Using marijuana carries real risks for your health and quality of life. Some might be surprising to you. So know the risks — learn before you burn, eat, or use.

**Today’s marijuana is stronger.**

Today’s marijuana has more than 3 times the concentration of THC than marijuana from 25 years ago. More THC — the mind-altering chemical in marijuana — may lead to an increase in dependency and addiction.

**Risk of addiction.**

About 1 in 10 people who use marijuana may become addicted to marijuana — and 1 in 6 when use begins before age 18.

**Lowers brain power.**

Marijuana affects your brain development. Use by adolescents has been linked to a decline in IQ scores — up to 8 points! Those are points you don’t get back, even if you stop using.

**Impairs your memory.**

Using marijuana can affect your memory, learning, concentration, and attention. Other effects include difficulty with thinking and problem solving.

**Affects your performance.**

Using marijuana can lead to worse educational outcomes. Compared with teens who don’t use, students who use marijuana are more likely not to finish high school or get a college degree.

**Can harm your baby.**

Using marijuana when you’re pregnant can affect your baby’s development. It’s linked to lower birth weight, preterm birth and stillbirth, increased risk of brain and behavioral problems.

**Driving danger.**

People who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience dangerous effects: slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.

Marijuana use comes with real risks. Learn more at SAMHSA.gov/marijuana

If you or someone you know needs help with a substance use disorder, including marijuana, call SAMHSA’s National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889, or use SAMHSA’s Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at SAMHSA.gov to get help.