

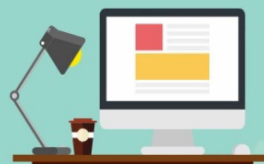
Effects of Marijuana on the Teenage Brain

The teen brain is still developing and it is especially vulnerable to drug use.

Marijuana use directly affects specific parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning, attention, decision making, coordination, emotions, and reaction time.



Memory impairment from marijuana use occurs because THC alters how the hippocampus, a brain area responsible for memory formation, processes information.



Studies show that marijuana interferes with attention, motivation, memory, and learning. Students who use marijuana regularly tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school than those who don't use. Those who use it regularly may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time.