

What Every Parent Needs To Know About Teen Marijuana Use

Who Uses and Why?

- ❖ *More than 60% of high school seniors report that they don't view regular marijuana use as harmful to them.*
- ❖ *Marijuana use over the past decade has continued its upward trend among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders.*
- ❖ *Research has consistently shown that the less risky a child believes a drug to be, the more likely s/he will use it.*
- ❖ *Whether youth perceive a drug to be harmful is a key indicator of future use.*

The Numbers

- ❖ *45% of U.S. 12th graders reported having used marijuana once or more in their lifetime, with 23% reporting use in the previous 30 days.*
- ❖ *1 in every 15 high school seniors (6.5%) is a daily or near daily marijuana user.*
- ❖ *1 in 6 youth who use marijuana will become addicted, and with regular use, may suffer the permanent IQ loss of 6-8 points.*
- ❖ *Of the 12th graders who say that they have used marijuana in the previous 12 months and who reside in states that have marijuana use laws, a third (34%) say that one of their sources of marijuana is another person's medical marijuana prescription. And 6 %say they get it from their own prescription.*

What Happens?

- ❖ *Teens who were heavy marijuana users -- smoking it daily for about three years -- had abnormal changes in their brain structures related to working memory and performed poorly on memory tasks.*
- ❖ *Quitting their use of marijuana did NOT fully restore their memory loss.*
- ❖ *The younger youth were when they started using marijuana heavily, the more abnormally their brain regions were shaped.*

The Damage

- ❖ *Numerous studies have found a link between teen marijuana use and psychosis or schizophrenia*
- ❖ *A 2012 study found that increasing frequency of marijuana use was associated with increasing symptoms of depression, especially in adolescents.*
- ❖ *Youth that smoke marijuana every weekend for two years are almost six times more likely to drop out of high school than nonsmokers, more than three times less likely to enter college than nonsmokers, and more than four times less likely to earn a college degree.*