

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MARIJUANA USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS



PREVALENCE

- College students' use of marijuana is at its **highest levels** seen in the past three decades.
- Nearly one in five full-time college students reported using marijuana at least once in the past month.
- More than 82% of college students think their peers used marijuana in the past 30 days; however, only 19% of college students actually used marijuana in the past month.

Sources: Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2017: Volume 2; American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (Fall 2018)

CONSEQUENCES

- Frequent marijuana use can have a wide range of mental and physical effects, including:
 - Hallucinations
 - Paranoia
 - Increased heart rate
 - Breathing problems
- The amount of mind-altering THC in marijuana has increased steadily during the past few decades, which could explain the rise in emergency room visits involving marijuana use.
- Marijuana edibles take longer to digest and produce a high, so people might 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 (2018).

IT'S LEGAL, RIGHT?

NO

Under federal law, "recreational and medical use" of marijuana is **illegal**. It remains classified as a *Schedule I Controlled Substance*, 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 risks and consequences of marijuana use.
- Screen students to identify those who use marijuana to address potential academic consequences.
- Work to correct the misperceptions students have around perceived use versus actual use.
- 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 drug abuse prevention coalition.

RESOURCES

- DEA Website: campusdrugprevention.gov
- DEA Publication: Drug Fact Sheet: Marijuana/Cannabis: go.usa.gov/xmT5h
- DEA Publication: Preventing Marijuana Use among Youth and Young Adults: go.usa.gov/xmTN3



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

MAY 2019