

MARIJUANA

Dangerous and Illegal

Contrary to popular belief, not all teens smoke pot. Only about one in five 10th graders report they used marijuana within the past month. Fewer than one in four high school seniors is a current marijuana user. Marijuana—pot, grass, reefer, ganja, smoke, bud, blunts, and bhang—is one of the most widely used illicit drugs in the United States and very few young people use other illegal drugs without first trying marijuana.

Just because it is common though does not mean it is safe. Marijuana today is far stronger than it was two or three decades ago, and far more dangerous.



Some Facts About Marijuana

Some people think that smoking marijuana is “cool,” or is a “mellow” way to relax. What people don’t realize is that smoking marijuana can cause several conditions, including:

- Memory problems.
- Reduced concentration and coordination.
- Increased appetite.
- Decreased inhibitions leading to pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Bloodshot eyes, dry mouth, and dry throat.
- Lower testosterone levels and sperm count in men.
- Increased testosterone levels in women, which can cause acne, and increased facial and body hair.
- Paranoia.
- Diminished or complete loss of sexual pleasure.
- Psychological dependence so that over time, more of the drug is needed to achieve the same effect.



Damage

Marijuana smokers face the same cancer risks as tobacco smokers, even though they may only smoke a few joints a day compared to a pack or more of cigarettes. Damage from smoking marijuana includes:

- Deteriorating performance at work or at school.
- Experiencing a “burn out” characterized by muddled thinking, acute frustration, depression, and isolation.
- Impaired sexual development and fertility, including production of abnormal sperm and menstrual irregularities.
- Damage to lungs and pulmonary system. One marijuana cigarette is equal to approximately 25 commercial tobacco cigarettes.
- Exposure to illegal drug culture.

Marijuana Is Still Illegal

While there are groups who encourage the legalization of marijuana, it is *still illegal*. In Pima County, it is against the law to transport, possess, or use marijuana. Those found in violation of applicable laws will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department combats illegal drug use at many levels. From the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) programs, which aims to educate children of the harm caused by drugs at an early age, to participation in several multi-agency narcotic task forces, which aim to stop drug related crimes at all levels, the Pima County Sheriff's Department is committed to making every effort to eliminate drug use in our community.

Help for You

Talk to your kids at an early age about the dangers of smoking marijuana. Teach them to be assertive and to tell people



“NO” who try to get them to use marijuana. Keep lines of communication open with your children, and help them to combat the influence of

peer pressure when they encounter it. Ensure that you know your kids' whereabouts, set guidelines and curfews, and enforce the rules you set at all times. Kids need a parent, not a friend.

If you suspect that drugs are being used in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1, or 88-CRIME to have authorities check the situation out.

Contact Us

For more information on marijuana abuse prevention and other Crime Prevention issues, contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department's Community Resources Team at (520) 741-4615. We'll be happy to talk to you about educational materials, brochures, and safety presentations. Call today.



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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Crime Prevention Tips From
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www.weprevent.org



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