



Signs of Illicit Drug Use and Abuse

A PRESENTATION PROVIDED BY www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com



GetSmart*AboutDrugs*
A DEA Resource for Parents



COMMUNITIES
of PRACTICE

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Signs of Illicit Drug Use and Abuse

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com



What is Get Smart About Drugs?

- An educational outreach and awareness website that helps parents and caregivers identify and prevent drug abuse
- Located at www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com
- Provides a number of resources parents can use to get help if they suspect their child has a problem with drugs





Presentation Topics

- Signs of illicit drug use and abuse
- Consequences of illicit drug abuse
- How to talk to your kids about drugs



Signs of Illicit Drug Use and Abuse

- Behavioral and physical signs of drug use
- Language teens use and drug slang
- Paraphernalia used to consume and conceal drugs



Addiction

- Drug abuse, if not treated, may lead to drug addiction
- Addiction is a chronic relapsing brain disease expressed in the form of compulsive behaviors
- The initial decision to use drugs is voluntary and addiction compels a person to become obsessed with obtaining and abusing drugs despite the adverse health and life consequences



Behavioral Signs

- Change in relationships
- Loss of inhibitions
- Mood changes or emotional instability
- Hostility, anger, uncooperative behavior
- Unable to speak intelligibly, slurred speech, or rapid-fire speech
- Disappearances for long periods of time
- Changing grades in school
- Deceitful or secretive



Secretive Language

- When texting or chatting, kids use language that indicates they're being secretive
- Acronyms don't indicate drug abuse but some do mean your kids don't want you to see what they're writing





Common Acronyms

- CD9: Code 9 – means parents are around
- MOS: Mom over shoulder
- PIR: Parent in room
- POS: Parent over shoulder
- PRW: Parents are watching
- P911: Parent emergency
- PAW: Parents are watching

To link to a variety of Internet acronym sites visit www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/language.html



School- or Work-Related Issues

- Truancy or loss of interest in school
- Loss of interest in extracurricular activities, hobbies, or sports
- Failure to fulfill responsibilities at work or school
- Complaints from teachers or co-workers
- Reports of intoxication at school or work



Personal Habits and Actions

- Heavy use of over-the-counter preparations to reduce eye reddening, nasal irritation, or bad breath
- Frequently breaks curfew
- Reckless driving, car accidents, or unexplained dents in the car



Health Issues

- Nosebleeds
- Sores, spots around mouth
- Wetting lips or excessive thirst
- Sudden or dramatic weight loss or gain
- Skin abrasions/bruises
- Accidents or injuries
- Depression



Personal Appearance

- Messy, shows lack of caring for appearance
- Poor hygiene
- Red, flushed cheeks or face
- Track marks on arms or legs (or long sleeves in warm weather to hide marks)
- Burns or soot on fingers or lips
- Smell of smoke or other unusual smells on breath or on clothes



Signs of Illicit Drug Use and Abuse

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com



Get Smart About Drug Slang

To help identify slang terms download the
Get Smart About Slang widget found at:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/widget.html

GET SMART ABOUT SLANG
TRANSLATE TERMS YOU'VE HEARD BY SEARCHING THE DEA DATABASE

Mary Jane

ENTER TERM ABOVE

TRANSLATE

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GET SMART ABOUT SLANG
TRANSLATE TERMS YOU'VE HEARD BY SEARCHING THE DEA DATABASE

Mary Jane

DRUG NAME: Marijuana

STREET NAMES: Aunt Mary, BC Bud, Bunta, Boom, Chronic, Dope, Gungler, Ganja, Grass, Hair, Herb, Hydro, Indo, Joint, Kit, Mary Jane, Mota, Pot, Reefer, Shesha, Skunk, Smoke, Weed, Yarta

Marijuana is a mind-altering (psychoactive) drug, produced by the Cannabis sativa plant. Marijuana contains over 400 chemicals. THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is believed to be the main chemical ingredient that produces the psychoactive affect.

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What is Drug Paraphernalia?

Any equipment, product or material of any kind which is primarily intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing, producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance



Drug Paraphernalia

- Pipes
- Bong
- Syringes

Some pipes and bong are meant to look harmless to mask the dangers of taking controlled substances by including colorful logos, celebrity pictures, and designs.

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/paraphernalia.html

Sources:

- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Paraphernalia To Conceal Drug Use

- Magic markers
- Hand-painted blown glass items
- Soda cans
- Lipstick dispensers
- Plastic baggies
- Small paper bags
- Make-up kits

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/paraphernalia.html

Sources:

- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Paraphernalia To Conceal Drug Use

- Change bottles
- Plastic film canisters
- Cigarette packs
- Small glass vials
- Pill bottles
- Breath mint containers
- Inside candy or gum wrappers

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/paraphernalia.html

Sources:

- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Ecstasy

- MDMA, a synthetic psychoactive drug with stimulant and hallucinogenic properties
- Mainly involves swallowing tablets, but is also available as a powder
- Tablets can be crushed and snorted
- Occasionally smoked but rarely injected

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Ecstasy Paraphernalia

- Pacifiers and lollipops
- Candy necklaces
- Glow sticks, mentholated rub, and surgical masks

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Cocaine

- Extracted from the leaves of the coca plant
- A potent brain stimulant and one of the most powerfully addictive drugs
- Commonly snorted, smoked, or intravenously injected

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Cocaine Paraphernalia

- Pipes
- Small mirrors
- Short plastic straws or rolled-up paper tubes
- Razor blades
- Small spoons
- Lighters

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Marijuana

- Psychoactive drug produced by the Cannabis sativa plant
- Most widely used illegal drug in the United States
- Marijuana can be:
 - Smoked as a cigarette (called a joint) or in a pipe or bong
 - Smoked in blunts (cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with marijuana, sometimes in combination with another drug)
 - Mixed with foods or brewed as a tea

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Marijuana Paraphernalia

- Rolling papers
- Cigars
- Small plastic baggies and “stash cans”
- Deodorizers, incense
- Pipes
- Bong
- Roach clips

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Inhalants

- Ordinary household products people inhale to get high, such as:
 - Nail polish remover, glue, hairspray, computer keyboard cleaner, lighter fluid, cooking spray, correction fluid, etc.

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Inhalants

- Inhalants can be:
 - Sniffed
 - Snorted
 - Bagged (sniffing or inhaling fumes from substances sprayed or deposited inside a plastic or paper bag),
 - Huffed from an inhalant-soaked rag stuffed in the mouth
 - Many abusers sniff inhalants directly from their containers

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Inhalants Paraphernalia

- Rags used for sniffing
- Empty spray cans
- Tubes of glue
- Plastic bag
- Balloons
- Bottles or cans with hardened glue, sprays, paint or chemical odors inside of them

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Methamphetamine

- A highly addictive stimulant that strongly activates systems in the brain
- Forms:
 - Pill
 - Powder
 - Crystal-like substance that sometimes comes in large chunks
- Can be taken orally, injected, snorted, or smoked

Sources:

- Parents The Anti-Drug, www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Methamphetamine Paraphernalia

- Hollowed out light bulbs
- Pens
- Aluminum foil and bottle caps
- Empty soda cans
- Needles



Heroin

- Highly addictive drug derived from morphine
- Affects the brain's pleasure system
- Forms include:
 - White or brown powder
 - Black sticky substance— “black tar heroin”
- Can be injected, snorted or sniffed

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Heroin Paraphernalia

- Needles, syringes, tourniquets
- Cotton balls
- Spoons and bottle caps
- Tourniquets
- Razor blades
- Straws
- Rolled dollar bills
- Pipes
- Balloons

Source: Center for Drug Abuse Research, www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/drugs/heroin.pdf



Hallucinogens

- Alter perception and mood
- Common types include:
 - LSD
 - Ecstasy (MDMA)
 - PCP
 - Psilocybin (mushrooms)
 - Mescaline (peyote)
 - Dextromethorphan or DXM (cough and cold medications)
- Can be taken orally or smoked

Sources:

- DEA Drugs of Abuse, www.justice.gov/dea/concern/h.html#1
- Office of National Drug Control Policy, www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Hallucinogens Paraphernalia

- LSD:
 - Blotter paper
 - Gelatin
 - Sugar cubes
- PCP:
 - Foil or paper packets
 - Stamps (off which PCP is licked)
 - Needles, syringes, and tourniquets (for injection)
 - Leafy herbs (for smoking)

Sources:

- LSD Addiction, www.lsdaddiction.us/content/lsd-abuse-warning-signs.html
- Department of Interior, www.doi.gov/nbc/eps/SignsSymptoms.html



More Information

Visually explore commonly abused drugs and related paraphernalia at Get Smart About Drugs



www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/identify.html



Consequences of Drug Abuse

- Legal consequences
- Health consequences
- Social consequences
- Financial consequences



Legal Consequences

Related behavior with legal consequences:

- Intoxication
- Violence
- Crime

Sources:

- *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, Marijuana Use and Delinquent Behaviors and Youths, The NSDUH Report, January 9, 2004*
- *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, September 2009*



Legal Consequences

- Career
- Employment
- Licenses
- Travel
- Social status



Health Consequences: Physical Health

- Drug abuse can affect every major body system
- Drugged driving increases the likelihood of road accidents
- Risky behaviors can put your child at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Health Consequences: Mental Health

- Depression
- Developmental lags
- Apathy
- Addiction
- Withdrawal
- Conduct problems
- Personality disorders
- Suicidal thoughts
- Attempted suicide
- Suicide

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Social Consequences

- Families: withdrawal, hostility, theft
- Academics: declining grades, absenteeism, dropping out, truancy
- Peers: alienation, stigmatization, disengagement

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse, www.drugabuse.gov
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America, www.drugfree.org



Financial Consequences

Impact on jobs:

- Adolescent drug use is linked with poorer occupational and job quality outcomes as much as 10 years after high school
- Females end up in lower skill, lower status jobs
- Males are more likely to end up in jobs with fewer benefits

Source: "High School Drug Use Predicts Job-Related Outcomes at Age 29," by Jeanne S. Ringel, Phyllis L. Ellickson and Rebecca L. Collins, published in Addictive Behaviors, volume 32, number 3, March 2007, p. [576]-589.



Talking to Kids About Drugs

- Introducing drug topics into the conversation
- Talking about the risks of drugs
- Refusal skills to turn down drugs





Starting the Conversation

- Use blocks of time, such as after dinner, to talk about drugs and why they're harmful.
- Take advantage of everyday “teachable” moments:
 - Point out alcohol, tobacco, and drug-related situations in your neighborhood
 - Use news stories as conversations starters
 - Watch TV with your kids, and ask them what they think



Talking About the Risks of Drugs

- Steer the subject to drugs and why they're harmful
- Teenagers who say they've learned a lot about the risks of drugs from their parents are less likely to try them than those who haven't



Refusal Skills

- You can't shield your child from learning about the existence of drugs, but you CAN help your child learn how to turn them down
- Teach them that it's okay to say no to their friends
- Prepare them for drug-related situations by acting out scenarios



Suspect Your Child is Abusing Drugs?

- Acknowledge the problem
- Be specific about your concerns
- Try to remain calm and connect with your child
- Be prepared, and practice what you'll say
- Act now



Where Can I Get Help?

Hotlines for alcohol and drug abuse, such as:

- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Hotline:
800-662-HELP (4357)
- Girls and Boys Town National Hotline:
800-448-3000
- National Alcohol and Substance Abuse Information Center:
800-784-6776

For more resources visit:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Where Can I Get Help?

Government agencies

- DEA
 - www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com
 - www.justthinktwice.com
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
 - www.nida.nih.gov
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
 - www.prevention.samhsa.gov

For more resources visit:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Where Can I Get Help?

Drug prevention organizations

- American Council for Drug Education
 - www.acde.org
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America
 - www.bgca.org
- D.A.R.E. America
 - www.dare.com
- Join Together
 - www.jointogether.org

For more resources visit:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Where Can I Get Help?

- Family support groups
- Community coalitions
- School alcohol and drug counselors

For more resources visit:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/content/help.html



Conclusion

- You are not alone
- You can make a difference
- Visit www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com