

# DRUG EFFECTS ON: SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE

## Marijuana

- Compromises the ability to learn and remember information
- Creates difficulty sustaining and shifting attention
- Impairs ability to organize and use information
- Distorts perception
- Impairs thinking and problem solving ability
- Has an adverse impact on memory and learning that can last for days or weeks after the acute effects of the drug wear off
- It is possible that someone who smokes marijuana once daily may actually function at a reduced intellectual level all of the time
- The more marijuana a person smokes, the more likely they are to fall behind in accumulating intellectual skills
- Students who smoke marijuana get lower grades and are less likely to graduate from high school, compared with their nonsmoking peers
- Impairs long-term motivation by causing apathy, impaired judgment, loss of ambition and an inability to carry out long-term plans
- In one study of cognition, heavy marijuana smokers scored significantly lower on mathematical skills and verbal expression than non-smokers
- One study found a relationship between marijuana use and a reduced capacity for self-reinforcement, defined as skills that enable individuals to maintain confidence and persevere in the pursuit of goals
- Research with marijuana-exposed children suggests that they are more likely to exhibit deficits in problem-solving skills, memory and the ability to remain attentive
- Several studies of adults have associated marijuana smoking with increased absences and tardiness at work

### REFERENCES:

<http://www.espn.go.com/special/s/drugsandsports/mari.html>

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/infofacts/marijuana.html>

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/infofacts/marijuana.html>

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/ResearchReports/Marijuana/default.html>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/research/job185drugs/cannabis.htm>

<http://www.acde.org/common/Marijuana2.pdf>

# DRUG EFFECTS ON: SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE

## Cocaine

- Compromises the ability to learn and remember information
- Causes difficulty sustaining and shifting attention
- Neurological impairments include strokes, seizures, and headaches
- Can lead to fungal brain infections, and hemorrhaging in tissue surrounding the brain
- Users may experience feelings of restlessness, irritability and anxiety
- May lead to confusion
- Can cause paranoia
- Users may experience hallucinations
- May lead to psychosis in some individuals
- Dilates pupils, blurring vision

### **REFERENCES:**

<http://www.abovetheinfluence.com/facts/drugs-cocaine.aspx#>

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/DrugPages/Cocaine.html>

<http://www.acde.org/common/cocaine.pdf>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/research/job185drugs/cocain.htm>

<http://www.acde.org/common/Contents.htm>