

Facts you should  
know about

# MARIJUANA

and how it affects  
youth



## YOUTH HARM FROM MARIJUANA USE

### BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Marijuana use directly affects the brain and can cause serious damage to the developing youth brain. Negative effects include difficulty thinking and problem solving, problems with memory and learning, impaired coordination, and difficulty maintaining attention.

*(Fergusson & Boden; Riggs)*

### MENTAL HEALTH

Use of marijuana during adolescence quadruples the risk of developing psychosis (hallucinations and schizophrenia). It doubles the risk of developing depression or bipolar disorder.

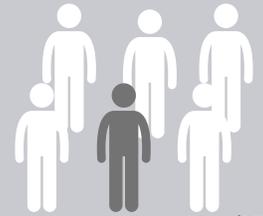
*(Di Forti, M. et al & Hallfors et al)*

### SCHOOL

Using marijuana while in school lowers a teen's performance and IQ, while increasing the risk of students dropping out.

*(Meier M.H., Caspi A., Ambler A., et. Al & Silins, E., Horwood, L. J., & Patton, G. C.)*

1 in 6 teens who  
try marijuana **will**  
**become addicted**



*(NIDA)*

### Chronic adolescent users (at least 1x per week) are:

*(Fergusson & Boden; Riggs)*

80% more likely to  
become welfare  
dependent by age 25

72% more likely to be  
unemployed as an adult

178% less likely to earn  
their college degree than  
non-users



### 5x It's no longer just a joint

Today's marijuana has  
217% more of the  
psychoactive ingredient  
THC than it did in 1995.

*(ElSohly)*

Marijuana now comes in multiple, more concentrated  
forms including candy, cookies, waxes, dabs, and oils.

*(Rocky Mtn. HTDA)*

**Regardless of how you feel about  
marijuana, it is still bad for youth.**

# MARIJUANA prevention



## WHAT CAN THE COMMUNITY DO TO HELP?



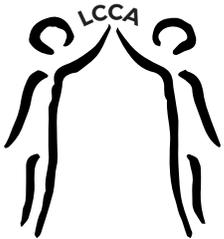
### PLEDGE A SAFE HOME

A “Safe Home” is a home in which the family or an adult has committed to providing a safe and substance-free environment for their children, and any other youth who spend time there. Kids and adults can be confident that minors under the age of 21 will not be offered or allowed to use drugs or alcohol while they are in these families’ homes. Learn more and take the pledge at [drugfreelivingston.com/safe-homes](http://drugfreelivingston.com/safe-homes).

## LOCK UP MARIJUANA.



Keep kids safe! Lock up Marijuana. Young children may confuse marijuana products for regular food or candy. To prevent accidental exposure, be sure all medical or recreational marijuana products are kept in child-resistant packaging, clearly labeled, and locked up. Children should not be able to see or reach the locked area. In addition, safe storage is not always enough, talk to youth about marijuana to help them better understand the risks. To learn more visit [talksooner.org/marijuana](http://talksooner.org/marijuana).



### DRUG FREE LIVINGSTON

Let’s unite Livingston County to reduce and prevent youth substance use and to live a safe and drug free lifestyle. To learn more about full prevention techniques, visit Livingston County Community Alliance online at [drugfreelivingston.com](http://drugfreelivingston.com).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



SCAN ME

