

Marijuana Use



What is Marijuana?

- It consists of dried leaves, flowers, stems and seeds originating from the *Cannabis Sativa* or *Cannabis Indica* plant.
- Contains the psychotropic chemical Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

What happens when you smoke marijuana?

- Has mind altering compounds that affect brain and body.
- When a person smokes marijuana, THC quickly passes from the lungs into the bloodstream. The blood carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body.
- Marijuana over activates brain cell receptors causing a "high".

How is it used?

- Smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints) or in pipes or water pipes (bongs)
- In vaporizers
- Consumed in food (as edibles) or in tea



Short term effects

- Feeling high
- Impaired body movement
- Altered sense
- Impaired memory
- Changes in mood
- Hallucinations
- Altered sense of time
- Difficulty with thinking and problem solving
- Breathing problems
- Increased heart rate
- Temporary paranoia



Be
cautious!

Long term effects

- Affects brain development
- Use of drug as teenager may:
 - Impair thinking, memory and learning functions
 - Affect how the brain builds connections between areas necessary for these functions

Reported benefits of medical marijuana

- Relief of insomnia
- Relief of anxiety
- Relief of pain
- Muscle relaxant
- Manage nausea
- Weight loss

Decriminalization

- In Antigua and Barbuda marijuana is decriminalized up to 15g.
- The head of the household is allowed to cultivate up to four plants.
- The drug is still **illegal**.
- The sale, transfer and trafficking of the drug are liable for a fine, imprisonment or both.

The Cannabis Act 2018

- Permits use of marijuana for certain religious practices by documented members of registered religious organizations.
- Permits use of marijuana for medicinal and scientific use.