LAW

As of May 2013, 18 states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana prescribed by a doctor; legislation to legalize medical weed is pending in many other states, including Illinois. In 2013, Colorado became the first U.S. state to take steps toward implementing the legal sale, regulation and tax of marijuana for recreational use.

The U.S. FDA considers marijuana a Schedule I drug. People who are caught using marijuana, selling marijuana or carrying it without a prescription, could face serious law enforcement action, and charges could persist on one's record for decades. This could make it hard to get a job, rent an apartment or even open a bank account.