



## Marijuana Fact Sheet



Marijuana is one of the most frequently used drugs in the US.

Marijuana is often one of the first drugs used by teens.

- 41% of teen users say they began before the age of 15. (Source: Drug-Free.org)

The use of marijuana for medical purposes and legalization of recreational use of marijuana has led to a lower perception of risk for teens, which is a risk factor for increased use. (Source: American College of Pediatricians, 2016)

The changing landscape does not change the fact that all mind-altering substances—including marijuana—are harmful for the teen brain.

- The part of the brain that controls reasoning and impulses, the prefrontal cortex, does not fully mature until the age of 25.
- Teens are particularly susceptible to the negative effects of drug use—including the use of marijuana.
- Even occasional marijuana use can cause teens to engage in risky behaviors, be taken advantage of, find themselves in vulnerable situations and make bad choices

Teens typically use alcohol and marijuana in combination.

- Mixing marijuana and alcohol can result in a significant increase in impairment of judgement.
- Because marijuana can reduce nausea and vomiting, the body's normal defense of vomiting when drunk may be impaired when marijuana and alcohol are consumed together.

**The Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN) is an association of the state's 13 community partnership Regional Action Councils (RACs) that work to provide your community with education, training and advocacy for substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion.**