

Marijuana Use

More Anne Arundel County youth reported marijuana use (19.9%) in the last 30 days than cigarette use (13.7%). (Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013)

You may think that using marijuana is safer than smoking cigarettes. Think again.

FACT: Marijuana use affects the brain, especially the developing brain, in the areas that are responsible for memory, learning, attention, decision making, emotions, reaction time and motor coordination.

FACT: More young people are in treatment for marijuana dependency than for alcohol or other illegal drugs combined.

FACT: Marijuana use has been linked to increased risk of mental health problems, including schizophrenia, depression and suicidal thoughts.

FACT: Marijuana use can irritate the lungs leading to coughing, lung infections and other respiratory problems.

FACT: The active ingredient in marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), has become more potent over the years. The levels of THC found in marijuana are four times higher than they were in the 1970s, increasing the risk of use.

FACT: Studies show that marijuana impairs motor coordination and judgment. Driving under the influence of marijuana doubles the risk of car crashes.

FACT: Marijuana use is a contributing factor to acute health problems such as burns, drowning and falls that lead to emergency room visits.

FACT: Marijuana has been linked to low motivation, poor memory, low grade point average and increased school dropout rates. Recent studies show use can lead to lower IQ.

FACT: Youth who use marijuana have an increased risk of delinquency and are more likely to have delinquent friends.

FACT: Youth who first start using marijuana at or before the age of 14 are six times more likely to abuse or become dependent on drugs compared to those who started use at a later age.

FACT: Nine percent of marijuana users become addicted.

Using marijuana puts youth at risk for short-term and long-term health problems and negative consequences. Is the risk worth it?



Treatment Referral Line: 410-222-0117
Prevention and Education Services: 410-222-6724

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