

MARIJUANA AND DRIVING

- When under the influence of THC, it is not safe to drive and respond to hazards on the road, same as with alcohol.
- Combining alcohol and marijuana is additive, which means the impairment is worse together than with either substance alone.

MARIJUANA AND ALCOHOL

- When people smoke marijuana and drink alcohol at the same time they can experience nausea and/or vomiting or they can react with panic, anxiety or paranoia. This increases the risk of vulnerable people experiencing psychotic symptoms.
- There is some evidence to support that having alcohol in your blood causes a faster absorption of THC. This can lead to the marijuana having a much stronger effect than it would normally have and could result in 'greening out'.
- Greening out is a term commonly referred to in a situation where people feel sick after smoking marijuana. They can go pale and sweaty, feel dizzy, nauseous and may even start vomiting.



MORE INFORMATION

For referrals to substance abuse help centers please call 1-800-662-HELP or visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

The Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians thanks the University Of Massachusetts

Division Of Medical Toxicology
<https://umasstox.com/>

THC and Marijuana facts in brochure from National Institute on Drug Abuse
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana#ref>



Massachusetts College
of Emergency Physicians

860 Winter Street
Waltham, MA 02451

www.macep.org
781-890-4407



Hidden DANGERS of marijuana

MARIJUANA refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the *Cannabis sativa* or *Cannabis indica* plant.

The plant contains the **mind-altering chemical** THC and other similar compounds.

Exposure to higher THC levels has a greater chance of a **harmful reaction**.

The chemistry of edibles also increases the chance of harmful reactions.

Edibles take longer to digest and produce a high.

Therefore, people may consume more to feel the effects faster, **leading to dangerous results**.

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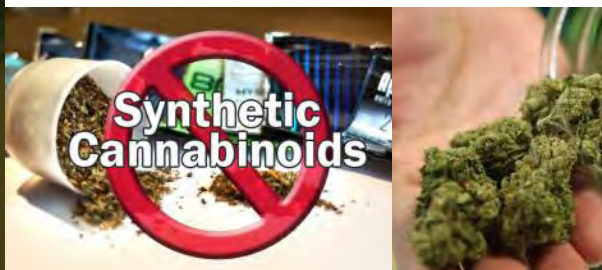
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SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

- Were meant as research chemicals. They were NEVER intended for human consumption!
- There are no regulations overseeing the production of the numerous types of illegal synthetic marijuana chemicals, so no guarantee of safety.
- There are synthetic products that can cause any type of symptoms, from making the user severely agitated to causing a coma- like state.
- The wide variety of presentations can make intoxication difficult to treat, and can cause damage to different organs of the body.



CANNABINOID HYPEREMESIS SYNDROME

- This is a disease of severe daily vomiting and abdominal pain that can interfere with your normal daily life.
- It usually starts after days to weeks, or longer, of daily marijuana use.
- People can find relief with hot showers, and it often resolves after stopping marijuana use.

EDIBLES

- THC is added to cookies, brownies, candy, butters, cakes, chocolates, oils, beverages, etc.
- Symptoms and experiences affect different people differently. One person may not feel the same way as other people using THC.
- Symptoms from eating THC can be different than from smoking THC.
- Onset of symptoms can take 60 minutes and then last from 4-12 hours.
- Each edible can contain large amounts of THC, so that one product (for example 1 candy bar or 1 whole brownie) is intended to be eaten in small portions and, made for multiple uses.
- 1 whole brownie or candy bar can contain up to 100mg of THC- that's 10 to 20 times the suggested dose!
- Significant overdoses can happen by eating too much product too quickly.
- Overdose can cause agitation, paranoia, anxiety, and hallucinations.
- The effects of overdose can be hard to predict, and can put users at risk of injury to themselves and others.



CHILDREN EXPOSED TO EDIBLES

- Edibles are packaged in ways that look like candy and other treats.
- This makes them appetizing to children, who will eat large amounts because it tastes good.
- Children are at high risk of poisoning from the high concentrations of THC in edibles.
- Children will experience high heart rates, agitation, irritability, severe drowsiness and can stop breathing



DABS

- Dabs, in various forms such as wax, glass, or shatter, are small portions of highly concentrated THC in a wax-like form.
- The high concentration of THC in the final product poses a significant risk of overdose.

