

Marijuana free essay



Marijuana is a green, brown, or gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds, and flowers from the Cannabis plant. It has been cultivated for centuries mainly for the hemp fiber but also for its psychoactive and putative medical properties. There are many street names for marijuana such as pot, herb, weed, grass, Mary Jane, bud, or chronic. There are over 200 slang terms for marijuana. The active ingredient THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) was identified in 1964. Although it contains over 400 other chemicals, there are 61 termed cannabinoids that are unique to the cannabis plant.

Natural and most synthetic cannabinoids are relatively insoluble in water, but dissolve in fats and fat solvents and are therefore called lipid soluble. Δ^9 -THC produces almost all the characteristic specific pharmacological effects of crude cannabis mixtures. THC potency has increased since the 1970's but has been about the same since the mid-1980's. All forms of marijuana are mind-altering. Marijuana is usually smoked as a joint or in a pipe or bong, although recently it has appeared in cigars called blunts.

THC is strongly absorbed by fatty tissues in various organs. Generally, traces (metabolites) of THC can be detected by standard urine testing methods several days after a smoking session. However, in heavy chronic users, traces can sometimes be detected for weeks after they have stopped using marijuana. Types of Cannabinoids: Cannabigerol (CBG), Cannabichromene (CBC), Cannabidiol (CBD), Δ^9 -Tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ^9 -THC), Δ^8 -Tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ^8 -THC), Cannabicyclol (CBL), Cannagiolon (CBE), Cannabinol (CBN), Cannabinodiol (CBND), Cannabitriol (CBT), there are 9 miscellaneous types and 4 other types. Marijuana is a possible risk factor in

the development of Transitional Cell Carcinoma of the bladder. Marijuana also helps with Aids and Cancer as a pain treatment and helps with nausea and anorexia.

Marijuana is not addictive. Everyone is affected differently. Marijuana is relatively safe. There are no deaths caused by marijuana alone but death can occur by injuries sustained while intoxicated. Chronic smoking of marijuana can lead to respiratory ailments associated with smoke inhalation.

It also affects your immune system and it makes you more likely to get sore throats, coughs, sinus problems, bronchitis, pneumonia, and can disturb the rhythm of the heart. Aside from physical damage, smoking marijuana can also cause psychological damage. These may include anxiety, panic attacks, short term memory loss, slow learning ability, it impairs coordination, vision, and reaction time. The average age that kids start smoking it is about 13 and a half years old.

Marijuana use usually peaks around the late teens and early twenties.

Among highschool seniors, about 42 percent have smoked marijuana and 10 percent will become daily smokers. This contributes to the more than five million Americans who smoke at least once a week. The majority of adolescents will deal with marijuana throughout their highschool years.

Children who are born from women who smoke are reported to have more trouble concentrating. The main reasons kids start smoking are peer pressure, depression, to deal with their problems, and boredom. Marijuana smoke also contains 50 percent more cancer-causing compounds than

cigarette smoke. 20 cigarettes does the same amount of damage to the lungs as 1 joint. There is a lot of controversy over the legalization of marijuana and this debate has become more popular within the last few years.

Many people want to legalize it for everyone and others want to legalize it for medical purposes only. For example, Jesse Ventura wants to get it legalized so we can collect taxes on it and we do not have to worry about arresting people for it. These are somewhat valid points because some prisons have been overcrowded by non-violent marijuana offenders.

The number of arrests in 1997 for marijuana was 695, 201.

This was the largest in U. S. history. 87 percent of these were only for the possession of marijuana and were not dealers. Since 1965, there have been over 11 million arrests for it. Right now, there is an estimated 15, 668 people in federal prisons, 13, 670 in state prisons, and 7, 222 in local prisons for the use of marijuana.

This is one of the main reasons for the debate of the legalization of marijuana. There are many pros and cons on this issue and there will always be controversy on this subject no matter what the outcome is.