

THE FACTS ABOUT TEENS AND MARIJUANA.

**Here's some good (and surprising) news:
When it comes to credible, reliable information on marijuana and other drug use, teens look to their parents and other trusted adults in their lives.**

And here's some even better news: **We know that talking to teens works.** Whether it's in the car, over dinner, or just a walk around the neighborhood, when you discuss marijuana use with your teens, they're listening.

But teens are smart. They are savvy. They will have questions, and you know from experience that you'll need to have answers.

So really...why is marijuana so bad for teens?

- 1 Using marijuana can change the way a teen's brain develops, and have lasting effects on memory, learning and intelligence.
- 2 Marijuana is more addictive for teens than adults. One in six people who start using as teens will become addicted. In WA, most teens who get treatment for substance abuse report that marijuana is the main or only drug they use.
- 3 Using marijuana can affect coordination and reaction times and is related to more fatal crashes in WA, especially when mixed with other substances.
- 4 Using marijuana can lead to unpredictable behavior and poor decision making that can put the user and others in harm's way.
- 5 It is against the law for people under 21 to use marijuana and getting caught could impact the ability to get a job in the future or get financial aid for college.



Now that you have the facts, talk to your teens about the potential dangers of marijuana use. Be clear about your rules and expectations. Let them know that you are there for them. But most importantly, keep finding time to talk.

For more information, visit **StartTalkingNow.org**, and if your teens have questions that you can't answer, they can check out **YouCanWA.org**.

If you think that your teen is addicted or cannot stop using marijuana or other drugs, contact their doctor or the **Washington Recovery Help Line at 1-866-789-1511**.