

TOP 10 MYTHS

ABOUT MARIJUANA

MYTH #1

SMOKING MARIJUANA DOES NOT CAUSE CANCER

FACT

Smoking marijuana increases your risk of lung cancer by **200%**

MYTH #2

SMOKING MARIJUANA DOES NOT CAUSE LUNG DISEASE

FACT

On average, marijuana smokers develop **CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND OTHER RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS** at the age of 41 – more than **20 years sooner** than tobacco smokers.

MYTH #3

MARIJUANA CONSUMPTION DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

FACT

Persistent marijuana use before adulthood can cause permanent mental health impairment, such as **SCHIZOPHRENIA AND MEMORY LOSS**. Teens are vulnerable while their brains are still forming.

MYTH #4

SMOKING MARIJUANA IS SAFER THAN SMOKING TOBACCO

FACT

Marijuana smoke contains higher concentrations of dangerous chemicals than tobacco, including **ammonia, hydrogen cyanide and nitric oxide**.

Marijuana smokers can suffer airway injuries, coughing, phlegm production, and wheezing - **similar to tobacco smokers**.

MYTH #5:

MARIJUANA IS NOT ADDICTIVE

FACT

Cannabis can be addictive.

1 IN 6 PEOPLE who use marijuana during adolescence will develop an addiction.

MYTH #6

ANY MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS FROM MARIJUANA ARE TEMPORARY

FACT

Adolescent exposure to marijuana causes long-term mental health problems. Teens who used cannabis over a long term **suffered decreases in their working memory, processing speed and reasoning**.

MYTH #7

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA MAKES IT LESS ATTRACTIVE TO YOUTH

FACT

Legalization has made marijuana more popular among **young people in some U.S. states**.

More teens now smoke marijuana than cigarettes, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control.

MYTH #8

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA WILL REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME

FACT

Multiple studies have shown that organized crime has a low involvement in Canada's marijuana industry. **The current cannabis market is actually dominated by otherwise law-abiding citizens** – not by organized crime.

MYTH #9

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA WILL NOT IMPACT CHILDREN

FACT

The frequency of calls about children poisoning themselves by accidentally eating marijuana **tripled in states that decriminalized pot before 2005**, poison hotlines report.

MYTH #10

MARIJUANA CONSUMPTION DOES NOT IMPAIR YOUR DRIVING ABILITY

FACT

Marijuana use **DOUBLES THE RISK** of a car crash because users have **slower reaction times**. It's the most common drug involved in drugged driving.