Consequences
Marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims. (NIDA)

Marijuana alters perception to one that is fearful, emotional, defensive, and often inaccurate. Determining the feelings and motives of other people is necessary to function as an adult. Chronic marijuana use may hinder perceptual maturation, causing failures in school, work, and relationships, which in turn re-enforces the desire to retreat to drugs. (SAMA)

Consequences of Marijuana Use

- Impaired short-term memory—making it hard to learn and retain information, particularly complex tasks.
- Slowed reaction time and impaired motor coordination—throwing off athletic performance, impairing driving skills, and increasing the risk of injuries.
- Altered judgment and decision making—possibly leading to high-risk sexual behaviors.
- Increased heart rate by 20-100%—may increase the risk of heart attack, especially in vulnerable individuals.
- Altered mood—euphoria, calmness, or in high doses, anxiety, paranoia.
- Negative effect on attention, memory and learning that can last for days or weeks. Daily users have lower grades and function at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time.
- Reduced stability in adult roles, (e.g., not graduating, abortion, unemployment and divorce).
- Psychiatric problems, including depression, schizophrenia, anxiety, suicide, conduct problems, antisocial behavior, and criminal behavior.
- Greater involvement with and inability to quit other substances.

The short-term addiction potential of marijuana may be less than other drugs, but the long-term impact of chronic marijuana use can be profound.

Effects of Long-term Marijuana Use

- Limits the brain's capacity to store and retrieve information
- Damage to the brain's memory functions, as well as math and verbal skills
- Sexual dysfunction and reproductive problems
- Weakening of the immune system
- Increased risk of cancer and lung damage
- Increased blood pressure and risk of heart attack
- Loss of motivation and interest in everyday activities and future plans
- May lead to addiction

(Drugged Driving) (Is There a Link Between Marijuana Use and Mental Illness?) (Risk Factors Predicting Changes in Marijuana Involvement in Teenagers) (CESAR)