

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
CANNABIS USE
AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS



PREVALENCE

- Nearly one in 12 college students (7.9 percent) use marijuana on a daily basis, which is the highest level among U.S. college students over the past four decades.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the percentage of full-time college students (aged 19-22) who vaped marijuana at least once in the past 30 days decreased from 14 percent to 12 percent.
- More than a quarter of college students (26.5 percent) used cannabis in the past three months.

Sources: Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2020: Volume 2; American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (Spring 2021)

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, Marijuana DrugFacts (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 cannabis 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/x732g>
- Preventing Marijuana Use among Youth and Young Adults:
<https://go.usa.gov/xewJr>

Campus Drug Prevention

www.campusdrugprevention.gov

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