



Parents: Talk to your children about **MARIJUANA**

According to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), addiction rates among 12-17 year olds are the highest levels in states that have approved “medical” marijuana programs.¹ Surveys of teens across Michigan show that they increasingly see marijuana use as “safe.”²

IT'S TIME TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION.

ADDICTION

Marijuana use can be addictive! The EARLIER marijuana use begins, the HIGHER the risk of addiction.³ Those who begin using marijuana in their teens have about a 1 in 6 chance of developing marijuana addiction. According to the National Institute on Drug Addiction (www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/marijuana), children and teens are 6 times more likely to be in treatment for marijuana than for all other illegal drugs combined.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Marijuana use negatively affects learning. A teen that uses marijuana is 4 times more likely to report “D” grades.⁴ A teenage marijuana user is 2 times more likely to drop out of school than a non-user.⁵

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The brain continues to develop until a teen is in his/her 20s. Marijuana use affects the prefrontal cortex, which controls impulses and decision-making behaviors.⁶ A recent study found that marijuana users had abnormalities in areas of the brain that interconnect regions involved in memory, attention, language and executive function skills.⁷ Heavy marijuana use during the teen years can permanently lower intelligence (IQ) in adult life by as much as 8 points, potentially lowering intelligence from average to low average.⁸

MENTAL HEALTH

Marijuana can worsen depression and has been associated with other serious mental health issues, e.g. schizophrenia and anxiety. Weekly use of marijuana **DOUBLES** a teen’s risk of depression and anxiety.⁹

DRUGGED DRIVING

Overall, marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims.¹⁰ Evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicated that marijuana can negatively affect a driver’s attentiveness, perception of time and speed and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences.¹¹

SECOND HAND SMOKE

Marijuana smoke contains more carcinogens than tobacco smoke and is therefore more harmful to the lungs.¹²

1 Effects of Medical Marijuana Legalization, CADCA www.cadcaorg/policyadvocacy/priorities/marijuana
2 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MIPHY), Michigan Department of Education, 2002
3 The National Institutes of Health (NIH)
4 Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 National Institute on Drug Abuse
7, 8 National Academy of Sciences

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