



ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE

FACTS ABOUT CANNABIS



What is Cannabis?

Cannabis is a drug and is also called *grass, pot, dope, hash, mull and green*. It is the chemical **THC (Delta 9 Tetra-hydro-cannabinol)** found in the leaves of the cannabis plant which affect people when they take this drug. The three main drug products from cannabis are marijuana, hashish and hashish oil.

Marijuana is made from the dried leaves and flowers of the plant.

Hashish is made from the plant's resin.

Hashish Oil is a concentrated liquid extra from the plant.

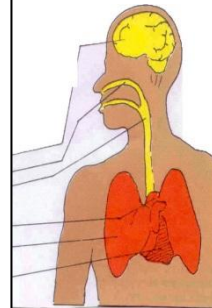
Cannabis & Health Issues

There is no evidence that occasional use of small amount of cannabis causes any long term health problems but other aspects of a person's life can still be affected regular or heavy use of cannabis can effect health and cause other problem.

How Marijuana affects YOUNG PEOPLE!

There are five different ways that marijuana smoke can harm people. They are:

1. Lungs and throat
2. The brain and thinking
3. Married life
4. Weak immune system
5. The life of young people



There are some people who medical researchers think should be extra careful when thinking about using cannabis:

- **Teenagers** as their hormonal systems are still developing
- **Epileptics** – who can suffer from fits after using cannabis
- **Women** – who are pregnant or want to pregnant
- People with **schizophrenia or depression**. Cannabis can trigger these illnesses.

Immediate Effects of Cannabis

Cannabis affects people in different ways. A given amount may affect one person slightly, but have a much greater effect on another person.

The most common reaction to cannabis is to stoned, happy, bend, relax or high. Other effects and varies but can include:

- Paranoia
- Loss of concentration and coordination
- Confusion
- Increase appetite
- Reddened eyes
- Anxiety or panic
- Hallucination



Long Term Effects

Research has shown there can be more serious effects if cannabis is used regularly for a long time.

This includes:

- Higher risk of bronchitis, lung cancer and respiratory diseases
- Loss of interest in activities, loss of energy boredom
- Loss of concentration, memory and learning abilities
- Less sex drive
- Lower sperm count/regular menstrual cycles
- Severe psychotic behaviour – this more likely if the person already has schizophrenia, but Cannabis is linked with triggering this condition in some peoples.

Smoking Cannabis

Cannabis has nearly twice as much tar as the cigarette. A person who smokes cannabis often has a much greater chance of getting lung cancer and bronchitis.

Dependence

People who use cannabis regularly can become dependent and may experience withdrawal symptoms if they stop suddenly.

New Breeds of Cannabis

There are number of new breeds of cannabis now available. Some of the new ones are much stronger than the old ones. A person using a new breed of cannabis may get a stronger and different effect than the feeling they have had in the past.

Other Effects of Cannabis

Work

Cannabis can affect concentration and coordination. Using drugs at work can result in loss of a job or can cause an accident or injury to yourself and others when using machinery.

Law & Crime

Possessing, using, growing or selling cannabis is illegal in Solomon Islands. If convicted of these offences, a person can face a heavy fine or go to jail. If a person goes to jail, then they will have a criminal record. This can affect their future work, travel and relationships. If you are jailed, your family may lose their breadwinner.

Money

Cannabis can cost a lot of money to use because it has to be bought illegally. If cannabis is used regularly, it can be very expensive. There can also be heavy fines for using, growing or selling cannabis awarded by the court.

Driving

Cannabis can affect a person's motor and coordination skills, vision and ability to judge distance and speed. This can make driving very dangerous. In the Solomon Islands, it is against the law to drive under the effect of any drug. This includes cannabis. There are heavy fines for driving under the influence of cannabis.

Family

Use of cannabis can sometimes affect relationships with family and friends. Arguments over drug use can make life at home difficult. Legal and financial problems can also cause anxiety and conflict within the family.

Memory & Learning

Cannabis affects the memory. It is difficult to remember while THC is in your body. Cannabis can also make it difficult to learn even simple tasks, so a person may do badly at work and study.

Pregnancy



The effects of cannabis on an unborn child are not entirely known. If used, the baby maybe born smaller, lighter and may have learning difficulties as they grow older. Like cigarette smoking the use of cannabis is not recommended during pregnancy.

Motor Skills

THC in cannabis affects balance and coordination. It also affects a person's understanding of time, distance, sound and other sensations. Because of this, operating machinery and driving a vehicle or marine vessel can be very dangerous. Even sports like swimming, diving, sailing or surfing can be unsafe when using cannabis.

National Community Policing Office of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force conducts community and school awareness programs on the dangers of illegal drugs use.

For more information contact:

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