

- **Marijuana**

- Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. It comes from the leaves and flower top of the cannabis sativa plant, but can also come from a more concentrated form called hashish or a black oil called hash oil. Its main psychoactive chemical is called THC, though it contains about four hundred other chemicals, also. One danger of smoking marijuana is that it can be unknowingly laced with other drugs, such as cocaine, crack, PCP, or other drugs. When users intentionally lacing marijuana with other drugs it can also be very dangerous. (cesar)
- **Street Names:** Slang terms for marijuana include weed, pot, bud, herb, grass, reefer, ganja, green, Mary Jane, cheeba, dope, endo, Buddha, smoke, wheezy. Marijuana laced with PCP is called boat, love boat, chips, donk, illies, illing, lovelies, love, killer weed, leaf, supergrass, wack, woolies, zoom, fry, frios, and yerba mala. Marijuana with formaldehyde is called boat, loveboat, fry, amp, drank, clickem, ill, wack, wet, water-water. Marijuana with cocaine is called chronic, banano, caviar, champagne, cocoa puff, gremmies, and lace. Marijuana with crack cocaine is called bazooka, cocktail, chronic, crack back, fry daddy, dirty, geek, gimme, juice joint, liprimo, oolies, P-dogs, torpedo, turbo, and woolies. Low-grade potency is called shwag or dirt weed, mid-grade is called middies or skunk, high grade is kinbud, KB, hydro, nugs, trees, dank, sensimilla, and kif. A bunt is called an L, L-P, Bob, Philly, dutchy, gars. A joint is called a J, Jay, white-boy. A heavy user is called a pothead, weedhead, airhead, head, stoner, burnout, and a fiend. (cesar)
- **Uses:** Marijuana is commonly smoked using a “joint”, or a marijuana cigarette, through a “blunt”, which is marijuana rolled into a leaf wrap of a hollowed-out cigar, through a pipe, bowl, “bong” or water pipe, or a vaporizer. It may also be ingested alone or cooked into food; commonly, it is cooked into brownies and called “hash brownies”. It can also be brewed into a tea or “bhang”. Effects are felt within two to three minutes and last for about two to three hours when smoked. When eaten the effects begin after thirty to sixty minutes and can last up to six hours. However, if laced with other drugs the effects may change. (cesar)
- **Physical Effects:** Effects caused by marijuana usage include an increase in heart rate, dryness of the mouth, expanding of blood vessels resulting in bloodshot eyes, and an increase in appetite or case of the “munchies”. Other short-term effects include dizziness or trouble walking and red, bloodshot, or glazed eyes. (cesar)
- **Psychological Effects:** A loss of short-term memory and coordination is associated with heavy usage. Experience with the drug is described as a state of giddiness and euphoria followed by a feeling of sedation and tranquility. Users also experience altered perceptions of distance and time along with heightened sensitivity to sights and sounds. Effects can vary greatly depending on the user. Some may experience lowered inhibitions, drowsiness, and contentment, while others feel anxiety and paranoia. Other effects include acting silly or giggly for no reason and disinterest in activities and other things he or she previously enjoyed. (cesar)
- **Long-Term Effects:** Long-term marijuana use can cause uncontrollable drug craving, delinquent behavior, and aggression. Regular users can be faced with daily cough and phlegm, symptoms of chronic bronchitis, and frequent chest colds. Long-term effects include limiting the brain’s capacity to store or retrieve information, damage to the brain’s memory, math, and verbal skills function, sexual dysfunction and reproductive problems, weakening of the immune system, increased risk of cancer and lung damage, increased blood pressure and risk of heart attack, loss of motivation in every day activities and future plans. (cesar)
- **Withdrawal:** It is still debated whether or not marijuana is addictive and there has been no resolution over the argument. However, it is known that it can lead to psychological addiction and social dependence. (cesar)

Source:

Center for Substance Abuse Research [<http://www.cesar.umd.edu>]