



PARENTS:



MOBILIZING MICHIGAN

PROTECTING OUR KIDS FROM MARIJUANA

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.¹ Surveys of teens across Michigan show that they increasingly see marijuana use as “safe”.² **ITS TIME TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION!**

ADDICTION

Marijuana is addictive. The EARLIER marijuana use begins, the HIGHER the risk of addiction.³ In fact, 62% of teens in drug treatment are addicted to marijuana.⁴ Each year, more teens enter treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana addiction than for all other illegal drugs combined.⁵

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Marijuana negatively affects learning. A teen that uses marijuana is 4 times more likely to report “D” grades.⁶ A teenage marijuana user is 2 times more likely to drop out of school than a non-user.⁷

BRAIN CHANGES

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.⁸ A recent study found that marijuana users had abnormalities in areas that interconnect brain regions involved in memory, attention, language, and executive function skills.⁹ 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.¹⁰

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.¹¹

DRUGGED DRIVING

Overall, marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims.¹² Evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicates that marijuana can negatively affect a driver’s attentiveness, perception of time and speed, and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences.¹³

SECOND HAND SMOKE

Marijuana smoke contains more carcinogens than tobacco smoke, and is therefore more harmful to the lungs.¹⁴

¹ Effects of Medical Marijuana Legalization, CADCA www.cadca.org/policyadvocacy/priorities/marijuana

² Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MIPHY), Michigan Department of Education, 2002

³ The National Institutes of Health (NIH)

⁴ Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

⁵ Partnership for a Drug-Free America

⁶ Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

^{7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14} National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

^{9, 10} National Academy of Sciences

For more information about
Mobilizing Michigan - Protecting Our Kids
from Marijuana, visit: www.mcosa.net or
www.cvcoalition.org

