

Social, work, and School

- Studies have shown that marijuana smokers have increased absences, accidents, higher worker compensation claims, and job turnovers (NIDA 2009).
- Students who smoke marijuana get lower grades and are less likely to graduate from high school, compared to their non-smoking peers. (NIDA 2009)

Teens

Brain imaging shows that the brains of teens who use marijuana have to work harder than the brains of their peers who abstain from the drug to function at the same level.

(Science Daily 2008)

Addiction/Dependence

- The majority of youth admitted to treatment list marijuana as their primary drug of choice. (DSHS Trends Report 2008).
- Street Marijuana that is readily available in the 2000's is 5-14 times stronger than the marijuana of the '60s and '70s. (Inaba and Cohen 2004).

Driving while using Marijuana

In a study conducted by the National Traffic Safety Administration a moderate dose of Marijuana alone was shown to impair driving performance.

(NIDA 2008)



Effects of Marijuana





Psychological Effects

A number of studies have shown an association between chronic marijuana use and increased rates of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and schizophrenia.

(NIDA 2009)

Memory, perception and problem solving

Heavy marijuana use impairs a person's ability to form memories, recall events, and shift attention from one thing to another. It also disrupts coordination and balance.

(NIDA 2005)

EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN

THC acts in the brain to produce many effects. THC rapidly passes from the lungs and into the blood stream, which carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body.

Research on long term effects of marijuana abuse indicates changes in the brain similar to those seen after long term abuse of other major drugs. Marijuana intoxication can cause distorted perceptions, impaired coordination, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, and problems with learning and memory. Research has shown that marijuana's adverse impact on learning and memory can last for days or weeks after the acute effects of the drug wear off.

Physical

With marijuana in the blood stream the ability of the blood to carry oxygen is restricted. This means that vital oxygen is not flowing to the heart and brain properly. This can lead to elevated heart rate and higher blood pressure. Continued use of marijuana can increase the chances of heart attack.

Long-term effects of marijuana use and abuse can result in lung and throat cancer, as well as severe respiratory illnesses.

www.marijuanaaddictiontreatment.org

Bodily effects of Cannabis

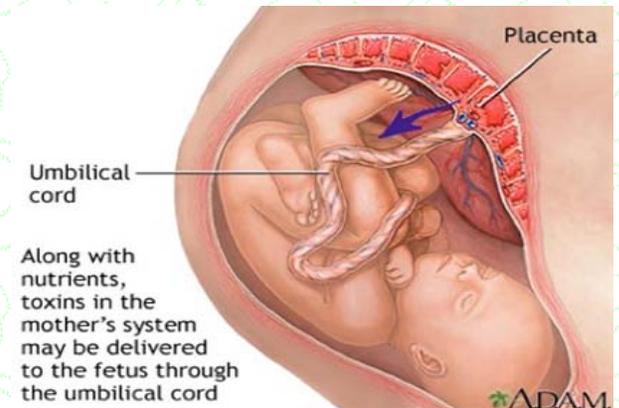
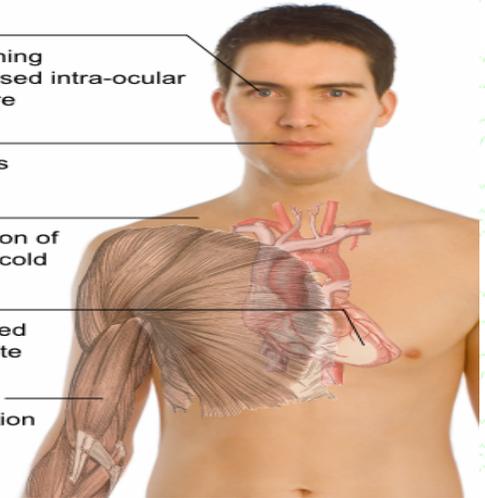
Eyes:
- Reddening
- Decreased intra-ocular pressure

Mouth:
- Dryness

Skin:
- Sensation of heat or cold

Heart:
- Increased heart rate

Muscles:
- Relaxation



Along with nutrients, toxins in the mother's system may be delivered to the fetus through the umbilical cord

Effects on the fetus

THC crosses the placenta to your baby. Marijuana, like cigarette smoke, contains toxins such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide that keep your baby from getting the proper supply of oxygen that he or she needs to grow. Smoking marijuana during pregnancy can increase the chance of miscarriage, low birth-weight, pre-mature births, developmental delays, and behavioral and learning problems.

(2010 American Pregnancy Association)