



Marijuana Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Drug Information About Marijuana

Question	Answer
1. What type of drug is marijuana?	1. Cannabinoid
2. What schedule of drug does marijuana belong to according to the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) of 1970	2. Marijuana is a Schedule 1 drug. Drugs in this classification are not approved for medical use and have a “high potential for abuse.”
3. Does the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) enforce the CSA?	3. Yes, the DEA found in the US Department of Justice investigates and prosecutes violations of state and federal marijuana laws.
4. What are slang terms for marijuana?	4. According to the DEA, these are the slang terms most commonly used for marijuana: Aunt Mary, BC Buds, Boom, Chronic, Dope, Gangster, Ganja, Hash, Herb, Hydro, Indo, Joint, Kif, Mary Jane, Mota, Pot, Reefer, Sinsemilla, Skunk, Smoke, Weed and Yerb. Ref: http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/abuse/drug_data-sheets/Marijuana.pdf

Plant and Chemical Information about Marijuana

Question	Answer
1. What is the source of marijuana?	1. The leaves and flowering tops of the cannabis plant.
2. What are the two most common active compounds in cannabis?	2. THC (Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol) and CBD (cannabidiol).
3. What is THC?	3. The main active compound in cannabis which, is responsible for the “high” a person feels.

Question	Answer
4. What is CBD?	4. The second main compound in cannabis used widely for medical purposes and is non-psychoactive.
5. What part of the cannabis plant contains the highest THC content?	5. The buds.

Methods that people use to place marijuana in their bodies

Question	Answer
1. How can a person get marijuana into their bodies?	1. The ways are smoking, ingesting and inhaling vaporized marijuana.
2. How is marijuana smoked?	2. Marijuana is usually smoked as a cigarette (joint), a cigar (blunt) or through a water pipe or bong.
3. How does a person ingest marijuana?	3. Marijuana can be baked into food, boiled in water to make tea, or in pill form in the case of Marinol.
4. What is Marinol?	4. Marinol is a Schedule III controlled substance that has the active chemical CBD and comes in pill form. It is obtained through a prescription and utilized for the treatment of anorexia in AIDS patients and the treatment of nausea and vomiting in individuals undergoing chemotherapy treatments. It is prescribed in both of these situations when individuals do not respond to conventional treatment methods.
5. How is marijuana vaporized?	5. It is heated with a liquid until the active ingredient turns to vapor which is inhaled. Vaporizing is increasing in popularity with youth since they believe it is safer than smoking marijuana.

Safety and environmental issues related to marijuana

Question	Answer
1. Does the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) inspect or certify marijuana?	1. No, the FDA does not get involved to ensure safety due to marijuana being federally illegal.
2. Does illegal marijuana growing cause negative effects on the environment?	2. Yes, Illegal marijuana growers use chemicals, high amounts of energy and make changes to land structure leaving lasting damage to our surroundings. They also use poisons to keep animals from destroying their crops and equipment. The poison not only affects small animals that eat it but also larger animals that prey on them. Wildlife studies show that endangered animals are also being exposed and killed by these poisons.
3. Does growing marijuana in the home subject children to certain dangers?	Yes, these dangers are mold exposure, possible electric shock, exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide, explosion risks, booby traps and weapons, potential eye damage from ultraviolet lights, and exposure to dangerous chemicals used in the growing process.

Common effects and impairment related to marijuana

Question	Answer
1. What are some common effects of using marijuana?	1. Common effects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paranoia• Short-term memory loss• Relaxation• Heightened sensory perception (brighter colors)• Laughter• Altered perception of time• Increased appetite• Euphoria

Question	Answer
<p>2. Does everyone experience the same impairment effects when using marijuana?</p>	<p>2. No, impairment can vary due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual physical characteristics (metabolism, weight and age) • Dose (quantity and frequency) • Route of administration • Experience of user • Other substance use
<p>3. What types of impairment can a person experience when “high?”</p>	<p>3. The types are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory problems (especially short-term memory needed for learning) • Problems with processing information • Poor sensory and time perception • Poor concentration and coordination
<p>4. What types of lasting impairment can a person experience with marijuana use?</p>	<p>4. Difficulties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to perform complex tasks (ie, driving) • Learning new skills • Being alert and attentive • Ability to recall information • Ability to make decisions
<p>5. What effects does marijuana have on the body?</p>	<p>5. The effects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased heart rate • Lung damage • Linkage to cancer (head, neck and testicular) • Impaired immune system • Interference or change in effectiveness of prescribed medications
<p>6. How does marijuana use effect teens?</p>	<p>6. Teens may experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower academic performance • Increased truancy and drop-out rates • Reduced graduation rates • Interference with future life goals • Higher risk of future employment

Question	Answer
7. What effects does marijuana use have on the workforce?	7. The effects are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased absences • Tardiness • Accidents • Worker’s compensation claims • Job turnover

Life consequences related to marijuana use

Question	Answer
1. Can a citation for illegal drug use/possession impact student financial aid situations?	1. Yes, students who are cited for illegal drug use/possession while receiving student financial aid may be at risk for losing their financial aid and/or federal student loans.
2. Is there any relationship between rates of addiction and when an individual begins to use marijuana?	2. It is suspected that the early use of marijuana by youth coupled with a higher potency of the drug contributes to greater rates of addiction.
3. Is there any relationship between teen and young adult use of marijuana and intimate partner violence?	3. Yes, studies show that regular use of marijuana by teens and young adults increases their risks of becoming victims or offenders of intimate partner violence.
4. Can parental marijuana use have a negative effect on child rearing?	4. Yes, for parents who use marijuana, their ability to parent may be impacted by “difficulty picking up on their babies’ cues because marijuana dulls response time and alters perceptions.” When parents repeatedly miss their babies’ cues, the babies eventually stop providing them which results in disengaged parents with disengaged babies.”

Driving and marijuana

Question	Answer
1. What is drugged driving?	1. Drugged driving is defined as driving when a drug “renders the driver incapable of driving safely” or “causes the driver to be impaired.”
2. Have states passed laws regarding drugged driving?	2. Yes, 17 states have passed “per se” laws, in which it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle if there is any detectable level of prohibited drug, or its metabolites, in the driver’s blood.
3. How does marijuana affect driving?	3. Drivers may swerve, follow too closely to other vehicles, keep a large distance away from other vehicles, miscalculate distances or spaces, lose the ability to draw upon information obtained from past experiences and have reduced reaction times.
4. What is reaction time?	4. Reaction time in terms of driving means the time it takes to recognize an emergency, decide upon an action and then execute it. Insurance companies use 1.5 seconds as a measure of reaction time.
5. What does the blood test given for marijuana test in a person’s blood?	5. The blood test detects the “active” THC which remains active in a person’s blood several hours after using marijuana. The test does not measure CBD levels.
6. What is the legal limit for marijuana in the state of Maine?	6. There is no legal limit for marijuana in the state of Maine unless it is medical marijuana.

Laws related to marijuana use in the state of Maine

Question	Answer
1. Does Maine have laws regarding the use of medical marijuana in minors, schools and worksites?	1. Yes, Maine has laws regarding all three. Laws can be found in the Rules Governing the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Program 10-144 CMR Chapter 122: Effective Date September 17, 2013: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/dlrs/mmm/