**Cannabis**

**Cannabis** is hemp, cannabis sativa, green, brown, or grey; dried and smoked, mind-altering (psychoactive) drugs; contain THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the main active chemical in marijuana. They also contain more than 400 other chemicals. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/MarijBroch/Marijparentstxt.html#What>

**Hashish** -concentrated resinous form, sticky black liquid called hash oil.

**Trends in cannabis consumption in the U.S:**

By the time they graduate from high school, about 42 percent of teens will have tried marijuana. Although current use among U.S. teens has dropped dramatically in the past decade (to a prevalence of about 14 percent in 2009), this decline has stalled during the past several years. The World Health Organization ranks the United States first among 17 European and North American countries for prevalence of marijuana use <http://www.drugabuse.gov/ResearchReports/marijuana/> .

2009, 11.8 percent of 8th-graders reported marijuana use in the past year, and 6.5 percent were current users. Among 10th-graders, 26.7 percent had used marijuana in the past year, and 15.9 percent were current users. Rates of use among 12th-graders were higher still: 32.8 percent had used marijuana during the year prior to the survey, and 20.6 percent were current users. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/ResearchReports/marijuana/>

**Therapeutic uses of cannabis & controversy with medical marijuana:**

* Treatment of neuropathic pain and spasticity in Multiple Sclerosis
* Analgesic treatment with advanced cancer with moderate to severe pain
* Counteract nausea, vomiting for cancer or AIDS
* Lowers intraocular eye pressure In Glaucoma
* Anti-asthmatic drug

The **controversy with medical marijuana** is that it is still considered a Schedule I drug with no medical value. Idea would be option for smokable marijuana rather than Marinol for terminally ill patients. Leaders of the federal government denounced marijuana, negative effects, abuse potential, danger of “pro-use”, or normalizing its use. (1996) (Hanson, Venurelli, & Fleckenstein, 2009) Marijuana is far less toxic than opiates and not considered a gateway to harder drug usage

Research on medical marijuana-related in the US to understand the effects of changing local laws, regulations, and policies on the epidemiology of cannabis are ongoing.

[H.R. 2835: The Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act](https://secure2.convio.net/mpp/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=339) (legislation in Congress)

H.R. 2835 would reschedule marijuana, allowing doctors nationwide to prescribe it to patients in need. It would also create protections in federal law for states that wish to protect medical marijuana patients <http://www.mpp.org/legislation/medical-marijuana-in-congress.html>.

Fourteen states — Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Rhode Island — have effective laws protecting qualified patients from arrest and imprisonment for using marijuana under the advice of a physician. Maryland protects from imprisonment but not arrest. Arizona requires a doctor’s prescription but the law cannot go into effect as the Federal government has marijuana as a medicine that cannot be used. <http://www.mpp.org/library/research/faq-mj.html>

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/newsroom/08/NR11-04.html>

**Street names for cannabis:** Mary Jane, bud, dope, Ganja, Indo, Hydro, sinsemilla, hashish, shake, herb, pot, grass, weed, Aunt Mary, skunk, boom, gangster, kif

**Regional names** change often: different strains or “brands” of marijuana, such as “Texas tea,” “Maui wowie,” and “chronic.”  [http://www.drugabuse.gov/MarijBroch/Marijparentstxt.html#What](%09http://www.drugabuse.gov/MarijBroch/Marijparentstxt.html#What)

**Synthetic cannabinoids (THC):**

[Marinol](http://www.drugs.com/mtm/marinol.html)® (Dronabinol) - Classified as Schedule III

[Cesamet](http://www.drugs.com/cesamet.html)® (Nabilone) - Classified as Schedule II

**Effects on the brain:** Inhaled THC passes from the lungs into the bloodstream and is carried to the brain and other organs throughout the body. THC from the marijuana acts on specific receptors in the brain, called cannabinoid receptors. The hippocampus, the cerebellum, the basal ganglia and the cerebral cortex, have a higher concentration of cannabinoid receptors. These areas influence memory, concentration, pleasure, coordination and, sensory and time perception.[[1](http://www.drugs.com/marijuana.html" \l "1" \o "1)] Therefore these functions are most adversely affected by marijuana use. Marijuana’s strength is correlated to the amount of THC <http://www.drugs.com/marijuana.html>

**Physiological effects from cannabis abuse:**

* Temporary paranoia and anxiety
* Dry mouth, respiratory problems and nervousness/racing heart.
* Reduced ability to concentrate, impaired memory, tiredness, and confusion
* Euphoria, relaxation, and changes in perception
* Increased heart rate and make some users extremely anxious or paranoid.

<http://www.erowid.org/plants/cannabis/cannabis_basics.shtml>

**Health risks of cannabis abuse:**

* Cannabis smoking are lung and throat problems including: coughing, increased frequency of throat and lung infections, and reduced lung capacity
* Association between the use of cannabis and later diagnosis of psychotic disorders

<http://www.erowid.org/plants/cannabis/cannabis_basics.shtml>

* Smaller babies, THC can cross placenta <http://www.drugs.com/marijuana.html>

**Signs and symptoms of cannabis abuse/dependence:**

* + Difficulty walking, dizzy,
  + Silly and giggly for no reason
  + Red bloodshot eyes, and use of eye drops
  + Having a hard time remembering things
  + Very tired and sleepy

**Watch for symptoms of cannabis use:** (or other problems)

* Withdrawal, depression, fatigue, carelessness with grooming, hostility, and deteriorating relationships with family members and friends
* changes in academic performance, increased absenteeism or truancy
* Amotivational syndrome loss of interest in sports or other favorite activities
* Changes in eating or sleeping habits
* Odors, incense to cover odors, paraphernalia, drug related jewelry or posters

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/MarijBroch/Marijparentstxt.html#What>

**References**

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