

The Controlled Substances Act

Chapter 13 of Title 21 of the US Code provides the foundation for the nation's laws related to illegal substances and drugs. It is commonly known as the Controlled Substances Act, or "CSA" and divides drugs into five "schedules" (I, II, III, IV, and V) based on the degree of severity of addiction and abuse, medical usage, and dependence associated with it.

- » **Schedule I:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and lacks the accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.
- » **Schedule II:** The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse, but has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions. However, abuse of the drug or other substances may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.
- » **Schedule III:** The drug or other substance has a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in schedules I and II; it has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. However, abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.
- » **Schedule IV:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III. It has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule III.
- » **Schedule V:** The drug or other substance has a low potential for abuse relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV. It has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs or other substances in schedule IV.

Most of the drugs that are common in the illegal drug trade are found in Schedule I (including MDMA, LSD, heroin, GHB, cannabis) or Schedule II (cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, phencyclidine [PCP], and opium/opiates such as morphine and oxycodone).

Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (888) 919-2746 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see www.mpd.cdc.gov/tipline.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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PUBLIC VICE AND DRUG TRENDS



Understanding the Risks and Dangers of Marijuana

Recognizing the health hazards and community impacts of marijuana



'Kind bud' may sound sweet. Don't be fooled.

Dangerous substances like marijuana and other cannabis-derived drugs are often accompanied by clever marketing or attractive names. But don't be tempted. Marijuana can have extremely dangerous health effects and long-term impacts on your future.

What is Marijuana?

Marijuana is a mind-altering (psychoactive) drug produced by the *Cannabis sativa* hemp plant, a fast-growing bushy annual with dense sticky flowers. Marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, contains over 400 chemicals. THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is believed to be the



main chemical ingredient that produces the psychoactive effect. It is the most widely used illegal psychoactive and has a long history of medicinal, recreational, and industrial use. The fibrous stalks (hemp)

of the plant are used to produce clothing and rope. Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in America.

Strong forms of cannabis include sinsemilla (sin-seh-meyah), hashish ("hash" for short), and hash oil. Marijuana's effect on the user depends on the strength or potency of the THC it contains. THC potency has increased since the 1970s and continues to increase still. The strength of the drug is measured by the average amount of THC in test samples confiscated by law enforcement agencies. For the year 2006, most ordinary marijuana contained, on average, 7 percent THC.

Origin and Description

Marijuana cultivation and production historically stemmed from Mexico, which over time was found to be low in quality. In recent years, the US has become the largest producer of domestically-used marijuana. Almost 98 percent of the marijuana smuggled into the US from Mexico is done via vehicular transport.

Much of the higher-THC marijuana now comes from Canada, commonly referred to as "BC Bud." Marijuana is grown wildly in different climates all over the world.

Marijuana is usually sent into the country in kilograms, compressed bails and bundled amounts.

Marijuana is known by many names. Common street names include "pot," "grass," "ganja," "reefer," "skunk," "weed," "chronic," "green," "smoke," and "bud."



What Does Marijuana Look Like?

Marijuana is grown as a green bushy plant which can grow from 2"-12" feet in height. The leaves of a marijuana plant will always have an odd number of leaves itself and the leaves will have apparent serrated edges.



How is Marijuana Used?

Marijuana is commonly smoked in "blunts" or joints" as well as "bongs" or "homemade pipes." Marijuana is usually sold in small zip locks or sandwich bags.



What Are the Side Effects?

The effects of marijuana are usually felt within minutes and can last several hours. Short-term effects include memory and learning problems, sleep, hunger, distorted perception, and difficulty thinking and solving problems. Some immediate physical effects of marijuana include: a faster heartbeat and pulse rate, bloodshot eyes, and a dry mouth and throat.

What Are the Dangers of Marijuana Use?

The effects of marijuana on perception and coordination are responsible for serious impairments in driving abilities — a deadly combination. Long-term chronic use is associated with "Amotivational Syndrome," characterized

by apathy, impairment of judgment, memory and concentration, and loss of motivation, ambition, and interest in the pursuit of personal goals. High doses can result in mental confusion, panic reactions, and hallucinations.

Short-term physical effects may include sedation, bloodshot eyes, increased heart rate, coughing from lung irritation, increased appetite, and decreased blood pressure. Like tobacco smokers, cannabis smokers experience serious health problems such as bronchitis, emphysema, and bronchial asthma. Extended use may cause suppression of the immune system. Because cannabis contains toxins and carcinogens, cannabis smokers increase their risk of cancer of the head, neck, lungs and respiratory track. Withdrawal from chronic use of high doses of cannabis causes physical signs including headache, shakiness, sweating, stomach pains and nausea, as well as behavioral signs including restlessness, irritability, sleep difficulties and decreased appetite.

Marijuana Prices in the Washington Area

A typical "street dose" of Marijuana is one gram (1 g) (1,000 mg = 1 gram). The drug is commonly sold in these increments:

- » "Dime" (1 g): \$10
- » "Dub" (2 g): \$20
- » "QP" (¼-pound, or 112 g): \$250–300
- » ½-lb. (224 g): \$500
- » 1 lb. (448 g): \$1,000

Commercial grade marijuana in Washington, DC sells for approximately \$1,000 per pound for lower grade and up to \$5,000 for high-potent "BC Bud."

Recognizing the Signs of Marijuana Use

Repeated marijuana use will often be accompanied by some predictable paraphernalia associated with its use. If you see these items around your home or in your neighborhood, the chances are good that marijuana is being used.

- » Small ziplock baggies
- » Razor blades
- » Disposable latex gloves
- » Digital scales
- » Blunt cigars
- » Rolling papers
- » Sandwich bags
- » Bongs or other smoking devices