Marijuana is the most commonly abused illegal drug in the United States.

MARIJUANA - THE FACTS

- Marijuana is now 2-10 times stronger than it was 10 years ago. Hybrid forms of marijuana like sinsemilla (seedless) contain much more of the active ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), rendering it even more potent. Potency also varies from climate to climate and ounce to ounce. Also, Marijuana dealers are in the business to make money and really don't care about their "customers". If they want to be known as someone with "good stuff", they may lace the drug with other drugs, giving the buyer the impression of a better high, increasing the danger of adverse health reactions and overdose.

- Cannabis inhibits short term memory, slows reaction time, and impairs visual tracking. Frequent use is also linked to cognitive impairment (an inability to understand concepts).

- Frequent users' rate of social development may slow. A pattern of denying problems and irresponsibility in facing obligations can develop.

- Some frequent users find it hard to stay motivated, and develop a lack of initiative and concern about the future. Often a pattern of superficial relationships develops with people who expect or demand little of the user.

- Cannabis is stored in the brain, testes, ovaries, and other fatty organs for up to a month or more and is detectable by urine tests. Detection periods span 4-6 days in acute users and 20-50 days in chronic users.

- Marijuana is up to 200 times more likely to cause cancer than tobacco smoke, and frequent use is linked to an increase of lung cancer, bronchitis, and emphysema.

- Marijuana depresses the immune system, therefore it is more difficult for the user to fight off colds, flus, or other viruses.

- Cannabis speeds a user's heart by as much as 50%, increasing risks for anyone with heart disease.

- Marijuana inhibits nausea and allows a person to consume large quantities of alcohol without getting sick. As a consequence, death due to alcohol overdoses has escalated among teenagers.