

# MARIJUANA

## THE RISKS ARE REAL

Using marijuana carries real risks for your health and quality of life. Some might be surprising to you. So know the risks — learn before you burn, eat, or use.

### Today's marijuana is stronger.

Today's marijuana has more than **3 times** the concentration of THC than marijuana from 25 years ago. More THC — the mind-altering chemical in marijuana — may lead to an increase in dependency and addiction.



### Risk of addiction.

About **1 in 10** people who use marijuana may become addicted to marijuana — and **1 in 6** when use begins before age 18.

### Lowers brain power.

Marijuana affects your brain development. Use by adolescents has been linked to a decline in IQ scores — up to 8 points! Those are points you don't get back, even if you stop using.



### Impairs your memory.



Using marijuana can affect your memory, learning, concentration, and attention. Other effects include difficulty with thinking and problem solving.

### Affects your performance.



Using marijuana can lead to worse educational outcomes. Compared with teens who don't use, students who use marijuana are more likely not to finish high school or get a college degree.

### Can harm your baby.



Using marijuana when you're pregnant can affect your baby's development. It's linked to lower birth weight, preterm birth and stillbirth, increased risk of brain and behavioral problems.

### Driving danger.

People who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience dangerous effects: slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.



Marijuana use comes with real risks. Learn more at [SAMHSA.gov/marijuana](https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana)

If you or someone you know needs help with a substance use disorder, including marijuana, call SAMHSA's National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889, or use SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at [SAMHSA.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov) to get help.

**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration