



Marijuana:

What do you really know?

FACTS & STATS

- Among adolescents, **marijuana use is associated with attention and memory problems, slower brain processing, and difficulty with problem-solving** – all of which may affect academic performance.
- Middle and high school students (ages 12-17) with an average grade of “D” or lower reported **significantly higher rates of current marijuana use in the past month** compared to those with an average grade of “C” or higher.
- **Young adults (ages 18-23) who did not complete high school reported significantly higher rates of current marijuana use** than those who completed high school.
- **Marijuana was the primary drug of choice for 81% of males (12-17) admitted into treatment programs** in FY 2013/14.
- Approximately **1 in 3 students** (7th, 9th, and 11th graders) **do not believe that using marijuana 1-2 times a week is harmful**.
- Approximately **1 in 3 adults** in San Diego County (33%) **do not believe that smoking marijuana daily or weekly is harmful to one's health**.
- **Marijuana/hashish is overwhelmingly the drug of choice for adolescents (12-17) admitted into drug treatment programs**, accounting for nearly 3/4 (74%) of adolescent admissions in FY 2013/14.
- **Perception of harm** from regular marijuana use among high school graduates, ages 19-22, **has declined to 35%** in 2014 from 55% in 2006.
- **12th graders who live in states where medical marijuana is legal report consuming more marijuana edible products** (40%) than their peers who live in non-medical marijuana states (26%).
- Between 1985 and 2013, the potency of federally-seized and tested (non-domestic) marijuana has increased by 260% from 3.5% to 12.5%, **which may contribute to higher rates of youth addiction**.
- **Marijuana use among adults ages 18 and older has more than doubled since 2001**, and nearly 7 million adult marijuana users were diagnosed with a marijuana use disorder in 2012/13. Of note, young adults were at highest risk for marijuana use disorder.
- In 2013, 63% of fatally injured drivers in the U.S. were tested for drugs, and **more than one-third (35%) tested positive for marijuana**.
- Nationally, **marijuana is by far the drug most commonly found in both randomly tested drivers and fatally-injured drivers**.

Source: Center for Community Research Key Data: Marijuana Prevention Points of Consideration October 2015-
Adapted by the Lakeside Community Collaborative

RESOURCES

McAlister Institute Teen Recovery Centers

Contact: (619) 588-5361 | 550 Fesler Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Services: Centers offer individualized outpatient treatment and recovery services, specifically designed for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17. Programs accommodate ' school schedules, offering after-school treatment, individual & group counseling, and structured recovery activities to help teens develop the tools they need to stay alcohol- and drug-free.

Fees: Medi-Cal, sliding scale based on annual income

In addition to the services above McAlister also provides **FREE** initial drug tests for teens. For more information logon at: www.mcalisterinc.org/freetest

How to talk to your kids about drugs...

- Base drug and alcohol-related messages on facts, not fear. Kids love to learn facts. You can take advantage of their passion for learning to reinforce your message about drugs.
- Talk to your pediatrician or the school's student counselor. They are a great resource for current information on how to start the conversation about drugs.
- Stay calm. If the conversation isn't going well suggest talking about it at a later time.
- Encourage healthy, creative activities. Look for ways to get your child involved in sports, hobbies, school clubs, and other activities that reduce boredom and excess free time.
- Keep your conversations in "present tense." Teens are concerned about the present. Examples are "cigarettes can cause smelly hair and ashtray breath" or "marijuana can impair their ability to perform their favorite sport or activities."