

7 MYTHS ABOUT MARIJUANA

DO ANY OF THESE SOUND FAMILIAR?

GET THE FACTS...

MYTH: I can't become addicted to marijuana.

REALITY: One out of every 6 teens (17%) experimenting with marijuana will become dependent (addicted).

MYTH: It is safe to drive high on marijuana.

REALITY: Marijuana has adverse effects on many of the skills required to drive a car: concentration, coordination & reaction time. The chance of involvement in a fatal car crash **DOUBLES** in drivers under the influence of marijuana.

MYTH: Marijuana use does not affect my brain.

REALITY: Teenage marijuana use increases the risk of developing psychosis & panic attacks even without a family history of schizophrenia. All forms of marijuana are mind-altering; structural changes in the brain have been found in marijuana users.

MYTH: Marijuana use does not affect my school performance.

REALITY: Marijuana use harms concentration, attention, memory, learning processes and is associated with an increased probability of becoming a school dropout.

MYTH: As a school athlete, it's "no big deal" if I smoke marijuana.

REALITY: The probability of suffering concussion increases in athletes who use marijuana. Marijuana impairs motor coordination, which can harm athletic performance.

MYTH: Marijuana use has no medical consequences.

REALITY: Marijuana use increases the probability of cancer in the male reproductive system (Prostate and testicles). Users may have many of the same respiratory problems that tobacco smokers have, such as chronic cough & more frequent chest colds.

MYTH: It is safe to smoke medical marijuana compared to street marijuana.

REALITY: NOT TRUE. The term medical marijuana is misleading. It has not been tested for safety, use of pesticides, nor approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**MARIJUANA USE MAY LEAD TO HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUNG USERS.
SMART TEENS MAKE INFORMED AND HEALTHY CHOICES!**



THE TOWN RESOURCE FOR HEALTHY CHOICES

Medical Sources: Hall W. Addiction, January 2015;
Ammerman S. and the AAP Committee on Substance Abuse.
Pediatrics, March 2015

* Information courtesy of Yifrah Kaminer, M.D., UConn
School of Medicine, ATOM Studies

*NIDA , NIH Publications