



# GET THE FACTS

**MARIJUANA PLANTS** are a rich source of potent Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) called terpenes. VOCs are chemicals that easily become vapors or gases, such as cigarette smoke, fumes from pesticides, paints, disinfectants, and more. VOCs mix with nitrogen oxides and produce ground-level ozone, which is harmful to people. So growing marijuana in large quantities can lower the air quality and negatively affect the health of people breathing that air.

**COCAINE AND METH** have also been shown to decrease air quality and increase air pollution through their release of toxins into the atmosphere. Meth releases noxious solvents and gases such as ammonia, hydrogen chloride, and phosphine into the air. When these chemicals reach high levels, they can cause immediate health problems such as respiratory tract damage, wet lung disease, and cancer.

**E**verybody should know that illegal and recreational drug use can affect your health. It can lead to lung disease, heart attacks, liver and kidney damage and more.

**B**ut did you know that drugs can affect the air quality around us?

**W**e've all seen the color-coded air quality charts on the news warning about smog, ozone, and pollen. Now it may be time to add a new alert to the list: illegal drugs.

**A**ir quality affects us all. Every gas, chemical, and pollutant that goes into the atmosphere affects anyone around who inhales that air. When drugs and drug-related chemicals are released, they poison the air which can lead to health problems for people who breathe it.

- ### Health Effects of Poor Air Quality
- \* Respiratory Illness
  - \* Asthma
  - \* Heart/Lung Stress
  - \* Lung Capacity Loss
  - \* Cardiovascular Illness
  - \* Chest Pain
  - \* Bronchitis
  - \* Cancer
  - \* Liver Damage
  - \* Heart Attacks
  - \* Eye, Nose, Throat Irritation



**COPPER RIVER  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION**

For further information, contact  
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