

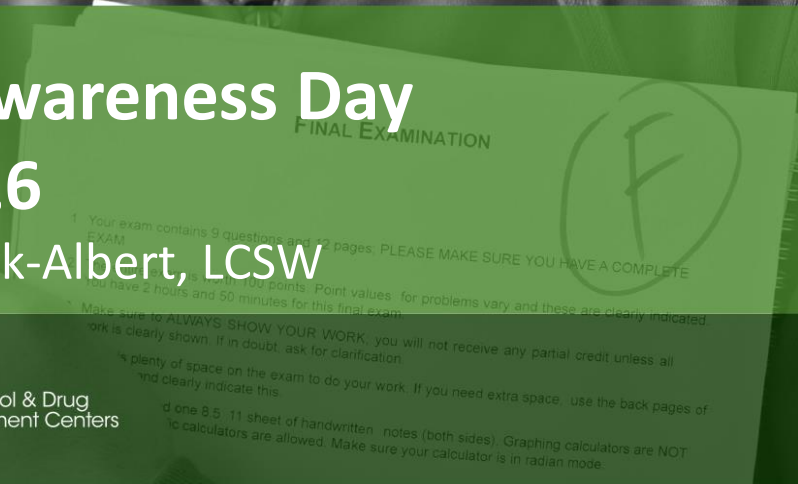
Wisconsin Marijuana Awareness Day

July 28, 2016

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Alcohol & Drug
Treatment Centers



How Marijuana Looks



Marijuana Today

- Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in America with 17.4 million past month users and used by 76.8% of current illicit drug users.
- New growing and harvesting techniques produce marijuana that is about **275%** more potent than in was 10 years ago.

And its “cool” to smoke weed

Consumption Facts

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

- Difficulty in thinking and problem solving
- Problems with memory and learning
- Loss of coordination
- Decreased reaction time
- Distorted perception
- Anxiety/panic
- After an initial “up” user may feel depressed, emotional.
- Increased heartbeat (and risk of heart attack)
- **Large degree of individual variability**



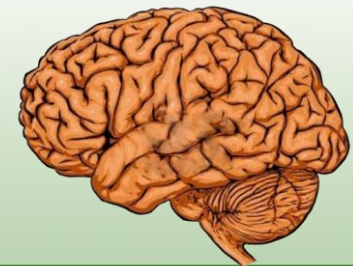
Effect on Brain Function

- Psychological side effects:
 - Panic.
 - Depression and “amotivational syndrome”
 - Psychosis (dose-related or toxic effect)
- Effect on pre-existing mental illness
- Withdrawal and dependency



Effect on Brain Function

- Special concern with adolescent brain development
- Studies show brain abnormalities in the nucleus accumbens and amygdala of even casual users, may be permanent
- Studies of adolescent users showed problems with learning, memory and IQ loss



Audience Poll:

Is marijuana addictive?

- A) Yes, it is.
- B) No, it is not.
- C) I'm not sure.



Is It Addicting?

- Originally thought to be non-addicting
- Mounting evidence over the last 40 years
 - Tolerance
 - Withdrawal
 - Compulsive use and inability to stop, despite consequences
- 17% of those who have used more than 5 times are at risk for dependence



Honey Hash Oil

Increasing THC Potency

- Process for extracting concentrated THC using butane or other chemicals, “dabs” “wax”
- Hash oil can then be smoked or used in edibles
- Increases overdose risk, risk of negative side effects



Vaping and Drug Use

- Many people using vape pens to ingest marijuana, or synthetic marijuana (Spice, K2)
- Can use with finely crushed marijuana leaves or honey hash oil



Delaying Independence

Recent information from NIH

Many studies have shown that daily marijuana users are functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time.



Delaying Independence

One meta study compared daily marijuana users with persons who have used marijuana more than once but less than 50 times in their lifetime. Subjects had similar education and income backgrounds.

Study found **significant differences in educational attainment**, fewer daily users completed college, and more **daily users** had an **annual household income of less than \$30,000**.

Opening Doors to Other Drug Use

- Support in literature for and against gateway theories
- Of adults ages 26 and older who used marijuana before age 15, 62% went on to use cocaine, 9% used heroin, and 54% reported non medical use of mind altering prescription drugs.



Opening Doors to Other Drug Use

- Yale University School of Medicine study found men and women ages 18-25 who were marijuana users were 2.5 more likely than non users to later abuse prescription drugs



- Peer group and peer pressure issues
- Decreased inhibitions when under the influence of marijuana, impaired judgment

Cannabis Use Disorder Treatment

- Persons should be professionally evaluated for treatment need and level of care
- “Just Weed” Syndrome
- Many users of heroin, cocaine or prescription drugs are unconcerned with marijuana and may intend to continue using post-discharge
- Insurance providers view as a “less dangerous” drug, restricting access to higher levels of care





QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



Contact Information



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Sources

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