TODAY’s Marijuana is a Powerful Drug

THC is the mind-altering chemical found in marijuana. THC alters the way your brain works. Today’s marijuana has a high THC potency. The drug changes you in many ways:

- Lower Grades: Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades.
- Drop Out Rates: Students using marijuana before age 15 are **3X** more likely to leave school by age 16.
- Poor Judgment: It causes changes to your sense of judgment that can lead to risky behaviors.
- Accidents: Sense of time and coordination are altered, raising the risk of accidents in sports or car crashes.
- Does it lead to other drugs?: Using marijuana can put you on the path to using other drugs.

**Is it Worth the Risk?**

**How about psychosis?:** The increased potency of TODAY’s marijuana increases the chance of psychotic episodes, even on first-use. Regular users are **5X** more likely than non-users to have a psychotic disorder. Occasional users are **3X** more likely than non-users to have a psychotic disorder.

**A Look to the Future – You Decide**

- **Drop in Intelligence**
- **Addiction**

**8 points -** Young and frequent marijuana users can have a drop in IQ of 8 points, lowering intelligence.

**17%** of youth who start using marijuana in their teens, will become dependent upon it.

**25% to 50%** of those who smoke marijuana daily are more likely to become dependent upon it.

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1 NIDA and report for the Chemical Society of America
2 http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/how-does-marijuana-use-affect-your-brain-body
4 National Institute on Drug Abuse http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/letter-director
5 Office of National Drug Control Policy ‘What Americans Need to Know About Marijuana’ publication
6 Proportion of patients in south London with first-episode psychosis attributable to use of high potency cannabis: thelancet.com/psychiatry, February 18, 2015