

# HIGH POTENCY THC in Marijuana

## Prevention Action Alliance

### THC and Addiction

- The THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) concentration (psychoactive ingredient; what gets a person “high”) in commonly cultivated marijuana plants has risen from 4% in 1995 to 12% in 2014. Some samples of extracts have 80% to 90% THC level.<sup>1</sup>
- Higher THC levels may result in a greater risk for addiction with regular exposure to high doses.<sup>2</sup>
- Marijuana addiction rates among lifetime users was 10.7% among those who used less than a year; 14.6% among those who used 1-2 years; 16.8% among those who used 2-3 years; and 20.1% among those who used more than three years.

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This fact sheet was created by the Marijuana Task Force, a collaboration of the Ohio Prevention Professionals Association and Prevention Action Alliance. Members of the Marijuana Task Force include:

- PreventionFirst!
- Jennifer’s Messengers
- Empower Tusc
- Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention
- Westshore Enforcement Bureau
- Westshore Young Leaders
- Network Summit County Community
- Partnership

Prevention Action Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Columbus, Ohio. We’re dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. Learn more at [preventionactionalliance.org](http://preventionactionalliance.org).

If you have concerns about your own use of marijuana or of a loved one and wish to seek help, please visit: [findtreatment.samhsa.gov/](http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/)

For more information about marijuana and health, contact Prevention Action Alliance at: (614) 540-9985  
[contact@preventionactionalliance.org](mailto:contact@preventionactionalliance.org)

### Sources

- 1 Alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu. 2022. Cannabis Black Market Thrives Despite Legalization | Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies. [online] Available at: <https://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu/cannabis-black-market-thrives-despite-legalization/>
- 2 ElSohly MA, Mehmedic Z, Foster S, Gon C, Chandra S, Church JC. Changes in cannabis potency over the last 2 decades (1995-2014): Analysis of current data in the United States. Biological psychiatry. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4987131/>. Published April 1, 2016.
- 3 BREAKING: New Study Finds Youth Marijuana Addiction Rate Double Rate of Alcohol & Other Substance Use Disorders | D.A.R.E. America. Dare.org. <https://dare.org/breaking-new-study-finds-youth-marijuana-addiction-rate-double-rate-of-alcohol-other-substance-use-disorders/>. Published 2022. Accessed January 20, 2022.