



marijuana potency

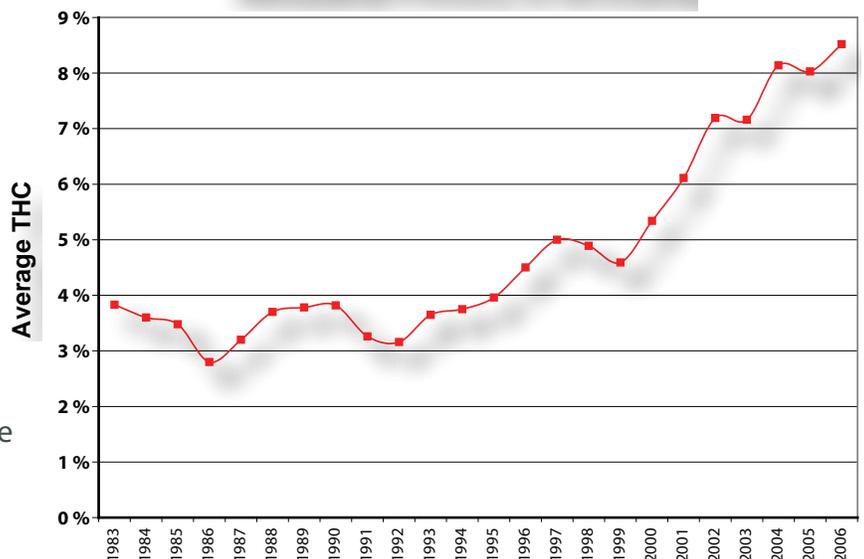
Office of National Drug Control Policy 2007

A long-term analysis of marijuana potency conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reveals that the strength of marijuana has increased substantially over the past two decades. Today, marijuana is more potent than ever before and may be leading to an increase in teen marijuana treatment admissions and a rise in the number of emergency room episodes related to the drug.

Marijuana Contains More THC Than Ever Before

- The latest analysis from the University of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project revealed that levels of THC – the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana – have reached the highest-ever levels since scientific analysis of the drug began in the late 1970's.
- According to the latest data on marijuana samples analyzed, the average amount of THC in seized samples has reached 8.5 percent. This compares to an average of just under 4 percent reported in 1983, and represents more than a doubling in the potency of the drug since that time.
- The highest concentration of THC found in the latest analysis was 32.3 percent.

Marijuana Potency is Increasing



Source: Univ. of Mississippi Marijuana Potency Monitoring Project Report 95 Jan. 9, 2007.

Stronger Marijuana Results in Serious Health Consequences

- The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), a national surveillance system that monitors trends in drug-related emergency department visits and deaths, has found that emergency room mentions of marijuana have increased nationally from 45,000 in 1995 to 119,000 in 2002 a 164 percent increase.
- Higher potency marijuana may be contributing to a substantial increase in the number of American teenagers seeking treatment for marijuana dependence. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 25.4 million past year users of marijuana, 4.2 million (16.4 percent) are classified with abuse or dependency.
- Additionally, the latest information from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), reports a 216 percent increase in marijuana treatment admissions between 1992 and 2005. In 2005, 15.8 percent of treatment admissions were for marijuana (as primary drug of abuse), versus 5.9 percent in 1992.

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