



Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Texas

UNITING AND EDUCATING COMMUNITIES ON THE IMPACT OF MARIJUANA

Dear Texas Legislators,

We are Texas families living with the devastating consequences of THC products. Our adult children and loved ones, most over the age of 21, have suffered from conditions like cannabis use disorder (CUD), cannabis-induced psychosis (CIP), cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (CHS), and severe mental health issues exacerbated by THC consumption, including anxiety, PTSD, depression, and suicidal ideation. This is not hypothetical; it is our lived reality.

We represent a growing network of families across the country who have been harmed by the consequences of marijuana legalization and the 2018 Federal Farm Bill. As we work to establish nonprofits, prepare for legal action, and pursue product liability lawsuits, we strive to raise awareness about our situation. Unfortunately, our voices are often overshadowed by those who profit from the commercialization of THC. This imbalance is significant. We are not paid lobbyists; we are families in crisis, dealing with financial and emotional exhaustion, while facing harassment and bullying from advocates of THC and the THC industry.

We were encouraged by the broad, bipartisan support for Senate Bill 3, which showed that Texas lawmakers were listening to law enforcement, doctors, addiction specialists, hospitals, and families. But we were devastated when Governor Abbott vetoed SB 3 and instead called for marijuana (THC) legalization, effectively rewarding the predatory addiction-for-profit THC industry that has saturated our neighborhoods.

As Texans committed to protecting public health, we will continue to push for One Regulation to correct this harm, a full ban on THC. Legalization has failed in other states where the THC industry has proven they are regulation-resistant. We cannot let Texas become like Colorado or California, where addiction, homelessness, and violent crime have surged alongside marijuana legalization.

We ask you to understand: if Texas chooses to "regulate" marijuana, it will be aligning itself with the goals of the Drug Policy Alliance—an organization openly advocating for the legalization of all drugs.

We ask that you stand with Texas families, not drug investors. We do not need more government to protect industry profits; we need fewer drugs destroying our families and communities.

Sincerely,

Aubree Adams and Texas Families Harmed by THC

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**DESPITE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 3
TO BAN ALL THC PRODUCTS,
ABBOTT VETOED THE BILL.
HE HAS NOW CALLED FOR A SPECIAL SESSION TO
REGULATE THC, WHICH IS A SHOCKING MOVE TO
LEGALIZE MARIJUANA.**

This is detrimental to public health and the taxpayers of Texas.

**TEXAS LEGISLATORS MUST SUPPORT ONLY ONE REGULATION:
A FULL BAN ON THC! PASS SB5/HB5**

Senate Bill 3 was an enforcement measure to remove illegal marijuana (THC) products and synthetics from being sold and exploited through a loophole in House Bill 1325 of 2019. If Governor Abbott legalizes THC, he will effectively reward the people selling these products with the right to profit from harmful intoxicants that endanger the health and safety of Texas families and communities.

The only fiscally responsible way forward is a full ban on THC; otherwise, Texas will need to exponentially expand its government and use taxpayers' money to manage an industry that has already proven problematic, with dangerous products and predatory marketing tactics.

Regulations with THC in other states have failed and are associated with increased use across all age groups, including underage youth, even when age restrictions are in place. This is a critical fact that is backed by our experience with alcohol and tobacco, the two most heavily regulated legal substances. Despite 21+ age limits, they remain the most commonly used substances overall and among youth.



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Studies show that inhaled doses of **2 to 3 mg of THC** and ingested doses of 5 to 20 mg of THC can cause impairment of attention, memory, executive functioning, and short-term memory. Doses > 7.5 mg/m² inhaled in adults and oral doses from 5 to 300 mg in pediatrics can produce more severe symptoms such as hypotension, panic, anxiety, myoclonic jerking/hyperkinesia, delirium, respiratory depression, and ataxia.”

Furthermore, THC is a lipophilic, fat-soluble compound, and it accumulates in the system, especially in our brains, as little as 10 mg can induce psychotic symptoms. If a person consumes 3 mg daily, THC will accumulate in their brain receptor sites, and we cannot predict when the brain might become dependent or break into psychosis. This is one of the main reasons why THC cannot be safely regulated or controlled.

So, the bigger picture is that the 3mg limit means people will just consume more doses. Therefore, packaging may change, but consumption remains the same.

For this reason, even 0.5 mg THC is unacceptable.

There is an FDA-approved THC medication called Marinol. It is recommended to initiate treatment at 2.5 mg twice daily for a short duration. Physicians are cautioned not to prescribe more than 10 mg twice a day (no more than 20 mg per day) due to the risk of psychiatric reactions. Is Abbott going to include all these recommendations and warnings on each product and allow the hemp industry to impersonate medical professionals?

Please connect the dots. The homeless people you see on the streets of Austin suffering from psychosis are THC-related, and in many circumstances, it is the cause.

- 47% of people (adults) who experience cannabis-induced psychosis will convert to a chronic psychotic disorder, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder with psychosis.
- 30% of young men, ages 21-29, would not have developed schizophrenia if it weren't for their cannabis use disorder, addiction to THC. This analyzed detailed health records data spanning 5 decades and representing more than 6 million people in Denmark, where they have low potency marijuana (products under 10 mg).





MISINFORMATION FROM THE THC INDUSTRY

WE URGE LEGISLATORS TO SEE PAST THE INDUSTRY'S MARKETING SPIN.

"No one has died from THC."

"A lie by omission. This narrative is just as misleading as Big Tobacco's assertion that 'no one dies from nicotine'. Here's the truth: marijuana-related deaths are not effectively systematically tracked. People often die from THC-related violent and neglect incidents, drug overdoses, suicides, CHS, ingestion of edibles, road fatalities, heart attacks, and strokes.

Texas children who died from abuse and neglect

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services confirms that marijuana is the most common drug used by perpetrators in child abuse and neglect deaths. (2023 DFPS Fatality Report, P. 21)

Drug overdose deaths: The legalization of cannabis is associated with overdose deaths in American adolescents.

Suicides: Cannabis use was associated with a higher rate of suicidal ideation and attempts in various populations, including major depressive disorder patients, military veterans, and the general population. Evidence for a causal relationship was mentioned in one study for suicidal ideation. Additionally, some studies showed that heavy and long-term cannabis use was associated with worse suicidal outcomes.

Acts of Violence: <https://everybrainmatters.org/thc-psychosis-and-violence/>

Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome can lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, leading to fatal seizures and organ failure.

Ingestion of edibles can cause severe respiratory depression or cardiac arrest

- Tanner Clements died from THC after consuming half of a CBD edible belonging to his mother.
- East Texas women charged after toddler overdoses on THC.
- A Texas man who allegedly gave his daughter THC chocolate, sending her to the hospital.

Road Fatalities: The combined effect of legalization and retail sales was a 5.8% increase in injury crash rates and a 4.1% increase in fatal crash rates

Heart Attacks and Strokes: The Journal of the American Heart Association found that ANY use of marijuana was linked to a high risk of heart attack (25% increase) and stroke (42% increase).

Marijuana is safer than alcohol."

A single shot of alcohol does not cause psychosis like a hit of THC can. Also, alcohol is a water-soluble drug, so people experiencing harmful effects usually recover within a few hours; however, THC is a fat-soluble drug. The detrimental effects, like psychosis and cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, can be long-lasting.

"Using Marijuana is about freedom."

There is no freedom when an industry gets a free pass to deceive. Freedom is compromised when companies intentionally withhold or distort information that affects informed consent (Engle v. Liggett Group). Moreover, using marijuana can lead to serious issues that cause suffering, such as addiction, psychosis, and physical sickness. THC is the primary environmental factor that can lead to schizophrenia, a chronic psychiatric disorder that is associated with crime, homelessness, and reduced life span..

"THC is medicine."

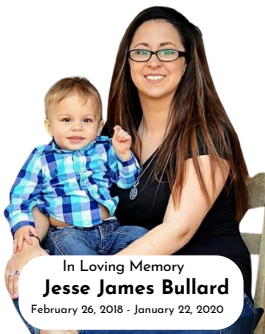
The hemp industry must stop making false medical claims until its products receive approval from the FDA. Making unsubstantiated medical claims is considered a deceptive trade practice under Chapter 17 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, specifically the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices–Consumer Protection Act (DTPA). Claims such as "this cures anxiety" or "treats PTSD" may lead to accusations of unauthorized practice of medicine, which is a violation of the Texas Occupations Code Chapter 151. Additionally, products that make medical claims without FDA approval are classified as misbranded drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The THC industry does not adhere to these regulations nationwide.



REAL STORIES, REAL CONSEQUENCES

Bryn Spejcher, a 28-year-old woman with no criminal record, stabbed her friend over 100 times during a cannabis-induced psychotic episode, ending his life. She also stabbed herself over 40 times, but police intervention saved her life. The woman was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. THC caused the psychotic break that led to this horrific crime.

A 15-year-old Houstonian ate "a bunch of edibles" and then called 911, threatening to kill himself or a family member. He shot his mom and sister multiple times. They were in critical condition. Police said the boy, one of his sisters, and an adult ate the THC edibles. The suspect reacted badly and called for an ambulance, while the others tried to calm him down. They also began to laugh at him, which prompted him to get the gun, police said.



MARIJUANA-IMPAIRED PARENTS KILL

*I am a Texas mom. My son's father, Isaac, loved marijuana more than our son, Jesse, and moved to Colorado to support his marijuana addiction. By law, I had to send my son to visit his father in Colorado, even though I was reluctant to. On Jan. 22, 2020, Issac was so **impaired from marijuana dabs that he forgot to put my baby in his vehicle and drove over him in his driveway.** He felt the truck bounce, but instead of calling 911 to help my son, Issac called his drug buddies to help conceal his illegal marijuana operation in his home, where the marijuana plants took up most of the house while my baby slept in a cardboard box on the floor with no heat. Issac didn't want the death of Jesse to get in his way of selling tax-free marijuana from his home and his dream to be a Pot King. **My son is dead because Colorado allows marijuana to be grown in communities and promotes its use. Jesse would still be alive if it weren't for his father's marijuana addiction, which led to my son being abused and neglected. If Texas legalizes marijuana, it will be like a slap in my face. How can any state pick more marijuana over the health and safety of our children?***

Tamlin Nichole Oliver, Quinlan, Texas



DELTA-9-THC KILLS

Marijuana kills! It killed my son. We will never escape David's loss, but we hope that by telling his story, we can help other parents and children understand that marijuana is far from harmless. David started using marijuana because **he was convinced it was medicine** and would help him with his anxiety. On December 5, 2018, **David shot himself. He was suffering from Cannabis-Induced Psychosis.**

Dr. James Childs, College Station, Texas

*If you told me years ago that my brother would **end his life** in such a degrading state following **marijuana-induced psychosis**, I would have called you crazy. Unfortunately, I have lived with this reality every day. He told me that he wanted to find happiness outside of marijuana but could not imagine how. He told me that **he felt incapable of giving up the high.***

David's sister, College Station, Texas



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A SMARTER, SMALLER GOVERNMENT

Regulations are costly!

A FULL THC BAN is fiscally responsible and minimizes government intervention.

Texas's failed regulations prove this industry only grows government, wastes resources, and harms public health:

- Bureaucracy Bloat: DSHS, TDA, TABC, DPS — multiple agencies, more costs, and still no control. A ban simplifies enforcement and cuts waste.
- Healthcare Costs: High-potency THC drives ER visits, psych care, and addiction treatment — all on the taxpayer's dime.
- Oversight Waste: Tracking systems, inspections, labs, lawsuits — endless taxpayer spending to manage a predatory industry.
- More Government, Not Less: Regulation expands government jobs, taxes, and bureaucracy just to manage addiction.

Bottom Line: **A ban reduces government spending and prevents the waste of resources on an industry that Texas clearly can't control.**



COSTS

- Health Harms from THC use
- Legalization is associated with increased use across all age groups, including underage youth — even when age restrictions are in place.
- The estimated cost burden of schizophrenia in the U.S. doubled between 2016 and 2019, reaching a total of \$343.2 billion."
- ER visits for CHS
- Legalization of cannabis, both medical and recreational, has been associated with increased cannabis use among young people and a higher prevalence of cannabis use disorder, according to the Recovery Research Institute
- Cannabis increases the risk of other substance use disorders
- Lost productivity
- Suicide
- Substance use disorder and homelessness
- Mental illness
- Cost of cannabis use disorder
- Law enforcement and criminal justice
- Costs of medications
- Underground black market expansion
- Burden on schools, youth services, and CPS burdens
- Workplace safety costs
- Environmental damage from cultivation
- Legal costs: fraud, consumer protection, litigation



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HOW DID THC BECOME LEGAL?

1

THE 2018 FEDERAL FARM BILL LEGALIZED HEMP AND CBD, WHICH ALLOWS 0.3% DELTA-9-THC BY DRY-WEIGHT.

WHAT DOES 0.3% BY WEIGHT ACUALLY MEAN?

0.3% is the same as 0.3/100 or 3/1000
So...3/1000 represents 3mg of THC per 1g (1,000 mg=1 g) of product dry weight.



THAT IS A LOT OF THC!

ONLY 10 MG OF THC CAN INDUCE PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS.

2

IT ALSO ALLOWED A LOOPHOLE TO USE CBD TO SYNTHESIZE OTHER THC-VARIANTS, SUCH AS DELTA-8-THC.

The hemp industry uses a strong acid and a solvent, such as toluene, which is usually used to manufacture paint products, to change the chemical bonds.

Current list of THC variants available in Texas:

Delta-8 (~3x weaker than Delta-9)

Delta -9

Delta-10

Delta-11

Delta-12

THC-0 (~3x stronger than Delta-8)

THC-H (~25x stronger than Delta-9)

THC-P (~33x stronger than Delta-9)

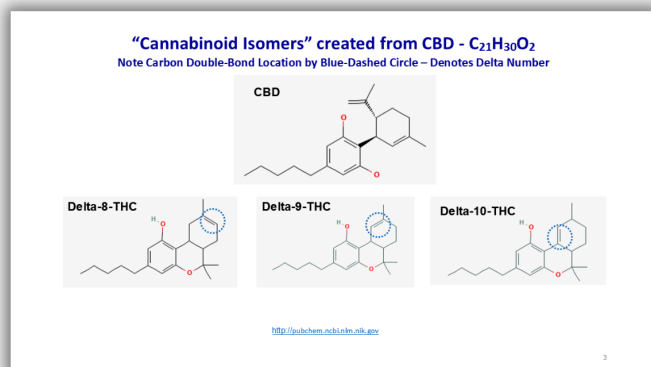
THC-V

HHC

HXC

HHC-O

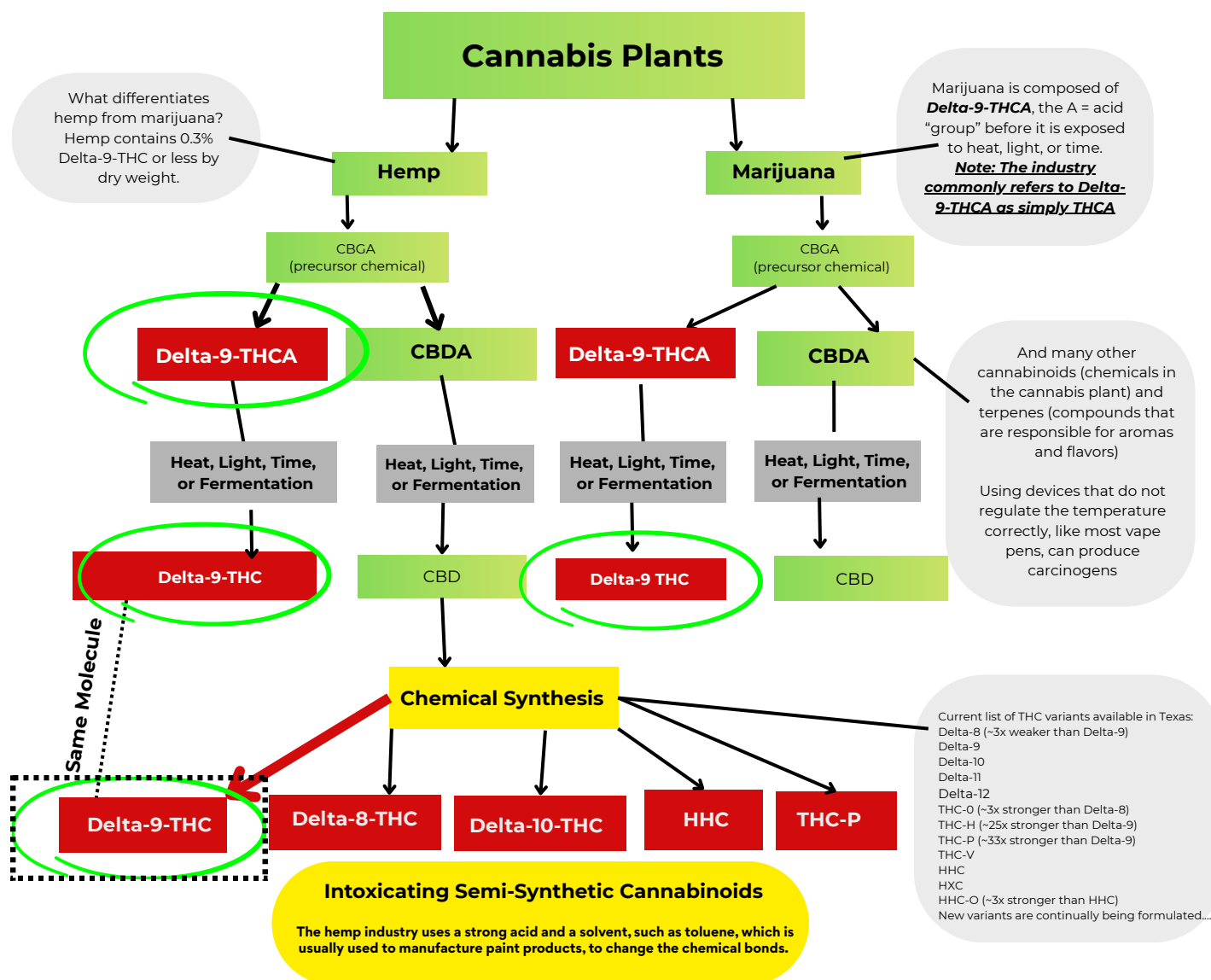
New variants are continually being formulated....



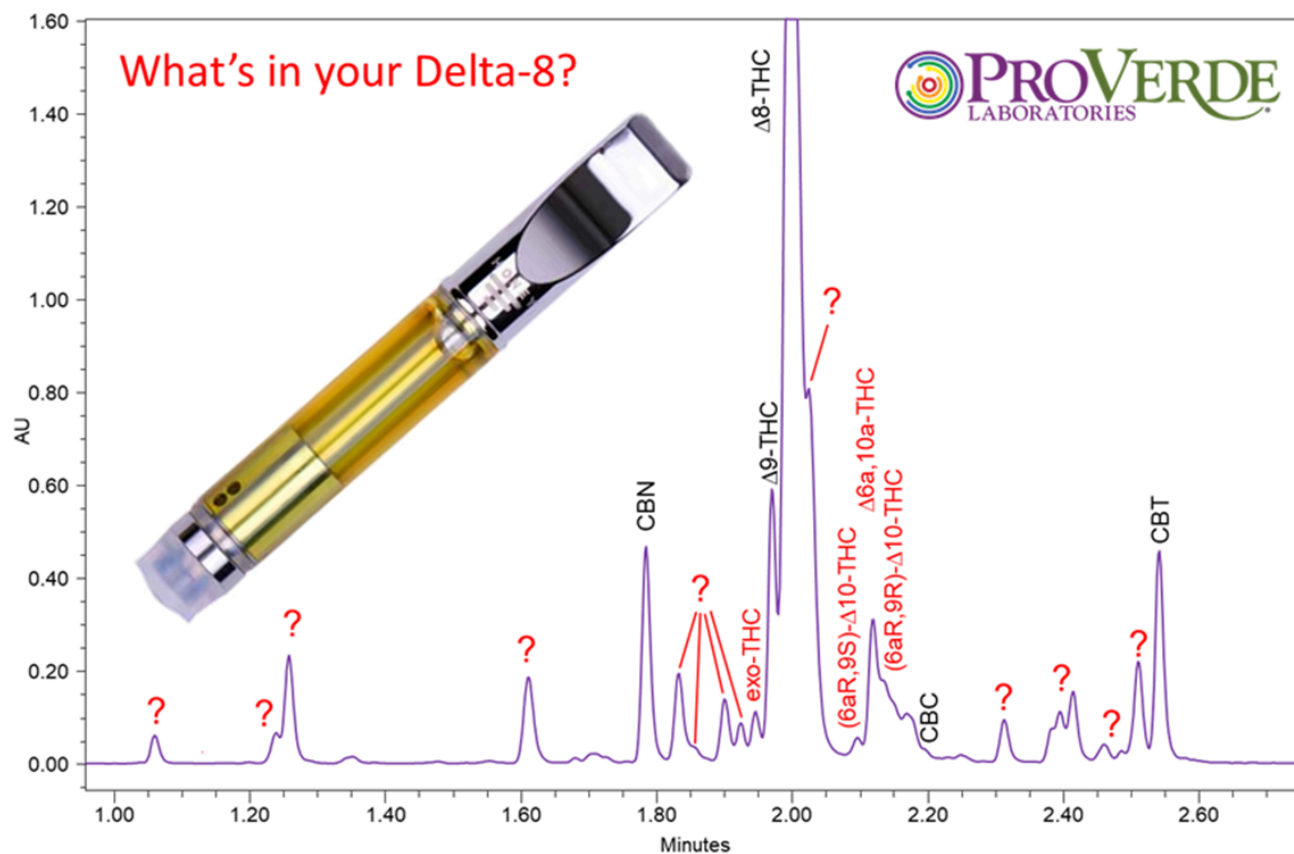
A CHEMICAL ALPHABET SOUP, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO REGULATE

Is the hemp industry trying to exclude the acid version of THC (THCA) from the overall 0.3% THC content?
For example, if THCA is not included in the 0.3% by dry weight limitation, the amount of THCA could be unlimited in any of the products sold, including drinks.

Utilizing either heat, light, storage, or fermentation, THCA can be easily converted to Delta-9-THC.



This game of chemical alphabet soup will continue to enable the hemp industry to circumvent the law and waste law enforcement resources. A complete ban on all THC would close the loophole in the original House Bill 1325 (2019) and serve as a cost-effective solution. Implementing a full ban on THC is fiscally responsible and reduces government intervention.



It's Just Weed. What's The Harm?

According to science, THC can cause mental and physical illnesses like psychosis, addiction, and severe vomiting that can lead to death.

Short-term use

MARIJUANA (THC) EFFECTS

Long-term use

Brain

- Hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, psychosis
- Impairs driving skills
- Altered senses, including time
- Changes in mood
- Euphoria
- Lethargy
- Difficulty problem-solving and thinking
- Impaired memory, learning
- Poor judgment
- Agitation
- Mania, anxiety
- Worsening PTSD symptoms

Lungs

- Difficulty breathing
- Infections
- Toxins in marijuana smoke are similar to tobacco smoke

Heart

- 4.8 Increase risk of heart attack within 60 mins of use
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure

Other Systems

- Genetic damage
- Impacts on the Endocrine system

Beware

Today's marijuana is more concentrated with THC, which makes it more life-threatening than ever.

Brain

- Cannabis dependence or addiction (CUD)
- Depression, anxiety, mania
- Chronic psychosis or schizophrenia (CIP)
- Increased risk for suicide
- Reduction in developmental pruning
- Smaller brain regions (hippocampus- memory region)
- Diminished visuospatial functioning, verbal learning, short-term memory, cognitive function, executive function attention, and motor skills
- Stroke

Kidneys

- Kidney failure due to CHS - Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome

Lungs

- EVALI (vaping injury), bronchitis, emphysema
- Increased risk for cancer

Heart

- Cardiovascular disease
- Heart failure due to CHS

GI System and Pain

- Cyclic vomiting and abdominal pain (Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome)

Male/Female

- Testicular cancer and decreased sperm count
- Increased developmental and mental disorders in children of mothers who use cannabis when pregnant
- Reproductive issues in males and females



EveryBrainMatters.org

References

