

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION



What You Should Know About **MARIJUANA**



DEA PHOTO

FACT: People who began using marijuana before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop a marijuana use disorder.

Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana

FACT: Daily use today can have stronger effects on a developing teen brain than it did 10 or 20 years ago. The amount of the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, THC, has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. For a person who is new to marijuana use, this may mean exposure to higher THC levels with a greater chance of a harmful reaction. Higher levels of THC may mean a higher risk for addiction if people are exposing themselves to high doses.

Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana

FACT: Smoking marijuana interferes with learning and memory, increasing the risk of poor grades and dropping out of school. Research shows it can lower your IQ if you smoke it regularly in your teen years.

Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana

FACT: Teen marijuana use has **increased** as the **perceived harm** of smoking marijuana has **decreased**.

- In **2006, 31.5 percent** of high school seniors reported marijuana use in the past year; **25.9 percent** perceived great risk in smoking marijuana occasionally.

- In **2016, 35.6 percent** of high school seniors reported marijuana use in the past year; **17.1 percent** perceived great risk in using marijuana.

Source: NIDA, 2017 Monitoring the Future Study.

DRIVING AND MARIJUANA USE TRUE OR FALSE?

- Cocaine is the drug most often linked to car accidents. **FALSE**

FACT: After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often linked to car accidents, including those involving deaths.

- Marijuana affects skills required for safe driving – reaction time, alertness, concentration, and coordination. **TRUE**

Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/drugged-driving

TEENS AND MARIJUANA

- 81 percent of 12th graders reported it was **fairly easy or very easy** to get marijuana.

Source: NIDA, 2017 Monitoring the Future Study.

- In 2016, 6.5 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 were current users of marijuana. This means approximately 1.6 million adolescents used marijuana in the past month.

Source: SAMHSA, 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

IT'S LEGAL, RIGHT?

NO. Under federal law, "recreational and medical use" of **marijuana is illegal**.

Marijuana remains classified as a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance, meaning it has:

- no currently accepted medical use in U.S.
- a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and
- a high potential for abuse.

For drug prevention information, visit DEA's websites:

GetSmartAboutDrugs.com

For Parents, Caregivers, and Educators

JustThinkTwice.com

For Teens

CampusDrugPrevention.gov

For College Professionals

dea.gov

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