



PARENTS:

Talk to your children about MARIJUANA

ADDICTION

More teens enter treatment each year with marijuana as their primary drug of choice than any other drug abused including alcohol.¹ Marijuana meets the criteria for substance dependence established by the American Psychiatric Association (tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, and impact to social, occupational or recreational activities).²

PERCEPTION

Did you know our youth believe that marijuana use is “ok” ever since adults voted to make it legal to treat illnesses? In 2012, 85.3% of Macomb eleventh graders who took the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) felt that regular use of tobacco was harmful, but only 56.3% felt that regular use of marijuana was harmful. This alarming statistic shows that our children do not understand the real facts.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Marijuana might not directly kill but there are risks! Regular marijuana use has been shown to be associated with long-term problems, including poor academic performance, memory loss and lung cancer.³

SECOND HAND SMOKE

Research has proven second-hand tobacco smoke is harmful, but marijuana smoke causes significantly more damage to cells and DNA than tobacco smoke.⁴

MISCONCEPTIONS

Teens think “marijuana is natural so it must be safe”. Remind them that arsenic, poppy plant (heroin), and cocoa leaves (cocaine) are also “natural” but they are poisonous to ingest.

DRUGGED DRIVING

Marijuana-impaired driving is on the rise. One in five high school students have driven under the influence of marijuana. This is higher than those that have driven under the influence of alcohol (13%).⁵

BRAIN BASED CHANGES

To a developing teenager’s brain, marijuana can be especially toxic. Using marijuana can lead to panic attacks, depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems.⁶

1: www.casacolumbia.org/templates/PressReleases.aspx?articleid=141&zoneid=49

2, 3, 6: www.checkyourself.com/FiveMyths.aspx

4: www.livescience.com/3688-marijuana-damages-dna-cancer.html

5: Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Students Against Destructive Decisions and Liberty Mutual survey