

WHAT EVERY ADULT NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUTH MARIJUANA USE



KNOW THE FACTS

The good news is, most teens are choosing to remain marijuana free. The bad news is, marijuana is a risk to the health and safety of our youth. Legalization efforts have decreased teen perceptions that marijuana is harmful.

THC is the active ingredient in marijuana that changes one's psychological state. Not all marijuana is the same and there are many ways that THC is used by youth. THE SAME MARIJUANA CAN AFFECT DIFFERENT TEENS IN DIFFERENT WAYS Because the adolescent brain is not fully developed, as with alcohol, the younger someone starts using, the greater the chance of becoming addicted to marijuana. Therefore, teens who suddenly stop using may experience withdrawal symptoms of irritability, loss of appetite, insomnia, restlessness.

Leaves and/or seeds smoked in rolling papers or hollowed out cigar leaves, or vaped in electronic devices

- THC Oil which can be poured on smokeable material, used in a vaping device, or added to edible products.
- Dabs or Wax, a concentrated form of THC that is heated and inhaled from a vaping device, pipe, or other instrument.
- Edibles (brownies, cookies, candies, lollipops, beverages) containing THC. Unlike inhaling a substance that produces an immediate effect, eating a substance takes longer to produce an effect leading to potential overconsumption and severe effects.

THC concentration can vary greatly in any marijuana product. The greater the THC concentration, the greater the likelihood of problems such as hallucinations and addiction. **The levels of THC in today's many products containing THC such as edibles, lotions, oils, vape pens, blunts, etc. are far greater than the THC level in the marijuana plants smoked in the past.** Potent forms of marijuana used in vape pens and edibles are easily disguised and are odor-free.



Family history of addiction can also increase the likelihood of teen addiction.

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Frequent teen marijuana use can impact memory, learning, motivation, school and work performance and reduce IQ.



Teen marijuana use can worsen existing mental health issues. It can also trigger new mental health issues especially in adolescents with a family history of schizophrenia.



Marijuana can cause repeated and severe bouts of vomiting called cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome.

The American College of Pediatricians states that "Marijuana is addicting, has adverse effects upon the adolescent brain, is a risk for both cardio-respiratory disease and testicular cancer, and is associated with both psychiatric illness and negative social outcomes."



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To learn more, and if you are concerned about your teen's marijuana use go to www.PowerToTheParent.org

For prevention and treatment resources in Westchester County call 914-995-5220

For other resources in NY State go to Talk2prevent.ny.gov ForDrugHelp.com or call 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)

A project of the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health and the Westchester County Youth Bureau

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