Marijuana Use Among Adolescents in Jackson Mississippi


Possible side-effects are:

- Altered perception of time, distance, space, sights, sounds, and touch
- Unusual judgment and decision making, loss of coordination and slowed reaction time
- Disorientation, red eyes, dry mouth and throat, increased appetite
- Deep sleep
- Racing heart rate, may suffer feelings of anxiety and hyperactivity or temporary psychosis problems
- Motor and learning trouble

Long-term effects:

- Regular use of marijuana can cause:
- Increased risk of cancer.
- Causing chemicals inhaled in marijuana smoke to enter your body at five times greater than that inhaled from the same amount of tobacco smoke.
- Damage to lungs and airways. Just like cigarette smokers, people who smoke marijuana often develop breathing problems — coughing, wheezing. They tend to have more chest colds; as non-users and are at greater risk of getting long infections like pneumonia.
- Weakened immune system. Studies have shown that THC can damage the immune system — the cells and tissues in the body that help protect against disease. When the immune cells are weakened, you’re more likely to get sick.
- Difficulty remembering things and concentrating.
- Lack of motivation. You’d lose interest in school, work and activities that you enjoy.
- Risk of mental health problems — depression, anxiety, schizophrenia.
- Risk of addiction. Today, more teen medications are used for medical marijuana than for any other ill drug combined.

Marijuana and the brain

- Heavy or daily use of marijuana affects the parts of the brain that control memory, attention, and learning. A working short-term memory is needed to learn and perform tasks that call for more than one or two steps. Smoking marijuana causes some changes in the brain that are like those caused by cocaine, heroin, and alcohol.
- Studies are still learning about the many ways that marijuana can affect the brain.

Marijuana and driving

- Marijuana and driving do not mix. It has serious harmful effects on the skills required to drive safely: alertness, concentration, coordination, and reaction time.
- Marijuana use is the second most common of all the illegal drugs used by teens in the U.S. According to the 2012 Monitoring the Future (MRF) Study, 45.3% of 12th graders reported using marijuana once or more in their lifetime, with 22.9% reporting use in the previous 30 days. Nationally, while the proportion of students using marijuana decreased from 2011-2012, it was still relatively widespread among secondary school students, particularly older males, and more students are using marijuana daily than they were five years ago (daily use among 12th graders increased from 16.9% in 2007 to 19.2% in 2012). In Mississippi, 17.5% of Mississippi students have used marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days, compared to 23.1% nationwide. Also, in a new Mississippi, the public has used marijuana one or more times during the 30 days before the survey on the average of 17.5% in comparison to the United States with the average percent of 23.1%.

- Marijuana use can lead to increased anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and other mental health problems, particularly among young people. One study linked social withdrawal, anxiety, depression, attention problems, and thoughts of suicide in adolescents with the past year marijuana use. Heavy marijuana users generally report lower life satisfaction, poorer mental and physical health, relationship problems, and less academic and career success compared to their peers who came from similar background. Marijuana is the illicit drug most likely to be used by teens in the U.S. According to the 2012 Monitoring the Future (MRF) Study, 45.3% of U.S. 12th graders reported having used marijuana once or more in their lifetime, with 22.9% reporting use in the previous 30 days. Nationally, while the proportion of students using marijuana decreased from 2011-2012, it was still relatively widespread among secondary school students, particularly older males, and more students are using marijuana daily than they were five years ago (daily use among 12th graders increased from 16.9% in 2007 to 19.2% in 2012). In Mississippi, 17.5% of Mississippi students have used marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days, compared to 23.1% nationwide. Also, in a new Mississippi, the public has used marijuana one or more times during the 30 days before the survey on the average of 17.5% in comparison to the United States with the average percent of 23.1%.

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