

Think Youth Marijuana Use is No Big Deal?

Think Again...



MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

High school students in San Diego County (9th and 11th graders) perceive marijuana to be less harmful than cigarettes.¹

Get The Facts

Among 11th graders living in San Diego County, **1 in 5 reported having used marijuana within the past 30 days.**²

Marijuana's average potency has more than tripled in the last two decades.³

Students who smoke marijuana tend to get **lower grades** and are **less likely to complete high school.**⁴

Marijuana exposure during teen years has been found to **decrease IQ and impact cognition.**⁵

Adolescents who frequently use marijuana experience **difficulties learning, paying attention, and processing information.**⁶

High school students are **more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes.**⁷

Marijuana is overwhelmingly the drug of choice for adolescents admitted into treatment, with approximately two-thirds of all adolescent admissions due to marijuana use.⁸

Marijuana smoke contains **50% to 70% more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than tobacco smoke.**⁹

¹California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), 2009-2011; ²CHKS, 2009-2011; ³University of Mississippi Potency Monitoring Project, 2010; ⁴National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), 2012; ⁵Meier, et. al., National Academy of Sciences, 2012; ⁶Jacobus et. al., 2009; ⁷Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2010; ⁸County of San Diego CalOMS, 2011; ⁹NIDA, 2010.