

Marijuana Abuse and Dependence

SAMHSA

January 24, 2003

National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Report

Characteristics of New Marijuana Users

- In 2000, 2.4 million persons used marijuana for the first time
- In 1998 and 1999, more than a quarter of marijuana initiates were 14 or younger. The average age was 17
- Almost 60 percent of recent marijuana initiates in 1998 and 1999 had used both cigarettes and alcohol prior to using marijuana
- A study of recent marijuana initiates (persons who used marijuana for the first time in 1998 or 1999) found that 51 percent were male and more than a quarter were age 14 or younger. The average age of marijuana initiates was 17 years. (Figure 2)
- Almost 60 percent of marijuana initiates in 1998 and 1999 had used both cigarettes and alcohol prior to using marijuana (Figure 4).² Almost 17 percent of recent marijuana initiates had used alcohol but not cigarettes prior to their marijuana use, and 15 percent used cigarettes but not alcohol. Approximately 9 percent of recent initiates had used neither cigarettes nor alcohol prior to their marijuana use.

Ridenour TA, et al 2005

- Length of time between onset of abuse and dependence (LOTAD): Shorter time indicative of greater addictive liability. Study of 1226 participants in a clinical setting, using DSM IV criteria
 - Order of dependence liability from highest to lowest: Cocaine, opiates, cannabis, alcohol.
 - Animal studies indicate that the addiction potential, in order from greatest to lowest, is: Cocaine, opiates, alcohol, and marijuana. The LOTAD study rated marijuana as having a higher dependence liability than alcohol. This may have been influenced by the clinical setting of the study, and the illegal status of marijuana.
- Also found that women and early initiators had shorter LOTADs (except for marijuana, early use was not associated with short LOTAD)

Budney AJ, et al, 2007

- Half of individuals entering treatment for marijuana use are under 25 years old.
- Marijuana is similar to other substance use disorders, but generally less severe
- Adults seeking treatment average over 10 years of almost daily use, and at least 6 serious attempts at quitting
- SAMHSA 2006 – Percent of substance abuse admissions due to marijuana nearly doubled from 1993 to 2005 (from 7% to 16% of total admissions)

- Marijuana accounts for the majority of drug treatment admissions in the 12-17 year old age group. It decreases significantly and progressively for each successive higher age group.
 - 65% of 12-17 years old
 - 35% of 18-20 years old
 - 15% of 21-34 years old
 - <5% of 35-55 years old
- 4.3% of Americans have been dependent on marijuana
- 8-9% of those who try it develop dependence (compared to 10-15% of those who try alcohol, 15% of those who try cocaine, and 24% of those who try heroin)
- Withdrawal from marijuana is similar to that of tobacco
 - Begins within 24-48 hours, peaks within 4-6 days, lasts 1-3 weeks
 - Mild compared to heroin or alcohol

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
www.samhsa.gov

Oregon estimates of substance use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health

- Past year marijuana use:
 - 12-17 year old: 17.98%
 - 18-25 year old: 32.92%
 - 26 or older: 9.41 %
- Past month marijuana use:
 - 12-17 year old: 8.36%
 - 18-25 year old: 18.45%
 - 26 or older: 6.05%

DRUGS OF ABUSE / Uses and Effects

Drugs	CSA Schedules	Trade or Other Names	Medical Uses	Dependence			Duration (Hours)	Usual Method	Possible Effects	Effects of Overdose	Withdrawal Syndrome
				Physical	Psychological	Tolerance					
Narcotics											
Heroin	Substance I	Diamorphine, Horse, Smack, Black tar, Chiva, Negra (black tar)	None in U.S., Analgesic, Antitussive	High	High	Yes	3-4	Injected, snorted, smoked	Euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea	Slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, possible death	Watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, irritability, tremors, panic, cramps, nausea, chills and sweating
Morphine	Substance II	MS-Contin, Roxanol, Oramorph SR, MSIR	Analgesic	High	High	Yes	3-12	Oral, injected			
Hydrocodone	Substance II, Product III, V	Hydrocodone w/Acetaminophen, Vicodin, Vicoprofen, Tuslohex, Lortab	Analgesic, Antitussive	High	High	Yes	3-6	Oral			
Hydromorphone	Substance II	Dilaudid	Analgesic	High	High	Yes	3-4	Oral, injected			
Oxycodone	Substance II	Roxicet, Oxycodone w/Acetaminophen, OxyContin, Endocet, Percocet, Percodan	Analgesic	High	High	Yes	3-12	Oral			
Codeine	Substance II, Products III, V	Acetaminophen, Guafenesin or Promethazine w/Codeine, Fiorinal, Fioricet or Tylenol w/Codeine	Analgesic, Antitussive	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	3-4	Oral, injected			
Other Narcotics	Substance II, III, IV	Fentanyl, Demerol, Methadone, Darvon, Stadol, Talwin, Paregoric, Buprenex	Analgesic, Antidiarrheal, Antitussive	High-Low	High-Low	Yes	Variable	Oral, injected, snorted, smoked			
Depressants											
gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid	Sub I, Product III	GHB, Liquid Ecstasy, Liquid X, Sodium Oxybate, Xyrem®	None in U.S., Anesthetic	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	3-6	Oral	Slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior without odor of alcohol, impaired memory of events, interacts with alcohol	Shallow respiration, clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, possible death	Anxiety, insomnia, tremors, delirium, convulsions, possible death
Benzodiazepines	Substance IV	Valium, Xanax, Halcion, Ativan, Restonil, Rohypnol (Roofies, R-2), Klonopin	Anti-anxiety, Sedative, Anticonvulsant, Hypnotic, Muscle Relaxant	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	1-8	Oral, injected			
Other Depressants	Substance I, II, III, IV	Ambien, Sonata, Meperbama, Chloral Hydrate, Barbiturates, Methaqualone (Quaalude)	Anti-anxiety, Sedative, Hypnotic	Moderate	Moderate	Yes	2-6	Oral			
Stimulants											
Cocaine	Substance II	Coke, Flake, Snow, Crack, Coca, Blanca, Perico, Nieve, Soda	Local anesthetic	Possible	High	Yes	1-2	Snorted, smoked, injected	Increased alertness, excitation, euphoria, increased pulse rate & blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite	Agitation, increased body temperature, hallucinations, convulsions, possible death	Anxiety, long periods of sleep, irritability, depression, disorientation
Amphetamine/Methamphetamine	Sub II	Crank, Ice, Cristal, Krystal Meth, Speed, Adderall, Dexedrine, Desoxyn	Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, narcolepsy, weight control	Possible	High	Yes	2-4	Oral, injected, smoked			
Methylphenidate	Substance II	Ritalin (lilly's), Concerta, Focalin, Metadate	Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder	Possible	High	Yes	2-4	Oral, injected, snorted, smoked			
Other Stimulants	Substance III, IV	Adipax P, Ionamin, Prelu-2, Didrex, Provigil	Vasoconstriction	Possible	Moderate	Yes	2-4	Oral			
Hallucinogens											
MDMA and Analogs	Substance I	Ecstasy, XTC, Adam, MDA (Love Drug), MDEA (Eve), MDOB	None	None	Moderate	Yes	4-6	Oral, snorted, smoked	Heightened senses, teeth grinding and dehydration	Increased body temperature, electrolyte imbalance, cardiac arrest	Muscle aches, drowsiness, depression, acne
LSD	Substance I	Acid, Microdot, Sunshine, Boomers	None	None	Unknown	Yes	8-12	Oral			
Phencyclidine and Analogs	Sub I, II, III	PCP, Angel Dust, Hog, Loveboat, Ketamine (Special K), PCE, PCEy, TCP	Anesthetic (Ketamine)	Possible	High	Yes	1-12	Smoked, oral, injected, snorted	Illusions and hallucinations, altered perception of time and distance	(LSD) Longer, more intense "trip" episodes Unable to direct movement, feel pain or remember	None Drug seeking behavior
Other Hallucinogens	Substance I	Psilocybe mushrooms, Mescaline, Peyote Cactus, Ayahuasca, DMT, Dextromethorphan* (DXM)	None	None	None	Possible	4-8	Oral			
Cannabis											
Marijuana	Substance I	Pot, Grass, Sinsemilla, Blunts, Mota, Yerba, Grifa	None	Unknown	Moderate	Yes	2-4	Smoked, oral	Euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, increased appetite, disorientation	Fatigue, paranoia, possible psychosis	Occasional reports of insomnia, hyperactivity, decreased appetite
Tetrahydrocannabinol	Sub I, Product III	THC, Marinol	Antinauseant, Appetite stimulant	Yes	Moderate	Yes	2-4	Smoked, oral			
Hashish and Hashish Oil	Substance I	Hash, Hash oil	None	Unknown	Moderate	Yes	2-4	Smoked, oral			
Anabolic Steroids											
Testosterone	Substance III	Depo Testosterone, Sustanon, Sten, Cypot	Hypogonadism	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	14-28 days	Injected	Virilization, edema, testicular atrophy, gynecomasia, acne aggressive behavior	Unknown	Possible depression
Other Anabolic Steroids	Substance III	Parabolan, Winstrol, Equipoise, Anadrol, Dianabol, Primabolin-Depo, D-Bell	Anemia, Breast cancer	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	Variable	Oral, injected			
Inhalants											
Amyl and Butyl Nitrite		Pearls, Poppers, Rush, Locker Room	Angina (Amyl)	Unknown	Unknown	No	1	Inhaled	Flushing, hypotension, headache	Methemoglobinemia	Agitation
Nitrous Oxide		Laughing gas, balloons, Whippets	Anesthetic	Unknown	Low	No	0.5	Inhaled	Impaired memory, slurred speech, drunken behavior, slow onset	Vomiting, respiratory depression, loss of consciousness, possible death	Trembling, anxiety, insomnia, vitamin deficiency, confusion, hallucinations, convulsions
Other Inhalants		Adhesives, spray paint, hair spray, dry cleaning fluid, spot remover, lighter fluid	None	Unknown	High	No	0.5-2	Inhaled			
Alcohol		Beer, wine, liquor	None	High	High	Yes	1-3	Oral			