Profile: Marijuana

What is marijuana?
Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Its main psychoactive chemical is *delta*-9-*tetrahydro-cannabinol*, or THC. Due to the variety of effects it can produce, marijuana can be categorized as a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogen.

How is marijuana used?
The most common way users ingest marijuana is by smoking it in joints (marijuana cigarettes), blunts (marijuana put into a hollowed-out cigar), pipes or bongs (water pipes). It is also eaten alone or cooked into food, most notoriously in hash or pot brownies. Finally, it can be brewed into tea.

What does marijuana look like?
Marijuana comes from the leaves and flowering tops of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, that appear greenish-gray when dried. It also comes in a more concentrated, resinous form, hashish or hash, and as a sticky black liquid known as hash oil.

What are some street terms for marijuana?
- Weed
- Pot
- Bud
- Herb
- Grass
- Reefer
- Ganja
- Green
- Mary Jane
- Cheeba

Potency-related slang
- Low-grade:
  - Schwag
  - Dirtweed
- Mid-grade:
  - Middies
  - Skunk
- High-grade:
  - Kindbud
  - KB
  - Hydro
  - Trees
  - Dank

Lacing Marijuana
Marijuana is sometimes laced with other drugs, often without the knowledge of the user. Some of these drugs include powder and crack cocaine, PCP, and LSD.

Laced with other drugs
- PCP:
  - Dippers
  - Boat
  - Loveboat
  - Killer Weed
  - Fry
  - Frios
  - Wet
  - Water
- Powder or Crack
  - Chronic
  - Turbo
  - Bazooka
  - Crack Back
  - Fry Daddy
  - Woolies
How can I tell if someone has taken marijuana?

Users who smoke marijuana experience the effects within a few minutes. The effects peak in 10 to 30 minutes, and the high generally wears off in 2 to 3 hours. When eaten, users feel the effects in 30 to 60 minutes, and they can last up to 6 hours. Someone high on marijuana might experience:

- Mood elevation
- Increased awareness of senses
- Dry mouth (cotton mouth)
- Increased appetite (munchies)
- Sleepiness
- Dizziness & clumsiness
- Bloodshot eyes
- Anxiety & paranoia
- Poor short-term memory
- Racing heartbeat

Is Marijuana a Gateway Drug?

A recent study found that 99% of those who use illicit drugs other than marijuana had previously used marijuana. However, a majority of marijuana users studied (63%) did not go on to use other illicit drugs.

Online Resources

- Center for Substance Abuse Research
  www.cesar.umd.edu
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
  www.nida.nih.gov
- Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Diversion Control
  www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America
  www.drugfreeamerica.org
- American Council for Drug Education
  www.acde.org

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Adapted from www.justfacts.org, a website designed to provide sexual health, alcohol and other drug education. Provided by:

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