WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CANNABIS USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

PREVALENCE

• Between 2017 and 2019, the percentage of full-time college students (19-22 year olds) who vaped marijuana at least once in the past 30 days increased from 5 to 14 percent.

• Nearly one in 17 college students (6 percent) use marijuana on a daily or near-daily basis, which is near historically high levels over the past 40 years.

• More than a quarter of college students (28.6 percent) used cannabis in the past three months.

Sources: Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2019: Volume 2; American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (Spring 2020)

CONSEQUENCES

• Marijuana users can experience a wide range of mental and physical effects, including:
  - Impaired memory
  - Difficulty with problem-solving
  - Increased heart rate
  - Breathing problems

• The amount of THC in marijuana has increased steadily during the past few decades, which may explain the rise in emergency room visits involving marijuana use.

• Edibles take longer to digest and produce a high, so people may consume more to feel the effects faster, leading to dangerous results.

• Research suggests that between 9-30% of those who use marijuana may develop some degree of marijuana use disorder.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, Drug Facts: Marijuana (December 2019)

IT’S LEGAL, RIGHT?

NO According to federal law, “recreational and medical use” of marijuana is illegal. Under the Controlled Substances Act, it remains classified as a Schedule I drug, meaning it has:

- no currently accepted medical use in the U.S.,
- a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and
- a high potential for abuse.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT MARIJUANA USE

• Despite efforts to approve the drug for “recreational and medical use” across the nation, students need to understand the physical, academic, and legal costs and consequences of marijuana use.

• Screen students to identify those who use marijuana to address potential academic consequences.

• Collaborate with local law enforcement personnel to stay current on marijuana use methods, types, and trends.

• Get involved - join your campus’s or local community’s coalition to prevent drug misuse.

RESOURCES

• DEA Website
  www.campusdrugprevention.gov

• DEA Drug Fact Sheet - Marijuana/Cannabis
  https://go.usa.gov/x732q

• Preventing Marijuana Use among Youth & Young Adults:
  https://go.usa.gov/x732B

Campus Drug Prevention
www.campusdrugprevention.gov

December 2020