

Fact Sheet About Marijuana, THC, Cannabidiol (CBD) and Hemp

Marijuana refers to *cannabis sativa*, which is used for recreational or medicinal purposes. Marijuana contains more than 100 cannabinoids; some, like tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are psychoactive, while others, like cannabidiol (CBD), are not. Marijuana is a Schedule 1 drug as defined by the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 (CSA). As such, it is illegal to use, sell or possess according to federal law. Recreational marijuana is, however, legal in Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and the District of Columbia (as of Sept. 2018). Medicinal use of marijuana is allowed in 29 states. Only four states, Idaho, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, have complete prohibition of marijuana use. Using marijuana will result in positive test results for THC or its primary metabolite, THC-carboxy, in urine, oral fluid, hair and whole blood.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the main psychoactive cannabinoid found in marijuana (*cannabis sativa*). It is smoked or consumed in edibles for its euphoric effect. Marijuana may contain from 4–20 percent THC content; one variety contains 33 percent THC content.

Cannabidiol (CBD) is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid that is a component of *cannabis sativa* that purportedly has medicinal properties. Selective plant breeding has produced plants with high CBD and low THC content, from which CBD oil is extracted; however, there is no formal definition of what constitutes CBD oil. As a component of marijuana, CBD is a Schedule 1 drug as defined under the CSA and is illegal under federal law. Several states have legalized CBD preparations, usually for treatment of specific medical conditions. Indiana, for example, recently approved use of cannabidiol that contains at least 5 percent CBD and no more than 0.3 percent THC for the treatment of drug-resistant epilepsy.

Use of CBD preparations should not result in a positive test result for THC. However, since CBD preparations are largely unregulated, the THC content may not be negligible in all preparations. None of the Cordant Health Solutions laboratories currently test for the presence of cannabidiol.

Hemp is a variety of *cannabis sativa* that is cultivated for its fiber, which has a number of commercial applications, such as rope, fabric, and pulp for paper production. In addition, oil extracted from hemp seeds is used as a food supplement. Hemp has a very low THC content, typically less than 0.3 percent. Use of hemp products will not result in positive test results for THC in urine, oral fluid, hair or whole blood.

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