

Talking About Marijuana

Marijuana is made of dried flowers, leaves, and seeds from the Cannabis plant. Marijuana is sometimes called other names, like weed, pot or grass. Because some people use marijuana as "medicine", there's a lot of confusion about marijuana. How many of these have you heard?

"Weed is safe!"

"Weed isn't
addictive!"

"Weed is
legal!"

"Pot is
organic!"

"Pot is
medicine!"



Is it Safe?

Marijuana is Dangerous to the Teenage Brain

Marijuana consists of hundreds of chemical compounds called cannabinoids, including **CBD** and **THC**. **THC** is the chemical that makes you feel "high". THC can also damage the developing teenage brain, interfering with the parts of the brain that control problem solving, memory, concentration, coordination, and critical thinking.



Marijuana is NOT safe or organic. In fact, marijuana is MUCH stronger than it was in the past, and is often laced with chemicals, other drugs, or contaminants.

Is it Addictive?

THS can damage the reward center in the brain, causing addiction.

Studies have shown that the effects of THC on the brain, especially on teens whose brains are still developing, can be permanent, and can lead to dependency and addiction*.

1 IN 6 teens who use marijuana become addicted to it

Teens are 6x more likely to be treated for marijuana addiction than for all other illegal drugs combined

Is it Medicine?

Although many people use marijuana to treat a variety of conditions, marijuana is not classified as medicine, and has not been proven to cure any disease. Even though research has not yet proven its effectiveness, some states, including CT, allow people to obtain marijuana to help alleviate certain symptoms.

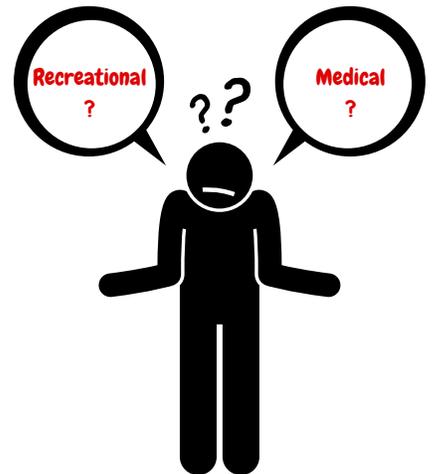


Is it Legal?



Marijuana is legal in CT. However, recreational use is **NOT** legal for kids or teens in **any** state.

The term "**recreational**" marijuana is used to refer to the use of marijuana to alter mood - to get "buzzed" or "high". Do you think that's a good term to use? What activities do you think of when you hear the term "recreation" or "recreational"?



Talking About What You Know

1. Marijuana is not addictive.

Circle your answers.

True or False

2. Which compound found in Cannabis causes users to feel "high"?

a. THC b. BTS c. CBD d. CB1

3. "Recreational" use of marijuana is legal for kids in some states:

True or False?

4. How many kids who use marijuana will become addicted to it?



Talking With Your Grown Ups About Marijuana Legalization

Some states have legalized marijuana, either for "medical" use, "recreational" use or both. What does your family think about marijuana and marijuana legalization?

- What are some of the reasons - good or bad - people might use marijuana?
- Why do you think some states have legalized "recreational" use of marijuana?
- Do you think everyone should be allowed to use marijuana? Why or why not?

Kids - share one reason your family came up with that kids should not use marijuana:
