Marijuana

Quick Facts

• A mild hallucinogen, marijuana has some of alcohol's depressant and disinhibiting properties.
• User reaction, however, is heavily influenced by expectations and past experiences, and many first-time users feel nothing at all.
• The amount of THC in marijuana determines the drug's strength, and THC levels are affected by a great many factors, including plant type, weather, soil, and time of harvest.
• Sophisticated cannabis cultivation of today produces high levels of THC and marijuana that is far more potent than the pot of the past.

Risks

• Impairs attention and coordination.
• Affects the way the mind processes information. Use has contributed to automobile, household, and occupational accidents, resulting in harm to the user and to others.
• Can cause serious physical and mental problems:
  • Frequent respiratory infections
  • Impaired memory and learning ability
  • Increased heart rate, anxiety, and panic attacks
  • Cough, phlegm, chronic bronchitis, and frequent chest colds
  • Increased risk of cancer of the head, neck, lungs, and respiratory tract