

YOUTH AND MARIJUANA\ CANNABIS USE

Prevention
Action Alliance

Development of Marijuana\Cannabis Use Disorder

- Youth who begin using marijuana before the age of **18** are up to 7 times more likely than adults to develop a marijuana\cannabis use disorder, and there are no medications currently available to treat marijuana\cannabis use disorder.^{1;2}
- A study conducted in part by researchers at Duke University showed that people who started smoking marijuana heavily in their teens and had an ongoing marijuana\cannabis use disorder lost an average of 8 IQ points between ages 13 and 38. The lost mental abilities didn't fully return in those who quit marijuana as adults.³
- Research suggests that between 9 and 30 percent of those who use marijuana may develop some degree of marijuana\cannabis use disorder.⁴

Sources

1 U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain. HHS.gov.

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>. Published 2022. Accessed January 20, 2022.

2 Winters KC, Lee C-YS. Likelihood of developing an alcohol and cannabis use disorder during youth: association with recent use and age. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2008;92(1-3):239-247. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2007.08.005.

3 Meier MH, Caspi A, Ambler A, et al. Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2012;109(40):E2657-E2664. doi:10.1073/pnas.1206820109.

4 Hasin DS, Saha TD, Kerridge BT, et al. Prevalence of Marijuana Use Disorders in the United States Between 2001-2002 and 2012-2013. *JAMA Psychiatry.* 2015;72(12):1235-1242. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2015.1858.

YOUTH AND MARIJUANA\CANNABIS USE

- **Marijuana use among young adults (aged 18-28) has reached an all-time high** according to 2020 data from the largest, most comprehensive drug use survey of students in the United States- the Monitoring the Future Survey.⁵
- **Some 699,000 youth aged 12-17 reported an addiction to marijuana in 2019 – representing 187,000 new youth with a marijuana\cannabis use disorder in 2019 versus 2018. Overall, more than 4.8 million people aged 12 or older reported a marijuana\cannabis use disorder in 2019, up from 4.4 million in 2018.**⁶
- **Teenage marijuana users (aged 12-17) have double the prevalence of a use disorder than users of nicotine, alcohol, and, in most categories of users, even prescription drug misusers. The addiction rate was as high as 20% among those who had used more than three years and doubled the rate of alcohol in all categories.**⁷

This fact sheet was created by the Marijuana Task Force, a collaboration of the Ohio Prevention Professionals Association and Prevention Action Alliance. Members of the Marijuana Task Force include:

- PreventionFirst!
- Jennifer’s Messengers
- Empower Tusc
- Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County
- Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention
- Westshore Enforcement Bureau
- Westshore Young Leaders Network
- Summit County Community Partnership

Prevention Action Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Columbus, Ohio. We’re dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. Learn more at preventionactionalliance.org.

If you have concerns about your own use of marijuana or of a loved one and wish to seek help, please visit: findtreatment.samhsa.gov/

For more information about marijuana and health, contact Prevention Action Alliance at:
(614) 540-9985
contact@preventionactionalliance.org

Sources

5 MARIJUANA USE AT HISTORIC HIGH AMONG COLLEGE-AGED ADULTS IN 2020. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH). [HTTPS://WWW.NIH.GOV/NEWS-EVENTS/NEWS-RELEASES/MARIJUANA-USE-HISTORIC-HIGH-AMONG-COLLEGE-AGED-ADULTS-2020](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/marijuana-use-historic-high-among-college-aged-adults-2020). PUBLISHED 2022. ACCESSED JANUARY 21, 2022.

6 MARIJUANA USE AT HISTORIC HIGH AMONG COLLEGE-AGED ADULTS IN 2020. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH). [HTTPS://WWW.NIH.GOV/NEWS-EVENTS/NEWS-RELEASES/MARIJUANA-USE-HISTORIC-HIGH-AMONG-COLLEGE-AGED-ADULTS-2020](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/marijuana-use-historic-high-among-college-aged-adults-2020). PUBLISHED 2022. ACCESSED JANUARY 20, 2022.

7 JAMA PEDIATR. 2021;175(6):640-643. DOI:10.1001/JAMAPEDIATRICS.2020.6981