

Keeping Kids Safe

CANNABIS



A.K.A.: Marijuana, Pot, Weed, Grass, Herb, Mary Jane.

Regarding learning, performance, healthy development and the law - **It's a Big Deal!**

Important Facts:

- In 2022, **14%** of 9th-12th grade Clayton students reported having used cannabis in the past 30 days. - Missouri Student Survey 2022
- **Regular use of cannabis** affects the parts of the brain that control memory, attention and learning, & self-control
- **Short-term effects of cannabis use:** decreased memory and learning, distorted emotions and perceptions, diminished problem solving abilities, loss of motor coordination
- **Long-term effects of cannabis use:** decline in school performance, risk for addiction, increased risk of mental health issues including psychosis, if smoked, damage to lungs.



- **The Gateway Drug?** While there are many teens who use cannabis and do not go on to use other drugs, the vast majority of individuals who misuse "harder" drugs started their drug use with cannabis.
- **Teens who begin using cannabis before the age of 18** are four to seven times more likely to develop a drug problem than adults.-NIDA
- In November 2022, Missouri voters approved **adult-use cannabis** for those over the age of 21.



Not your grandparents' pot

Cannabis is now being genetically modified to maximize potency. In the early 1990s, the average THC content in cannabis was less than 4 percent. It is now about 15 percent in smoked cannabis and much higher in extracts. Edibles and vaped extracts can have upwards of 90% potency, delivering dangerous amounts of THC to the user. – NIDA

Recognize the Signs:

If someone has been using cannabis, they might

- Appear dizzy or have trouble walking
- Seem silly and giggly for no reason
- Over or under-react to situations
- Have very red, bloodshot eyes
- Have a hard time remembering things that just happened
- Change friends, lose interest in established activities



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CLAYTON COALITION
HELPING YOUTH MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES