States with Legalized Marijuana Rank Top in Teen Use.¹

IT'S TIME TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION!

MARIJUANA HAS INCREASED IN POTENCY OVER THE YEARS
THC, the addictive element in marijuana, has increased significantly over time. Marijuana is now 3 to 7.5 times more potent than that used in the 1990s.² Marijuana concentrates, another form of marijuana, contain extremely high levels of THC (40%-80%) and are used in various forms - food, drink, smoked, and vaped, increasing potential for addiction.³ Increases in marijuana potency may be the cause for a rise in emergency room visits.⁴

MARIJUANA IS AN ADDICTIVE DRUG
The YOUNGER marijuana use begins, the HIGHER the risk of addiction.⁵ One in 6 teens who start using marijuana become addicted.⁶ Each year, more teens enter treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana addiction than for all other illegal drugs combined.⁷

MARIJUANA NEGATIVELY AFFECTS SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
Marijuana decreases attention, memory, and the ability to learn. Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of school. Effects on learning can last for days or even weeks.⁸

MARIJUANA CHANGES THE DEVELOPING TEEN BRAIN
The human brain continues to develop until someone is in his/her 20s. Marijuana use affects the prefrontal cortex, which controls impulses and decision-making.⁹ A recent study found that marijuana users had abnormalities in areas that interconnect brain regions involved in memory, attention, language, and organizational skills.¹⁰

MARIJUANA AND DRIVING IS A DANGEROUS COMBINATION
The risk of being involved in a car crash roughly DOUBLES after using marijuana.¹¹ Driving studies indicate that marijuana use can negatively affect a driver's coordination, reaction time, tracking ability, attention, and judgment.¹²

1 samhsa.gov/data/sites (2016)
2 National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)
3 Justthinktwice.gov/facts-about-marijuana-concentrates
4 National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)
5 Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know, National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)
6 Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know, National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)
9 National Survey on Drug Abuse Facts Parents Need to Know (2016)
10 National Survey on Drug Abuse Facts Parents Need to Know (2016)
11 Drugabuse.org (2016)