

# Marijuana: Effects on the Body

It affects everyone in different ways.



## Brain: impairs...

- short term memory
- learning
- judgment
- coordination
- reaction time
- sensory perception

## Mood:

- panic/anxiety
- depression
- paranoia
- lack of motivation
- mood swings (aggressive, irritable)



## Lungs:

- damages airways
- asthma attack
- infections
- emphysema, cancer

**Sexual function:** low sex drive

## Female:

- irregular periods
- fertility problems



## Pregnancy:

- less oxygen to baby
- premature birth effects
- THC via placenta, umbilical cord, breast milk



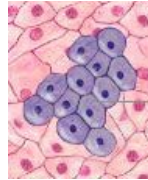
## Male:

- low testosterone
- low sperm production
- erectile dysfunction
- increased breast growth



## Heart: raises...

- blood pressure
- heart rate
- risk of heart attack



## Cancer:

- Lungs
- head, neck
- testicles



## More:

- weight gain
- lowers immune system
- chronic fatigue

Source: [www.mass.gov/dph/bsas](http://www.mass.gov/dph/bsas)

BNI-ART Institute, Boston University School of Public Health

## Marijuana Fast Facts

### Natural, but not harmless

- 400+ chemicals, many added; can be laced
- 5x stronger than in 1970s
- 1 joint = 5 cigarettes
  - 4 joints = 1 pk cigarettes
- THC remains in brain for 7 years

### Illegal to sell or buy marijuana in MA

- Civil offense if carry 1oz or less = \$100 fine
- Under 18y/o = mandatory drug awareness program (or \$1000 fine)

### Can be addictive

- Increased tolerance
- Withdrawal symptoms: cravings for drug, trouble sleeping, anxiety, appetite loss

## Methods of Use



Source: [www.mass.gov/dph/bsas](http://www.mass.gov/dph/bsas)

BNI-ART Institute, Boston University School of Public Health