

# RESPECT

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## MARIJUANA Use FAQs



### HOW MUCH DO PEOPLE SPEND ON MARIJUANA?

The average legal pot user spends \$647 a year on weed.

### WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF MARIJUANA?

The carbon dioxide pollution from the electricity used to grow marijuana plus associated transportation fuels equals that of 3 million cars.

### ARE PESTICIDES USED ON MARIJUANA PLANTS?

Yes, and there are rarely application standards for growers. Many of the chemicals used are intended for lawns and other non-edible plants. One study conducted in Los Angeles found pesticide residue levels on medical cannabis samples to be 1,600 times the legal limit.

### WHO ELSE IS AFFECTED BY THE GROWTH OF MARIJUANA PLANTS?

Endangered spotted owls in California have been threatened by the rat poison sometimes used by people growing pot illegally. Fishers, a small river mammal like weasels, are also affected. About 85% of the dead bodies of these mammals tested positive for the same rat poison.

### WHAT HEALTH COMPLICATIONS CAN MARIJUANA CAUSE?

In 2014, youth under the age of 20 made up 45% of the statewide Poison Center marijuana calls, an 80% increase since legalization in 2012. Some health complications from marijuana use are:

- an increase in heart rate and blood pressure, which can lead to heart attacks
- allergic reactions and respiratory problems
- cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, or uncontrollable vomiting

### DOES MARIJUANA HAVE ANY EFFECT ON BRAIN DEVELOPMENT?

Yes. The brain is still developing until the early to mid-20s, and during this time is particularly sensitive to damage from drug exposure. One region of the brain that is underdeveloped and sensitive to drug exposure is the frontal cortex (critical for planning, judgment, decision-making, and personality). Extensive research and MRIs have also shown youth smokers have changes in shape, volume, and gray matter density of the two brain regions associated with addiction—the nucleus accumbens and the amygdala.

For more information on the effects of marijuana, ways to say no, and other resources, visit [CULTURECHOICERESPECT.COM](http://CULTURECHOICERESPECT.COM)

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