



Frenchtown Community Coalition

Working to create a healthy, engaged, and unified community for the youth of Frenchtown

Youth & Marijuana

Marijuana is addictive.

About 1 in 10 marijuana users will become addicted. For people who begin using before the age of 18, that number rises to 1 in 6.¹

How is Marijuana is addictive? Marijuana contains a psychoactive chemical called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Due to THC's chemical structure being similar to anandamide - a naturally occurring brain chemical - THC is able to attach to cannabinoid receptors on neurons (neurons: cells of the nervous system that carry 'messages' throughout the brain). This process alters the brain's communication and normal functioning.²

Marijuana use decreases academic and athletic performances. THC attaches to receptors in the brain that are vital for memory formation (Hippocampus, Orbitofrontal Cortex), balance, coordination, and reaction time (Basal Ganglia, Cerebellum). This causes increased difficulty in learning, distorted thinking, hallucinations, loss of motivation, energy, anxiety, and depression.^{3,4}

Marijuana goes by many names. Here are some common terms: Weed, Pot, 420, Grass, Dope, Ganja, Cannabis, Mary Jane, Blaze, Reefer, Hash, Herb, Boom, and Skunk.

Natural doesn't mean safe. Like marijuana, tobacco is a plant that has been smoked for thousands of years. Around 1950, modern medicine established the truth about tobacco: it can cause diseases like lung cancer and is highly addictive. Now, no one would argue that tobacco is safe, let alone good for you. But it is "natural."⁵ Similarly, Marijuana is a "natural" substance that does, indeed, interfere with the brain.



Frenchtown Data:

Most students choose not to use marijuana. In 2018, 84.9% of Frenchtown Middle/High School students reported never smoking marijuana.

To learn more, visit:

FrenchtownCommunityCoalition.com

Footnotes

¹ CDC. *Marijuana and Public Health*. www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects.html

² NIH. *Marijuana*. teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/marijuana

⁴ SAMHSA. *Know the Risks of Marijuana*. www.samhsa.gov/marijuana

⁵ NIH. *Can It Be Bad If It's Natural?* March 2013. <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/can-it-be-bad-if-it-s-natural>



If you have questions or would like to join the Frenchtown Community Coalition Please contact FTCC@ftsd.org or call 626-2772

