

Today I am Bringing you information that my class and I have learned after hearing a detective speak to us. This information is a part of our CSPE CBA as a class. We voted, and we decided to raise drug awareness to teach people via the school website about the effects of drugs on your body and brain.

Drugs are controlled items by the multiple ranks of garda/police sent to identify, collect and seize any illegal drug users found in each country.

## Drugs most frequently found in this town

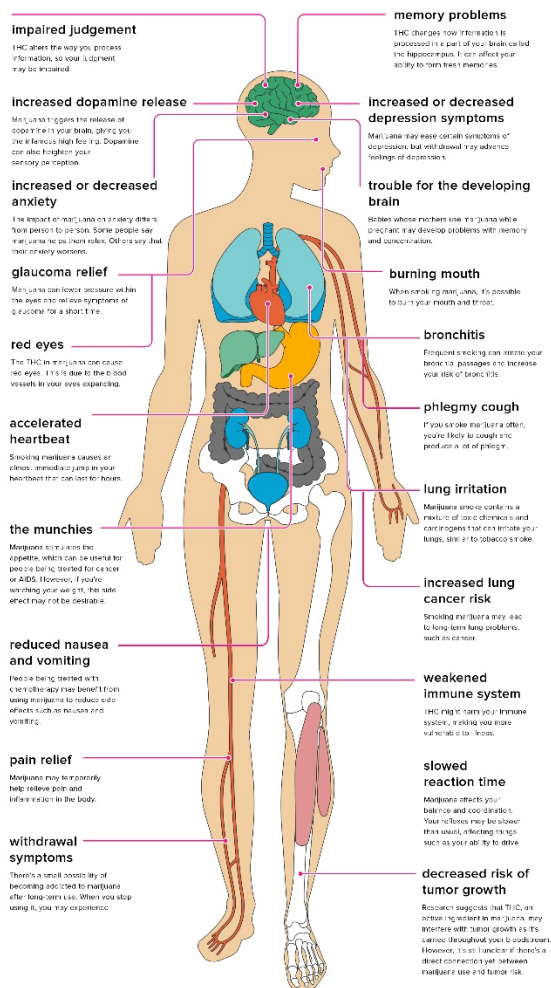
### Cannabis herb (other names are) – weed – marijuana – pot

Cannabis can be domestically cultivated/grown at home

Takes about 8 – 12 weeks and 300- 400 plants = 12 – 16 kilos = €60,000

This drug contains Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

It is the component of the drug that makes the drug has a crazy effect on the brain



## Cocaine – coke – white – snow

From the cocoa plant in South America

It can be injected and is as addictive as heroin!

It is at its highest amount in 10 years. The Gardaí seized 71 tonnes in 2017 alone.

A lot of profit is found from this drug, making it very appealing for people looking for quick cash.

### Effects on the body and brain

Shortly after using cocaine, the user experiences a **euphoric period**, lasting up to 30 minutes. Users typically feel:

- Hyperstimulated
- Reduced fatigue or need for sleep
- Feelings of invincibility
- More talkative than usual or conversely, more contemplative and deep in thought
- An increased libido
- An inability to comprehend signs of danger
- Numbing of physical and mental pain
- Mental alertness

Men and women who have used cocaine report feeling too depressed and agitated without the drug. When the immediate euphoric rush of the cocaine wears off, the individual may experience a crash with the following effects on the body:

- Anxiety and tension
- Mood swings
- Depression
- Exhaustion

### Short term and long term effects

Some short term effects are Restlessness, irritability, anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations, dry mouth

Some long term is Irregular heartbeat, Chest pain, Hypertension, **Nausea**, Abdominal pain, **Seizures**, Headaches, **Bizarre aggressive or violent behavior**, paranoia, **heart attack**, etc.

Please do not take drugs for your health and also, if you want to brighten someone's day, being a waste won't help 😊

## How drugs could affect your family

Drugs Cost money. The people selling drugs aren't in business to make you happy- their in for the money.

You could end up stealing credit cards for cash or even trade the card itself for drugs.

Your hard earning parents might have to wipe out college accounts to raise the amount of money to get you out of jail.

It takes a lot away from your family.

You are counted as unreliable and could end up assaulting people through paranoia and wild mood swings.

**When you take drugs, it not only affects you but affects the people around you, so think before you act because acting can be the worst decision in your life**

## The safeguards put in place for Sligo

Protection in Sligo – from detective

The detective that came into our school was from the **GNDOCB** (Garda National Drugs & organized crime Bureau). The detective's job in this institution is to identify is to find hotspots of drug trading, pinpoint a spot, Receive a warrant and send a raid party to secure and detain any illegal drugs found inside.

The **GNDOCB** (Garda National Drugs & organized crime Bureau) do lots of things in Sligo's community to protect and save lives. There are multiple prevention methods used to reduce the number of drugs sold and supplied in Sligo. Some include

- **Crime detection** – have to observe locations that where drug deals are going on than pinpoints a place gets a warrant and goes
- **supply reduction** – loads coming into port (nearly half a million euro of drugs seized in just Sligo this year)
- **Harm prevention** – referring any addicts to a doctor or people that need help due to overdosing. They know how drugs destroy people on the inside and out.
- **Education** – they spread awareness of specific drug's effects on the body and brain to help prevent people from taking them.
- **Demand reduction** – to the sources in making and supplying of drugs

## The powers the Gardaí have

Section 23 – the power to search someone on the street or anywhere public but need a reasonable cause e.g. - suspect looks suspicious and acting strange.

They can detain phones and investigate them as well!

Section 3 It is an offense if found with drugs in your system.

Section 15, you can be taken down if lawfully or unlawfully trading any amount to another person it is taken as a pretty serious offense

Section 26 If a Gardaí has a strong suspicion about anyone, they can ask the judge of the court to receive a warrant, and most of the time it works.

Section 15a If found with 30,000 euros worth of drugs would be a severe offense, costing them three years in jail and lots of owed money.

**Thank you so much for reading and taking the time to learn about drugs and how they can seriously affect peoples' lives and the lives around them.**

**Have a great day.**

**Representing class 3C: Jack Donaghy**