MARIJUANA FACTS

HEALTH & ILLINOIS LAW

MARIJUANA'S IMPACT ON BRAIN, BODY & MIND

While marijuana use affects the whole body, the impact is greatest on the brain. THC over-activates parts of the brain with the most brain receptors and interferes with the natural chemicals needed for normal brain function and development. Because the brain is not fully developed until the mid-20s, the impact is considerably greater for teens.

Effects below can be greater when combined with alcohol or other drug use.

- Memory & learning problems
- Loss of up to 8 IQ points
- Difficulty staying focused
- Addiction
- Increased risk for mental health issues (depression, anxiety, schizophrenia)
- Impaired balance & coordination
- Slowed reaction time
- Mood changes
- Altered senses
- Impaired judgement
- Difficulty problem-solving
- Hallucinations, delusions & paranoia

COMPARING MARIJUANA WITH ALCOHOL

It's hard to compare substances when they impact the body in different ways. While alcohol mostly impacts the liver and vaping impacts lungs, marijuana impacts the brain.

DRUGGED DRIVING

Like drunk driving, drugged driving can carry significant risks. As seen above, marijuana use impacts many of the skills required for safe driving.

Negative effects on drivers include increased lane weaving, poor reaction time and altered attention to the road.

After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often found in the blood of drivers involved in crashes. Drivers with THC in their blood are twice as likely to be responsible for a deadly crash or be killed.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Since 2008 the average potency of the marijuana plant has doubled, and some extracts are almost pure THC. Higher potency increases the risk of addiction and psychotic episodes, particularly for teens due to their stage of brain development.

Source: The Lancet Psychiatry, 2019

Community - The Anti-Drug (CTAD) Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit working to reduce alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use among youth in Bannockburn, Deerfield, Highland Park, Highwood & Riverwoods.

CommunityTheAntiDrug.org  info@CommunityTheAntiDrug.org  224-765-CTAD (2823)

76% of our District 113 students do not use marijuana.

Marijuana comes from the plant Cannabis sativa, which contains about 500 chemical substances including THC and CBD.

THC, or delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, is the main active chemical and has greatest impact on the brain. It is the mind-altering, psychoactive component that produces the high feeling. THC can be smoked, vaped or eaten. It is available in oils, edibles, capsules, and more.

CBD, short for cannabidiol, is not psychoactive and does not produce a high. It is sold in gels, edibles, oils, supplements, and extracts. Most CBD products have traces of THC.

Many CBD products are marketed for therapeutic or medical use without FDA approval of these assertions. The FDA is still studying the impact of long-term use, use of multiple forms of CBD, and impact on populations such as children, elderly, pregnant women. The only form of CBD approved by the FDA is the prescription drug Epidiolex which treats a rare, severe form of epilepsy, and comes with a safety warning that it may cause liver damage.

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse, FDA & Missouri Medicine July/August 2018

It's hard to compare substances when they impact the body in different ways. While alcohol mostly impacts the liver and vaping impacts lungs, marijuana impacts the brain.

Source: Illinois Youth Survey, March 2018, conducted at Deerfield & Highland Park High Schools with 2,793 students across all grade levels.
While cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, marijuana laws have changed a lot in Illinois in the past few years. Below are important details to know about the Cannabis Regulation & Tax Act.

**HOME GROW**

- Only persons with a state-issued registry card and certified, qualifying medical condition can grow marijuana at home with the following restrictions:
  - The landlord or property owner must give permission.
  - The marijuana may not be sold or given away to others.
  - Plants must be in an enclosed, locked space outside the view of public or neighbors.
  - A home can’t have more than 5 plants, regardless of the number of household members with a registry card.
  - The space must have locks with a different key than what is used to enter the home.
  - The space may only be accessed by the person with the registry card. An authorized agent may tend the plants for brief periods when the registered person is temporarily away.

**ADVERTISING**

- Ads may NOT make health claims, show marijuana use, include images appealing to minors or include images of the marijuana leaf or bud.
- Ads and promotional activities may not be placed within 1,000 feet of school, childcare, playground, public park, public library, arcade.
- Advertising may not be on public property, public transportation or a transportation shelter.

**DRIVING**

- Marijuana may not be in a vehicle unless it is in a secured, sealed container out of reach while the vehicle is moving.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana remains illegal.

**USE & POSSESSION OVER 21**

- No one may give, share or sell marijuana they bought with anyone else.
- Marijuana use is NOT ALLOWED IN:
  - Any public place
  - Motor vehicles
  - School grounds
  - Private residence used as day care
  - Close physical proximity to anyone under 21
  - While on duty as law enforcement, fire fighter, or commercial driver
- Marijuana possession is NOT allowed on school bus, school grounds, or private residence used as day care.

**REQUIRED WARNING LABEL**

This product contains cannabis and is intended for use by adults 21 and over. Its use can impair cognition and may be habit-forming. This product should not be used by pregnant or breastfeeding women. It is unlawful to sell or provide this item to any individual, and it may not be transported outside the State of Illinois. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of cannabis. Possession or use of this product may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law.

**AGE RESTRICTIONS**

- You must be over 21 to buy, use, possess, or transport marijuana.
- Persons under 21 may not use fake ID to get marijuana or gain entry to dispensary.
- Violations of above can result in driver’s license being revoked or suspended.
- A parent or guardian may not knowingly permit underage use on their property or risk a felony.

**WORKPLACE**

- Employers may have drug-free workplace policies, and can discipline or terminate employees for violating that policy. Employers are not required to permit marijuana use.

CTAD is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. This publication was developed with funding from Office of National Drug Control Policy & Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant #SP021482, Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park and other local foundations. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of ONDCP, SAMHSA, or other CTAD funders.