

Q & A

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF
DALLAS BALDWIN



Q. Isn't smoking marijuana less dangerous than smoking cigarettes?

A. No. It's even worse. One joint affects the lungs as much as four cigarettes.

Q. Can people become addicted to Marijuana?

A. Yes. Research confirms you can become hooked on marijuana.

Q. Can marijuana help cure cancer?

A. No. Some people with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other diseases claim to experience relief from pain and other symptoms that they attribute to marijuana use. Scientific research has not confirmed these benefits.

SHERIFF **DALLAS BALDWIN'S**

Tips for Teens

THE TRUTH
ABOUT:
MARIJUANA



<http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov>

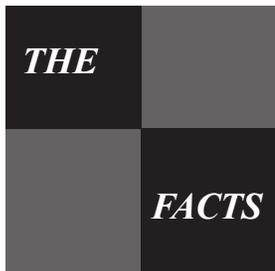
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MARIJUANA AFFECTS YOUR BRAIN.

The active ingredient in marijuana (THC), affects the nerve cells in the part of the brain where memories are formed.

MARIJUANA AFFECTS YOUR LUNGS.

There are more than 400 known chemicals found in marijuana. A single joint contains four times as much cancer causing tar as a cigarette.

MARIJUANA AFFECTS OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR HEALTH.

Marijuana can limit your body's ability to fight off infection. Long-term marijuana use can even increase the risk of developing certain mental illness.

MARIJUANA AFFECTS YOUR SELF-CONTROL.

Marijuana can seriously affect your sense of time and coordination, impacting things like driving. In 1998, nearly 77,000 people were admitted to emergency rooms suffering from marijuana related problems.

MARIJUANA IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS.

Marijuana can be laced with other dangerous drugs without your knowledge. "Blunts" - hollowed out cigars filled with marijuana, sometimes have substances such as crack cocaine, PCP, or embalming fluid added.

MARIJUANA CAN BE ADDICTIVE.

Some users develop signs of dependence. In 1995, 165,000 people entered drug treatment programs to kick their marijuana habit.

BEFORE YOU RISK IT....

Know the Law.

It is illegal to buy, sell, or grow Marijuana in the State of Ohio.

Stay Informed.

Very few people use other drugs without first using marijuana. Marijuana is considered a gateway drug. Teens who smoke marijuana are more likely to try other drugs, in part because they have more contact with people who use and sell drugs.

Know the Risks.

Using marijuana or other drugs increases your risk of injury from car crashes, falls, burns, and other accidents. A single joint contains four times as much cancer causing tar as a cigarette.

Be Aware.

Marijuana is expensive. Regular users can spend hundreds of dollars each week on marijuana.

Stay in control.

Marijuana impairs your judgment, drains your motivation, and can make you feel anxious.

Look around you.

Most teens are not using marijuana. According to a 1997 study, four out of five 12 to 17 year old's had never even tried marijuana.

KNOW THE SIGNS....

How can you tell if a friend is using Marijuana?

Sometimes it is tough to tell. But there are signs you can look for. If your friend has one or more of the following warning signs, he or she may be using Marijuana:

- Seeming dizzy and having trouble walking.
- Having red, bloodshot eyes, and smelly hair and clothes.
- Acting silly for no apparent reason

What can you do to help someone who is using marijuana?

Be a real friend. Save a life. Encourage your friend to stop or seek professional help. For information and referrals, contact:

Maryhaven Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center
(614) 445-8131



MARIJUANA

Reefer, Grass, Pot, Weed, Mary Jane, Joint, Blunt, Ganja

****Information contained in this section was obtained from literature published by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.