

Arizona Medical Marijuana Laws:



Complete text of the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act (2011) can be found at www.azdhs.gov. This Act creates a medical registry identification card for qualified patients.

What is still prohibited under the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act?

(Excerpts from www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana)

It does not:

- Authorize a person to undertake any task under the influence of marijuana that constitutes negligence or professional malpractice.
- Authorize smoking marijuana in a public place.
- Authorize operating, navigating, or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana.
- Require an owner of private property to allow the use of marijuana on that property.
- Require an employer to allow the ingestion of marijuana in the workplace.

Help prevent legal recreational use of Marijuana in Arizona:

Go to MarijuanaHarmlessThinkAgain.org a state-wide campaign to educate and take a stand to stop the legalization of marijuana for recreational use.

Treatment

Although not everyone who uses marijuana becomes addicted, when a user begins to seek out and take the drug compulsively, that person is said to be dependent on the drug or addicted to it.

Recovery is possible with treatment and abstinence. Treatment programs focus on counseling and group support systems. Local treatment resources can be found on our website and as listed below:

Casa Grande Alliance
520-836-5022
www.CasaGrandeAlliance.org

Cenpatico Integrated Care
866-495-6735
www.cenpaticoaz.com



Casa Grande Alliance

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 11043
Casa Grande, AZ 85130

Physical address:
901 E. Cottonwood Lane, Suite C
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Tel: 520-836-5022
Fax: 520-836-9915

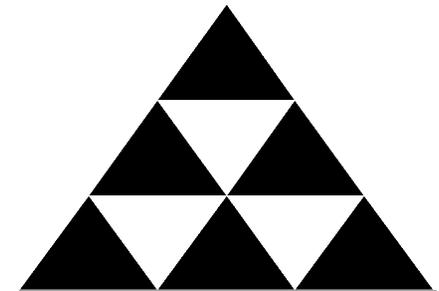
Email: casagrandealliance@gmail.com

Information Sources for this publication:
Amen Clinics www.amenclinics.com
Arizona Department of Health Services www.azdhs.gov
National Institute of Drug Abuse www.drugabuse.gov

What you need to know about Marijuana



CASA GRANDE ALLIANCE



Partnering for a safe and drug-free community

www.CasaGrandeAlliance.org



What is Marijuana and how is it abused?

Marijuana is a green, brown or gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds and flowers of the hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa*). The main active chemical in marijuana is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). All forms of cannabis are mind-altering drugs. Marijuana's effect on the user depends on the strength or potency of the THC it contains.

Marijuana is usually smoked as a cigarette (joint), or in a pipe or a water pipe (sometimes referred to as a bong). It is also smoked in blunts, which are cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with a mixture of marijuana and tobacco. Some users mix marijuana into foods or use it to brew as tea or coffee. Recently, some new ways to use marijuana have come into play including dabbing and vapors.

Marijuana smoke has a pungent and distinctive, usually sweet-and-sour, odor and vapors have no scent.



Vapors

Wax/Dab

Edibles

How can I tell if someone has been using marijuana?

There are some signs you might be able to see. If someone is high on marijuana, he or she might:

- Seem dizzy and have trouble walking
- Seem silly and giggly for no reason
- Have very red, bloodshot eyes
- Have a hard time remembering things that just happened
- Have changes in eating and/or sleeping habits

Things to be aware of:

- Drug paraphernalia including pipes, vaporizer pens or e-cigarettes, rolling papers
- Pungent odor on clothes and in the bedroom
- Use of incense and other deodorizers
- Use of eye drops
- Clothing, posters, magazines, music, jewelry, etc. promoting drug use

Potency

The amount of THC in marijuana samples confiscated by police has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. In 2012, THC concentrations in marijuana averaged close to 15 percent, compared to around 4 percent in the 1980s. Dab and wax can have 50%+ THC content. This may mean exposure to higher concentrations of THC for new users giving a greater chance of an adverse or unpredictable reaction. For frequent users, it may mean a greater risk for addiction if they are exposing themselves to high doses on a regular basis.

How does marijuana affect the brain?

When someone consumes marijuana, THC rapidly passes into the bloodstream, which carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body. THC acts upon specific sites in the brain, called cannabinoid receptors, kicking off a series of cellular reactions that ultimately lead to the "high" that users experience when they use marijuana. The highest density of cannabinoid receptors are found in parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentrating, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement. It is hard to learn while high—a working short-term memory is required for learning and performing tasks that call for more than one or two steps.

As people age, they normally lose nerve cells in a region of the brain that is important for remembering events. Chronic exposure to THC may hasten the age-related loss of these nerve cells and lower IQ up to 8 points.

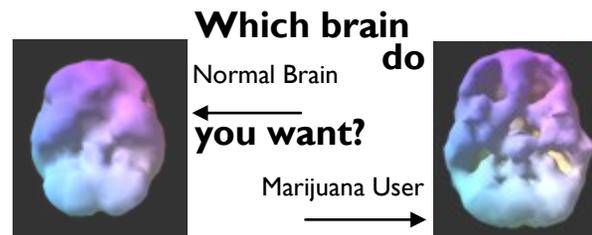


Photo on right is a SPECT scan of 18 y/o with 3 year history of marijuana use four times per week. Shows persistent decreased activity in temporal lobe and pre-frontal cortex. www.amenclinics.com

Addictive Potential

Long-term marijuana abuse can lead to addiction; that is, compulsive drug seeking and abuse despite the known harmful effects upon functioning in the context of family, school, work, and recreational activities. Estimates from research suggest that about 9% of users become addicted to marijuana. This number increases among those who start young (to about 17%) and among daily users (25-50%).

Long-term marijuana abusers trying to quit report withdrawal symptoms including: irritability, sleeplessness, decreased appetite, anxiety, and drug craving, all of which can make it difficult to remain abstinent. These symptoms begin within about 1 day following abstinence, peak at 2-3 days, and subside within 1 or 2 weeks following drug cessation.

See treatment information on reverse.

Other effects on health:

- Marijuana contains 50-70% more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than tobacco smoke.
- Heart rate increases 20-100% shortly after smoking which can last up to 3 hours.
- Increased heart rate as well as effects on heart rhythms, causing palpitations and arrhythmias.
- Mental health impacted by marijuana use.

Effects on the workplace:

Research clearly demonstrates that marijuana has the potential to cause problems in daily life or make a person's existing problems worse. In one study, heavy marijuana abusers reported that the drug impaired several important measures of life achievement, including physical and mental health, cognitive abilities, social life, and career status. Several studies associate workers' marijuana smoking with increased absences, tardiness, accidents, workers' compensation claims, and job turnover.