

# MARIJUANA

Marijuana is the most commonly abused illicit drug in the United States. It is derived from stems, seeds, and leaves of the plant cannabis sativa. Marijuana is most commonly smoked as a cigarette, in a pipe, or as a blunt, which is a cigar that has been emptied and filled with marijuana. It can also be found in the form of hash oil—a sticky black liquid. The main active chemical in marijuana is THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol).



## Street Names

Pot, Mary Jane, Weed, Grass, Dope, Chronic, Hash, Joint, Reefer, Ganga, and Herb.

## EFFECTS

Short-term effects of marijuana use include a euphoric high, increased heart rate, impaired motor skills/coordination, impaired concentration, disorientation, increased appetite, and difficulty in thinking and problem solving. Long-term effects of marijuana use include some of the respiratory problems that are usually experienced by those individuals who smoke tobacco, such as emphysema. Marijuana may contain up to 50 percent more carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) than are found in tobacco smoke. Some of the adverse effects of marijuana use include lung infections, greater risk of obstructed airways, and more frequent acute chest illnesses.



SCHOOL OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL  
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Bloomington



DEPARTMENT OF  
APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation  
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The Indiana Prevention Resource Center is operated by the Department of Applied Health Science, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University. Funded, in part, by a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, financially supported through Health and Human Services/Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.

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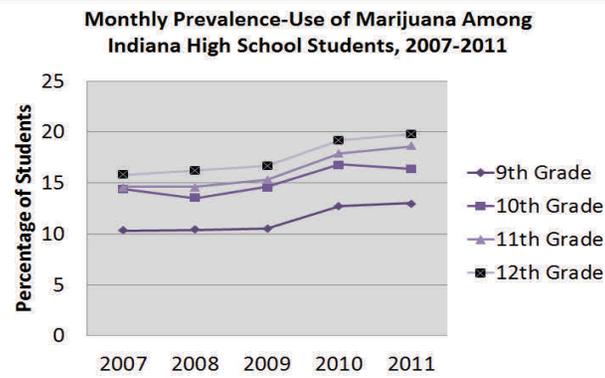
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## INCIDENCE & PREVALENCE

According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), marijuana was used by 76.8% of current illicit drug users ages 12 and older in the U.S. Of these people, marijuana was the only drug used by 60.1% of them. According to the 2010 Monitoring the Future study, levels of current marijuana use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders are the highest they have been in seven years. In 2010, daily marijuana use increased significantly compared to 2009 among all three grades surveyed. Among high-school seniors, daily use rose from 5.2 percent in 2009 to 6.1 percent in 2010. Among youth in Indiana, prevalence of use is actually lower when compared to national statistics. However, according to the IPRC 2011 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents Survey, there has been a steady increase in lifetime and monthly prevalence of marijuana use among 10<sup>th</sup> graders since 2006. Currently, 16.4% of Indiana 10<sup>th</sup> grade students use marijuana.



Source: IPRC 2011 ATOD Use By Children & Adolescents Survey

## LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

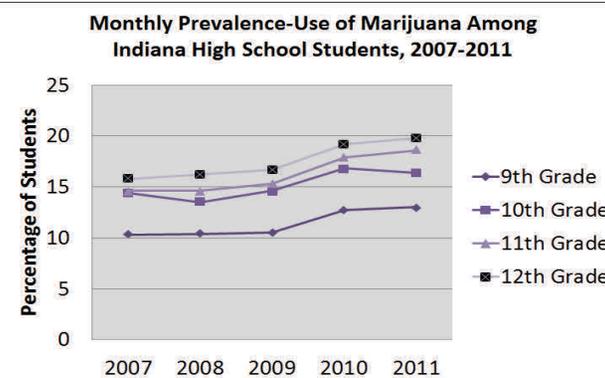
Marijuana is classified as a Schedule I controlled substance by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration under the Controlled Substance Act of 1970.

### Indiana Prevention Resource Center

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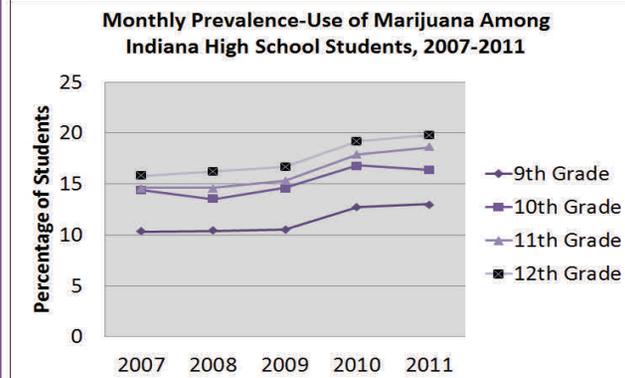
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