

# MARIJUANA



Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal substance in the U.S. and its use is growing. Although, there are a number of states with legal commercial sale of marijuana, including NY, it is not legal anywhere for anyone under the age of 21. Marijuana use among all adult age groups, both sexes, and pregnant women is going up. The perception of how harmful marijuana use can be is declining. Young people today do not consider marijuana use a risky behavior. There are real risks for people who use marijuana, especially youth and young adults. Today's marijuana is stronger than ever before. People can and do become addicted to marijuana. Contrary to popular belief, ***marijuana is addictive.***

## Research Shows



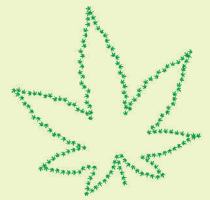
Approximately 3 in 10 people who use marijuana have marijuana use disorder.



For people who begin using marijuana before age 18, the risk of developing marijuana use disorder is even greater.



Marijuana use directly affects the brain, specifically the parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning, attention, decision-making, coordination and emotion. Youth are especially susceptible to the adverse effects of marijuana.



***Over the past few decades, the amount of THC in marijuana has steadily climbed; today's marijuana has three times the concentration of THC compared to 25 years ago.***

## Resources for Teachers (Click on image links)



The Body's Response to Marijuana



Teachers Guide-Grades 5-9



***Schools play a critical role in promoting students' wellness and in preventing substance use. Educators can take action to help students feel connected. When students feel that adults and peers in school care about them and are invested in their well-being, they are significantly less likely to experience health risks related to substance use, violence, and mental health in adulthood.***