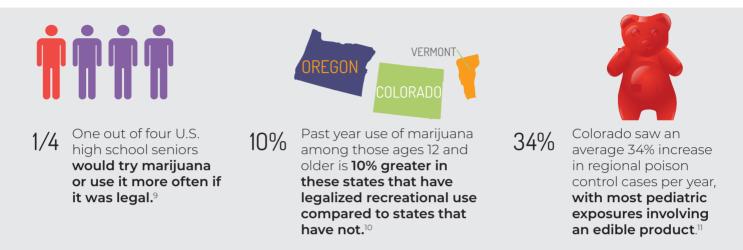
Effect of Marijuana Legalization on Youth

Marijuana is addictive... Studies have shown that about 1 in 6 youth who start smoking marijuana become addicted.⁵

Since the 1970s, the potency of flower marijuana has increased as much as tenfold from 3-4% for flower to as high as 30% today.⁶ The national average THC potency is 11.04% for flower and 55.45% for concentrates. Yet, in states that have commercialized adult-use marijuana, potency is even higher with THC levels reaching up to 98%.¹³



MARIJUANA CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE BRAIN



IMPAIRED JUDGEMENT



MEMORY PROBLEMS

THC alters the way one processes information. It affects the hippocampus of the brain (the region responsible for information consolidation and spatial memory).12



COORDINATION

Short term effects of marijuana use can disturb coordination and distort perception (sights, sound, time, touch).¹²



MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Direct associations have been made between the use of marijuana and mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and addiction.

- In 2016, around 4 million people ages 12 and older had a marijuana use disorder.⁸ The most severe form is also known as an addiction.
- People who have taken large doses or used marijuana with high THC content may experience psychosis. Psychosis can affect the mind and make it hard for a person to understand what's real and what isn't.12

⁵NIH. (2014, June). Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment: A Research-Based Guide

Smart R, Caulkins JP, Kilmer B, Davenport S, Midgette G. Variation in cannabis potency and prices in a newly legal market: evidence from 30 million cannabis sales in Washington state.

⁶El Sohly, M.A., Mehmedic, Z., Foster, S., Gon, C., Chandra, S., & Church, J. C. (2016). Changes in Cannabis Potency Over the Last 2 Decades (1995-2014): Analysis of Current Data in the United States. SAMHSA. (2017). Key substance use and mental he idicators in the United States: Results from the 20 ational Survey on Drug Use and Health

COMMUNITY















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⁹ Monitoring the Future. National Adolescent Drug Trends in 2017.

³SAMHSA (2017). National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Comparison of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Population Percentages.

¹¹ Wang GS, Le Lait M, Deakyne SJ, Bronstein AC, Bajaj L, Roosevelt G. Unintentional Pediatric Exposures to Marijua in Colorado, 2009-2015. JAMA Pediatr. 2016;170(9):e160971. 12 National Institute on Drub Abuse, drugabuse.gov. (June 2018) ¹³ Illinois Public Health Institute (Nov. 2018)