



# PARENTS:



**MOBILIZING  
MICHIGAN**  
PROTECTING OUR KIDS FROM MARIJUANA

## Talk to your children about MARIJUANA

**Monitoring the Future (2016), a national survey, showed a higher rate of marijuana use by 12th graders in states that had passed medical marijuana laws compared to states that hadn't. Colorado, a state that legalized recreational marijuana in 2012, leads the nation in past month youth marijuana use.<sup>1</sup>**

### **ITS TIME TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION!**

#### **MARIJUANA HAS INCREASED IN POTENCY OVER THE YEARS**

THC, the addictive element in marijuana, has increased significantly overtime. Marijuana is now 3 to 7.5 times more potent than that used in the 1990s.<sup>2</sup> Marijuana concentrates, another form of marijuana, contain extremely high levels of THC (40%-80%) and are used in various forms - food, drink, and smoked, increasing potential for addiction.<sup>3</sup> Increases in marijuana potency may be the cause for a rise in emergency room visits.<sup>4</sup>

#### **MARIJUANA IS AN ADDICTIVE DRUG**

The **YOUNGER** marijuana use begins, the **HIGHER** the risk of addiction.<sup>5</sup> One in 6 teens who start using marijuana become addicted.<sup>6</sup> Each year, more teens enter treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana addiction than for all other illegal drugs combined.<sup>7</sup>

#### **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.<sup>8</sup>

#### **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.<sup>9</sup> A recent study found that marijuana users had abnormalities in areas that interconnect brain regions involved in memory, attention, language, and organizational skills.<sup>10</sup> Heavy marijuana use during the teen years can **permanently** lower intelligence (IQ) in adult life by as much as 8 points, a significant reduction.<sup>11</sup>

#### **MARIJUANA AND DRIVING IS A DANGEROUS COMBINATION**

The risk of being involved in a car crash roughly **DOUBLES** after using marijuana.<sup>12</sup> Driving studies indicate that marijuana use can negatively affect a driver's coordination, reaction time, tracking ability, attention, and judgment.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Monitoring the Future (2016)*

<sup>2</sup> *National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)*

<sup>3</sup> *Justthinktwice.gov/facts-about-marijuana-concentrates*

<sup>4</sup> *National Institute on Drug Abuse (2016)*

<sup>5</sup> *Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know, National Institute on Drug Abuse (2014)*

<sup>6</sup> *Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know, National Institute on Drug Abuse (2014)*

<sup>7</sup> *National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, INC. ncadd.org/about-addiction/faq/facts-about-drugs (2015)*

<sup>8</sup> *Marijuana: Facts for Teens, National Institute on Drug Abuse (2015)*

<sup>9</sup> *National Survey on Drug Abuse Facts Parents Need to Know (2016)*

<sup>10</sup> *National Survey on Drug Abuse Facts Parents Need to Know (2016)*

<sup>11</sup> *National Institute on Drug Abuse (2015)*

<sup>12</sup> *Drugabuse.org (2016)*

<sup>13</sup> *National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (2015)*

For more information about

**MOBILIZING MICHIGAN**

- Protecting Our Kids from Marijuana,

visit: [www.mcosa.net](http://www.mcosa.net)

or [www.cvcoalition.org](http://www.cvcoalition.org)