

# Marijuana 2015 Update

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12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting lifetime use:



**66% alcohol** (50% drunk)



**44% marijuana**

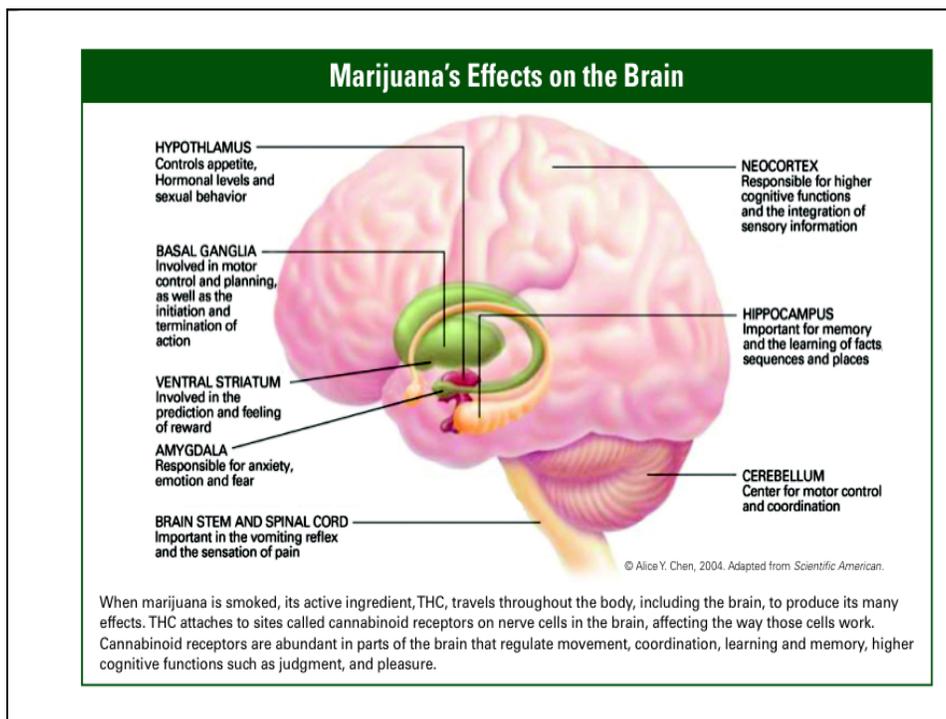


**20% any Rx drug**



4% cocaine 1.9% methamphetamine 1% heroin

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Survey, 2014. N= 50,000 students at 420 U.S. public and private high schools and middle schools.



## Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Ruben D. Baler, Ph.D., Wilson M. Compton, M.D.,  
and Susan R.B. Weiss, Ph.D.

*N Engl J Med* 2014;370:2219-27.

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMra1402309

## Effects of short-term MJ use

- Impaired short-term memory (making it difficult to learn and retain information)
- Impaired motor coordination (heightening risk of injury and accidents)
- Altered judgment
- In high doses, paranoia and psychosis

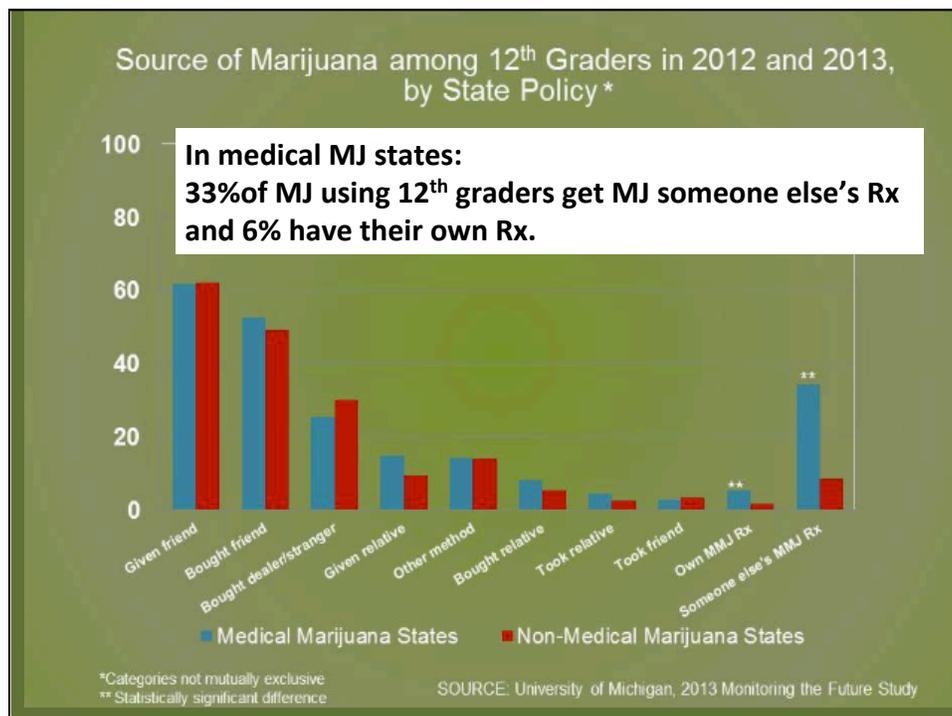
## Effects of long-term or heavy MJ use

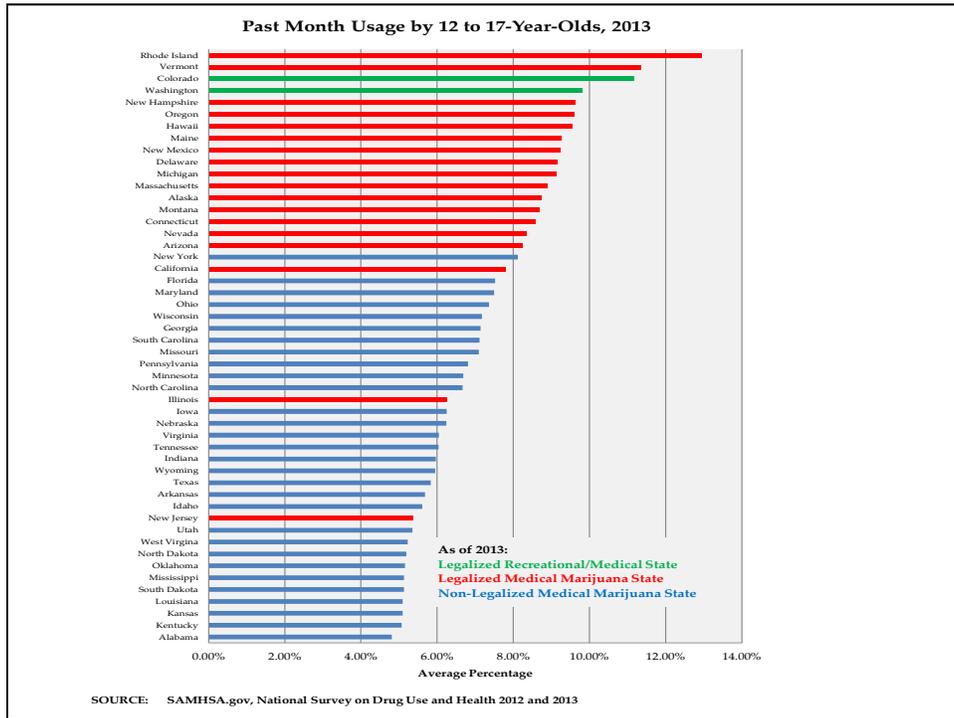
- Addiction\*
- Altered brain development\*
- Poor educational outcome\* (increased drop-out risk)
- Cognitive impairment\* (lower IQ function among frequent adolescent users)
- Diminished life satisfaction and achievement\*
- Symptoms of chronic bronchitis
- Increased risk of chronic psychotic disorders (including schizophrenia) in predisposed individuals

\* *the effect is strongly associated with initial MJ use in early adolescence*

## Clinical conditions with symptoms that may be relieved by MJ/cannabinoids

- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- Nausea
- Multiple Sclerosis
- AIDS associated wasting syndrome
- Chronic pain
- Inflammation





A study released in 2012 showed that people who used marijuana heavily in their teens and continued through adulthood showed a significant drop in IQ between the ages of 13 and 38—an average of 8 points for those who met criteria for marijuana dependence.

THOSE WHO NEVER USED MARIJUANA SHOWED NO DECLINES IN I.Q.



SOURCE: NIDA, 2012.

A graphic with a teal background. At the top, a white speech bubble contains a dark blue marijuana leaf. Below the speech bubble are white silhouettes of a woman on the left and a man on the right. The text 'MARIJUANA TALK KIT' is centered in bold, dark blue letters. Below it is the URL <http://drugfree.org/MJTalkKit> in blue. At the bottom, the tagline 'Helping parents talk with their teens about marijuana' is written in a smaller, italicized font.

**MARIJUANA TALK KIT**  
<http://drugfree.org/MJTalkKit>  
*Helping parents talk with their teens about marijuana*

*“I don’t tell other governors what to do, but when they asked me, I said, ‘If I was in your shoes, I would wait a couple of years and see whether there are unintended consequences, from what is admittedly a well-intentioned law.’”*

Gov. John Hickenlooper

