

What You Should Know About...

# Marijuana Use



among

College

Students

## PREVALENCE:

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- Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug among college students.
- One in every 22 college students uses marijuana daily or near daily.
- More than 85 percent of college students think their peers used marijuana in the past 30 days; however, only 18.4 percent of college students actually used marijuana in the past month.
- In 2015, 38 percent of college students indicated they used marijuana in the prior 12 months, up from 30 percent in 2006.

Sources: Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2015: Volume 2; American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (Fall 2016)

## IT'S LEGAL, RIGHT?

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**NO.** Under federal law, “recreational and medical use” of **marijuana is illegal.**

Marijuana 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.

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## CONSEQUENCES

- Adverse consequences of marijuana use include:
  - impaired short-term memory, judgment, and motor coordination;
  - negative academic outcomes, such as performing poorly on exams, achieving lower grade point averages, and dropping out of school; and
  - long-term effects such as increased risk for chronic cough and bronchitis.
- Marijuana is the illicit drug most frequently found in the blood of drivers who have been involved in vehicle crashes, including fatal ones.
- Studies suggest that 9 percent of people who use marijuana will become dependent on it, increasing to approximately 17 percent in those who start using it in their teens.

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse, Marijuana (2017); The Center on Young Adult Health and Development, University of Maryland School of Public Health

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## Things You Can Do to Prevent Marijuana Use

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- ✓ Despite initiatives to approve the drug for medical and recreational use across the nation, students need to understand the physical, academic, and legal risks and consequences of marijuana use.
- ✓ Screen students at the campus health center to identify marijuana users 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.

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## RESOURCES

[www.campusdrugprevention.gov](http://www.campusdrugprevention.gov)

Preventing Marijuana Use among Youth and Young Adults: <https://go.usa.gov/x5kg2>

Marijuana Use and Prescription Drug Misuse among College Students: <https://go.usa.gov/x5Mup>