



DRUG FACT SHEET

Marijuana

Marijuana is the most widely available and used illegal drug in the U.S.

Class of drug:	Cannabis
Main active ingredient:	THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), which causes the mind-altering effects
What it looks like:	Greenish-gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems and flowers of Cannabis sativa, the hemp plant
Street names:	Pot, Grass, Weed, Reefer, Dope, Mary Jane, Sinsemilla, Acapulco Gold, Thai Sticks, Ganga
How it is used:	Smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints), water pipes (bongs) or cigars (blunts), eaten in foods or used to brew tea
Duration of high:	Smoked —effects begin immediately after the drug enters the brain and last from one to three hours Ingested —effects begin one-half to one hour after ingested and last as long as four hours
Withdrawal symptoms:	Irritability, difficulty sleeping, anxiety, depression
Detected in the body:	Occasional use —one to seven days Chronic use —one to four weeks
Effects:	Physical —increased heart rate, bloodshot eyes, dry mouth and throat, increased appetite Mental —pleasant sensations and colors, intensified perception of sounds, impaired or reduced short-term memory and comprehension, altered sense of time, reduced ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination Long-term —damage to the tissue of the lungs and pulmonary system, cancer, negative effect on the development of adolescents, impaired immune system



Marijuana, or the hemp plant, is one of the oldest psychoactive plants known to humanity. The first direct reference to cannabis as a psychoactive agent dates back to 2700 B.C.

Illinois information

In 2011, 38.4 percent of Illinois high school students reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime. Of those surveyed, 7.2 percent tried marijuana before the age of 13. Approximately 23 percent of students used marijuana during the 30 days before the survey.

(U.S. Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011)