



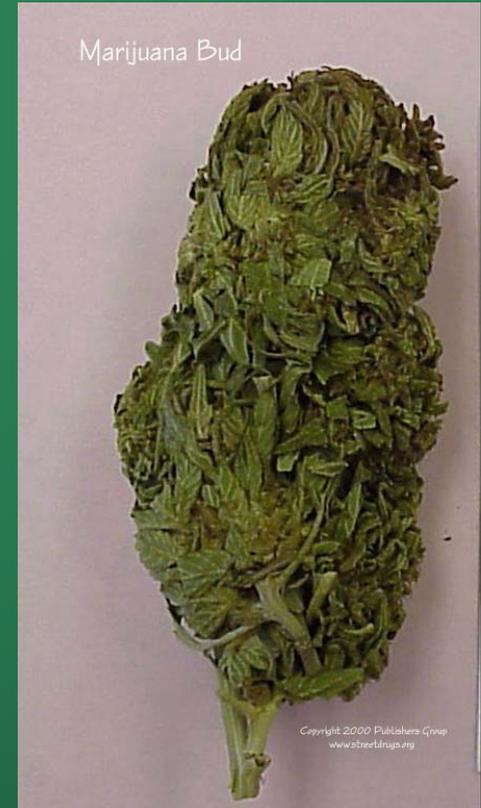
THC (Marijuana)





Learning Objectives

- Identify from a list the different forms THC comes in.
- Describe how THC affects the human body.
- Identify from a list the different ways THC can be consumed.





What is THC?

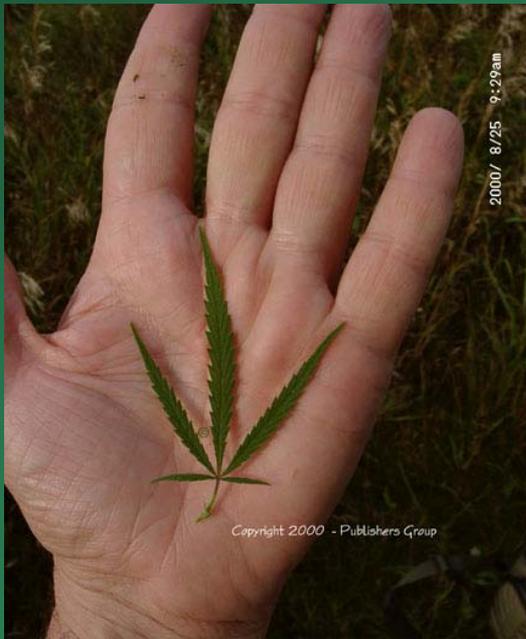


- Delta 9 – Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient in marijuana that causes users to feel *high*.
- Marijuana is a psychoactive or mind-altering drug.
- Psychoactive drugs produce a mind state similar to that of psychosis.





What is THC?



- Marijuana and THC are psychologically addictive.
- Marijuana and alcohol have come to be known as *gateway drugs*.
- Classified by the DEA as a **Schedule I Controlled Substance**.



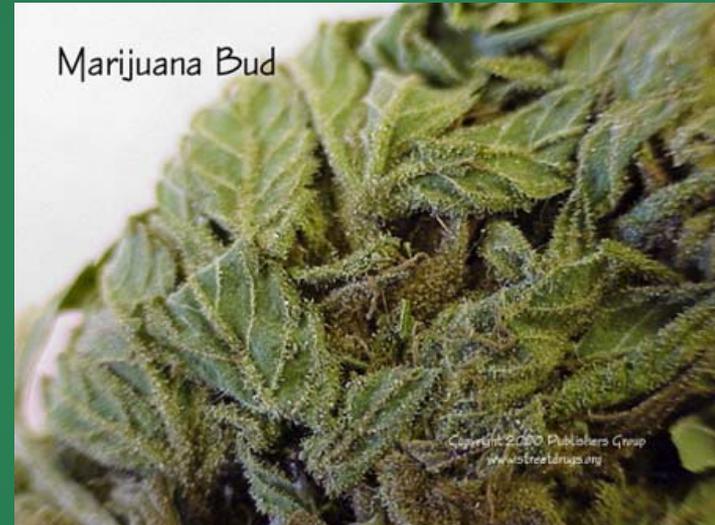


Types of THC

1. Marijuana

2. Hash/Hashish

3. Hash Oil





How is THC Consumed?

- Smoking – Marijuana is absorbed through the capillaries in the lungs.
- Eaten / Drank – The chemicals in marijuana are absorbed into the small intestines.
- Mixed w/ Other Drugs – Marijuana is sometimes smoked with cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, PCP and other drugs sprinkled on.





Effects of THC

- Euphoria
- Short Term Memory Loss
- Increased Appetite
- Bloodshot Eyes
- Dry Mouth / Throat
- Increased Heart Rate
- Respiratory Problems
- Lowered Blood Pressure
- Loss of Coordination
- Paranoia
- Vivid Hallucinations
- Panic / Anxiety Attacks
- Psychosis
- Dependence





Effects of THC - Smoking

- Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.
- Smoking marijuana can cause:
 - Bronchitis
 - Lung Cancer
 - Brain Damage
- Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to become inactive.





Effects of THC

Male Specific:

- Reduces the male hormone testosterone
- Can cause sex organs to not function properly.
- Greatly reduces sperm count

Female Specific:

- Testosterone levels increase
- Decreased sexual pleasure
- Disrupts menstrual cycles and ovulation





Effects of Withdrawal

While the effects of withdrawal have been described as mild and non life-threatening, they do include:

- Severe anxiety
- Lack of pleasure
- Severe headaches
- Nausea
- Inability to sleep





Testing for THC in the Army

- THC can be detected in urine for up to 30 days.
- The Army tests every specimen for THC
- The illegal use of THC or any drug goes against Soldiers Values and Warrior Pride.





Additional Information

Additional information on THC can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting www.acsap.army.mil.





WARRIOR

Personal **Courage:** Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.

Respect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.

Integrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.

Duty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.

Excellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!