

# Marijuana



## *Facts on Marijuana:*

- Marijuana comes from the plant *Cannabis Sativa*.
- A key ingredient in marijuana is Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which gives the leaves, flowering tops, and stems a powerful effect (“high”) when smoked or ingested.
  - The more THC in marijuana, the stronger and longer the high, and the longer it will remain in the body.  
*Marijuana plants grown in Hawaii have especially high THC content.*
- Street names for marijuana include:
  - *Pakalolo, Pot, Weed, Grass, Maui-Wowie, Blunt, J, Ganja, Mary Jane, Bomb, Doobie, Herbs, Buds, Roach, Hay (and the list goes on).*
- There are over 400 chemicals in marijuana; the number of chemicals increase to over 2,000 (many of these are **carcinogens or cancer causing agents**) when the drug is smoked.
  - **Marijuana smoke has 50—70% more carcinogens and tars than tobacco smoke.**
- After smoking only one joint, 10 to 20 percent of the drug (THC) attaches to body tissue for up to 30 days. Traces of THC can be found up to four and a half months after stopping habitual use of the drug.
- Its legal use is strictly monitored and regulated for medicinal purposes for people who are terminally ill; the plant

*Marijuana is the most commonly identified illicit drug in fatal accidents (about 14% of drivers), sometimes in combination with alcohol or other drugs.*



## *Marijuana Use/Abuse Nationally and in Hawaii:*

In 2014, more than 22.2 million people in the U.S. have reported using marijuana in the past month, making it the most used illicit drug.

- Marijuana was the primary substance used at the time of admission for the majority of adolescents (62.4%) in 2012
- The 2013 Youth Risk Behaviors Hawaii School Health Survey reports that of Hawaii high school youth:
  - 10.4% have tried marijuana for the first time before age 13
  - 18.5% have used marijuana in the past 30 days
  - 7.5% have used marijuana on school property in the past 30 days

*Evidence shows that exposure to substance abuse at an early age, by community, family & friends is one of the strongest factors that will influence the use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs use in the future.*

## Effects of Marijuana Use:

Causes precancerous lesions of the lungs

Increases risks of asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema

Reduces ability to learn and retain information

Interferes with brain function:

Impairs perception, impairs judgment of speed and time, impairs motor coordination,  
Impairs short-term/long-term memory (especially in youth)

Reduces resistance to common illnesses

Increases heart rate, anxiety, panic attacks

Increased risk of heart attack

## Possible Indicators/Paraphernalia of Use:

- Bloodshot/glassy eyes
- Burnt fingertips
- Giggly and silly (for no reason)
- Odor on clothes/bedroom
- Eating binges
- Eye drops
- Incense, breath mints to hide odor
- Glass pipes, bongs, or other objects used for smoking (including cigarette paper and lighters)

## Withdrawal Symptoms:

- Irritability
- Agitation
- Insomnia
- Difficulty remembering/learning
- Depression

## Legal Issues:

*Use or distribution of marijuana is a crime under both Hawaii and U.S. Law. The following is a brief summary of Hawaii laws on marijuana possession and distribution*

- **Promoting detrimental (Schedule I –under Hawaii State and Federal Law) drugs in the third degree**
  - Possessing less than 1oz. of marijuana
  - A Petty misdemeanor with a maximum jail term of 30 days or a \$1,000 fine
- **Promoting a detrimental drug in the second degree**
  - Possessing 1oz. or more of marijuana, or distribution of any marijuana
  - A misdemeanor which carries a maximum one year in jail or a \$2,000 fine
- **Commercial Promotion of Marijuana in the second degree**
  - Possessing two pounds or more of marijuana, distribution of one pound or more of marijuana, possession or cultivation of 50 or more marijuana plants, cultivation of any marijuana plant on land owned by another, or the sale of marijuana to a minor
  - A class B felony with a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and/or a \$25,000 fine
- **Commercial Promotion of Marijuana in the first degree**
  - Possessing 25 pounds or more of marijuana, distribution of five pounds or more of marijuana, possession of 100 or more marijuana plants, or cultivation of 25 marijuana plants on land owned by another person
  - A class A felony with a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, or a \$50,000 fine
- **The distribution, or possession with the intent to distribute any controlled substance in, on or near schools, or school vehicles is a class C felony.**
  - The maximum penalty is 5 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine
- **Under Hawaii's Law, Medical Marijuana is legal in the state.**
  - Patients who use fall under this category must have certain qualifying illnesses, obtain a doctor's recommendation to use medical marijuana, and register with the State Department of Public Safety to avoid criminal prosecution under state law (*Federal Laws do not support this legalization*).

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All information was compiled by the Prevention Resource Center of the Coalition For A Drug-Free Hawaii for educational purposes only. Sources: State Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division 2007 Hawaii Student Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Study; The Honolulu Police Department Narcotics/Vice Division; The State Department of Health/Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (DOH/ADAD) Client Data System Admissions FY 2002; Community Epidemiological Work Group 12/00; NIDA Marijuana: Facts for Teens, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, 2011; Attorney General's Hawaii Drug Offense Arrests, 1998-2003; ONDCP's Street Terms: Drugs and the Drug Trade, "http://whitehousedrugpolicy.gov." Client Data System Admission Data (Excluding Social Detox) 1999, www.samhsa.gov/oas/NHSDA/2002; www.honolulu.gov; and the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), http://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/dmas/Hawaii\_DMA-2011(U).pdf, Streetdrugs 2013.

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