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# Marijuana then and now

**Take a level  
approach to  
understanding  
the changes**



- So much has changed since we were growing up. Today's youth don't know what a turntable is. They have always made their popcorn in the microwave. They would probably not know how to operate a typewriter. Marijuana has changed as well. This is not the pot from OUR teen years. **Today's marijuana is much more potent.**
- Consider this: the University of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project tracks the average amount of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, in samples seized by law enforcement agencies. In 2008 the average potency was just over 10%, compared to 1983 when the average potency was just under 4%. This means that the marijuana today is 2 ½ times more potent than it was 30 years ago.
- Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse, says that the increased potency may "explain why we've seen a pretty dramatic increase in admission to emergency rooms and treatment programs for marijuana," (NY Times 1/7/13)
- Let's face it, sometimes more power is good thing – but with marijuana, the increased power makes marijuana potentially more toxic to our teens' developing brains.

**IT STARTS WITH YOU !**

**JOHNSTON  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION  
COALITION**  
Coordinated By Tri-Town Community Action Agency

For more information and/or support with substance abuse-contact Patricia Sweet at [PSweet@Tri-Town.org](mailto:PSweet@Tri-Town.org)  
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