

Not Just a Little Weed: Marijuana in the Era of Legalization

Understanding marijuana, Connecticut laws, and its
impact on our youth

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Objectives

Learn about the problem of marijuana use in Connecticut youth

Learn about Connecticut laws around marijuana

Learn about how to prevent marijuana use in our youth



What are they facing?

- Stress from school
- Relationships
 - Friends
 - Romantic
- Family Pressures & Problems
- Transitions & Fitting In
- Independence
- Availability



Risk and Protective Factors

Risk Factors:

Availability, Lack of Supervision, Low Perception of Harm

Protective Factors:

Self Control, Parental Monitoring, Anti-drug use policies



Top Three Drugs of Misuse

Alcohol



Marijuana



Prescription Drugs



Marijuana

Most commonly abused illicit drug in the U.S

Perceived risk and disapproval decreasing among youth

It is addictive!

1 out of 5 teens who use marijuana will become addicted



Marijuana

35.4% of students had used marijuana one or more times during their life

20.4% of students had used marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days

5.8% of students had tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years.



Car accidents occur **3-7 times more** for drivers that are impaired by the use of marijuana

Marijuana can cause **significant changes** in the brain like the ability to control emotions, and coordination



Perceived Risk of Harm - Marijuana

63.9 % of high school seniors say that regular use of marijuana is ok and that it **DOES NOT** put them at risk

**Continues to exceed
cigarette use**



Marijuana in the Last Decade

THC in Marijuana of Yesterday – about 4%

THC in Marijuana of Today – about 20%

Edibles



Vaping



Not Your Parents Marijuana

Dabbing



Oils contains high level of THC:
About 40-80%

Shatter



Negative Impacts

Marijuana has a negative impact on the overall well-being of youth and society

Poor Life Outcomes

Driving under the influence

Significantly increases the risk of:

- Not completing high school
- Not enrolling in or completing college
- Low educational achievement
- Lower income
- Unemployment and welfare dependence as an adult
- Reduction in IQ in middle adulthood

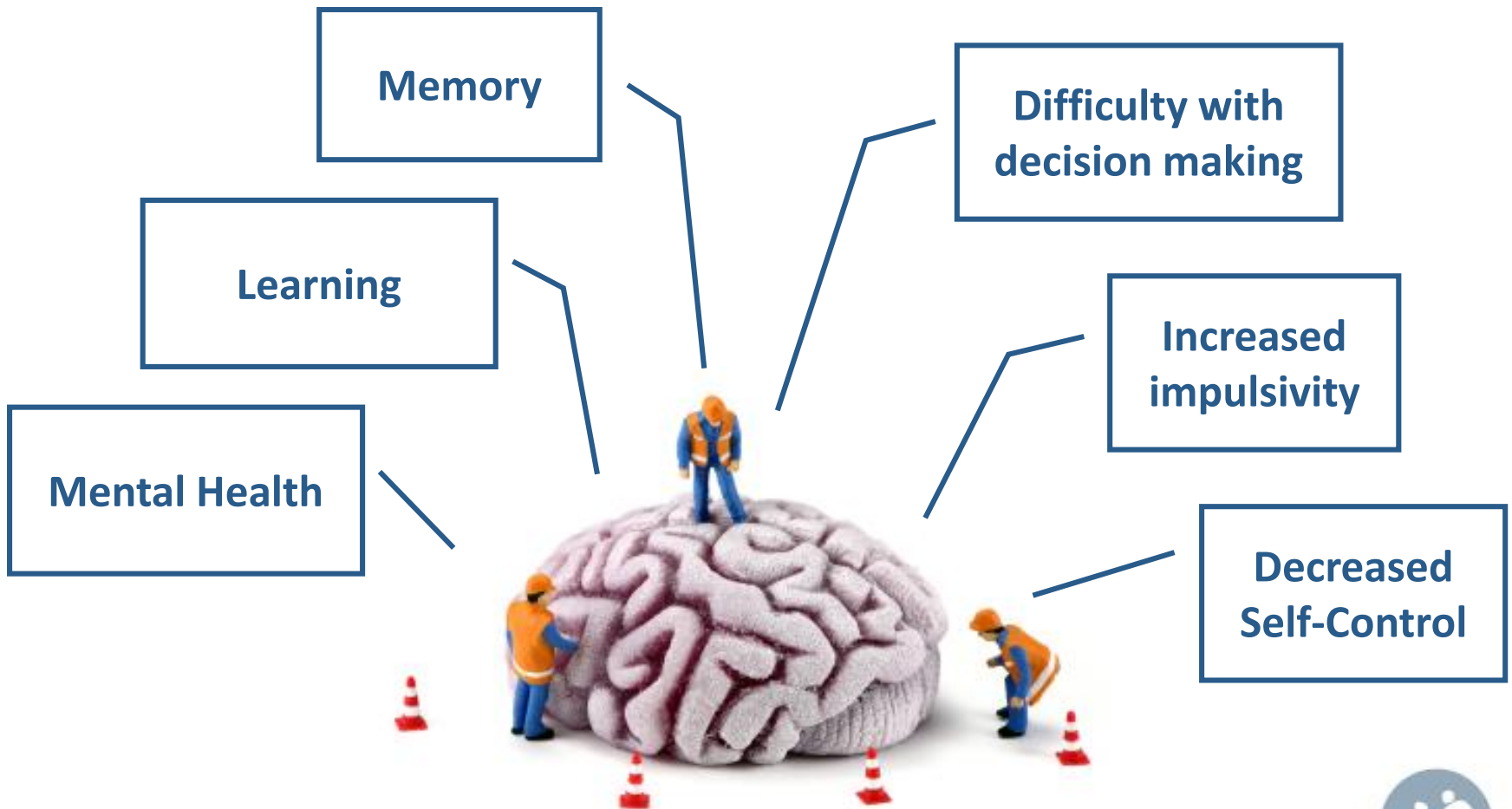
Gateway to other drugs

Dependency and Addiction

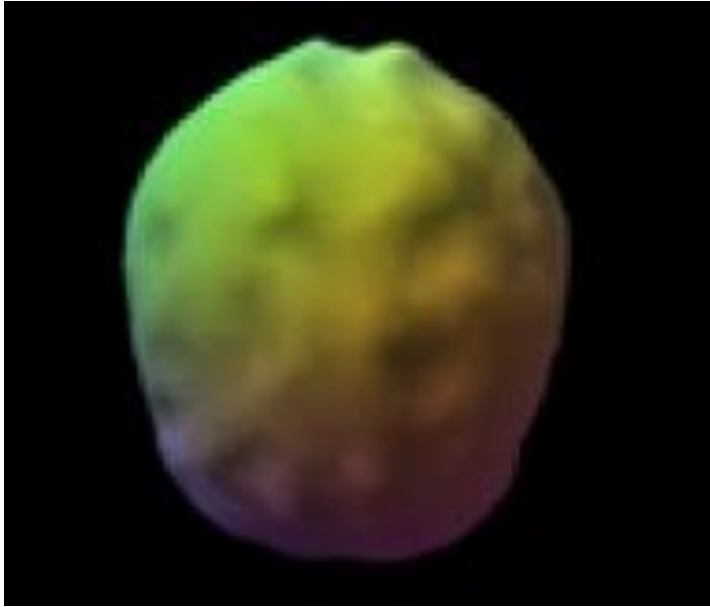
Higher public health and financial costs



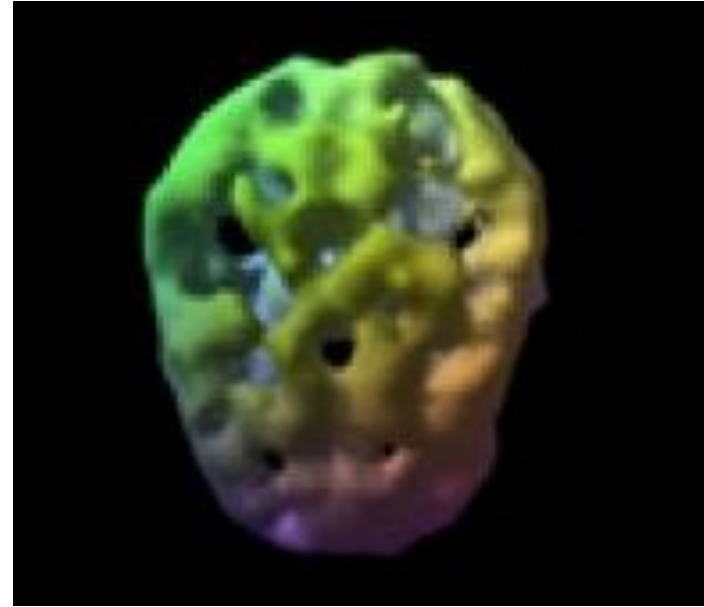
Marijuana and the Developing Brain



The Developing Brain



Normal Brain

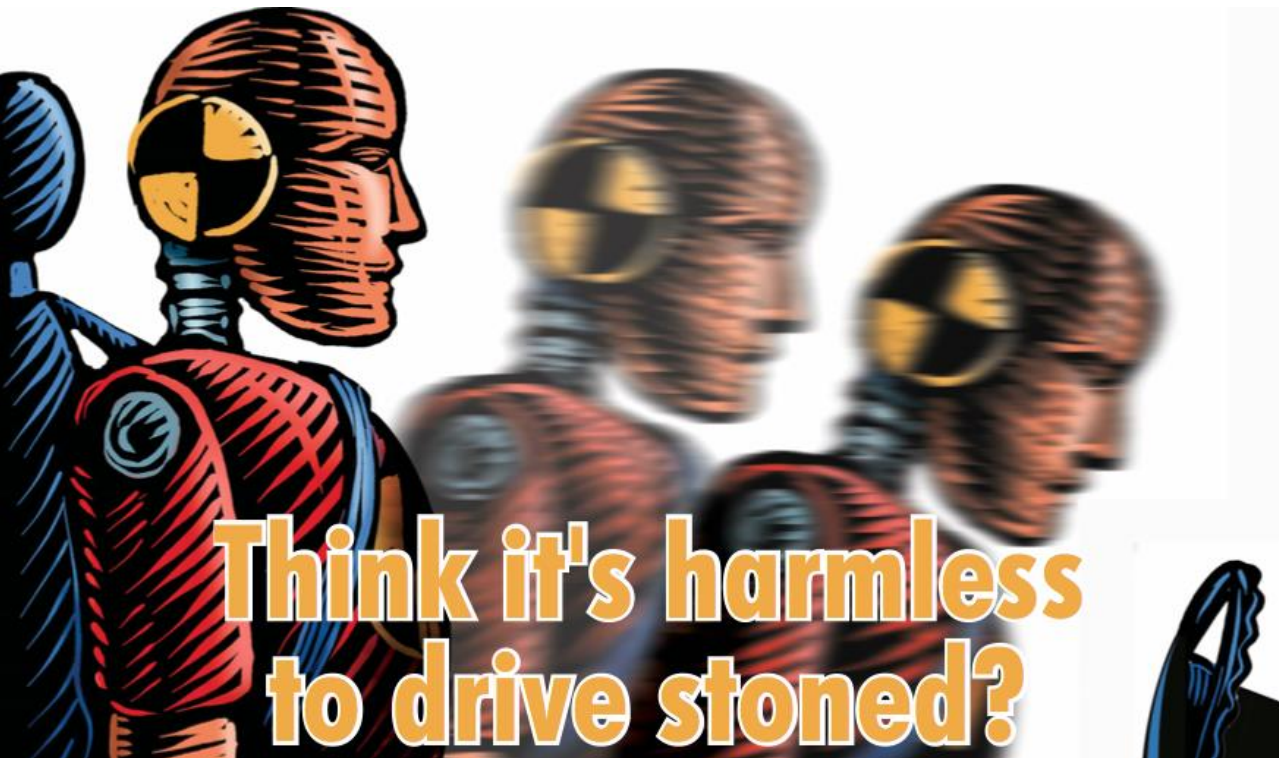


After Marijuana Use



Marijuana-Impaired Driving

Marijuana-impaired driving continues to increase
in young drivers



New Legislation



Decriminalization

Offense	Penalty	Incarceration	Fine
First: Less than a ½ Oz	Civil Penalty	N/A	\$ 150
Second: Less than a ½ Oz	Civil Penalty	N/A	\$ 500
First: ½ Oz – 4 Oz	Misdemeanor	1 Year	\$ 1,000
Second: ½ Oz – 4 Oz	Felony	5 Years	\$ 3,000
First: 4 Oz or more	Felony	5 Years	\$ 2,000
Second: 4 Oz or more	Felony	10 Years	\$ 5,000



Medical Marijuana

Under 18

Qualifications:

- Severe epilepsy
- Terminal illness that requires end-of-life care
- Cerebral palsy
- Cystic fibrosis
- Uncontrolled intractable seizure disorders
- Irreversible spinal cord injury

Limited to a liquid form



Legalization

The Governor's Prevention Partnership opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana on the basis that legalizing recreational use by adults will likely lead to increased access to and use of marijuana by young people.



This will likely cause substantial harm among our young population and lead to increased societal costs in our state



Colorado

Recreational use of Marijuana is legal in Colorado for those over the age of 21

8% spike in use of marijuana by Colorado teens the year after legalization took place



In Colorado:

30% of teens say they obtained marijuana from their parents

39% say they obtain it from a friend who purchased it legally



Prevention Tips

Kids who learn about the risks of drugs at home are up to 50% less likely to use drugs

- Listen
- Have a clear no use policy
- Approach without judgement
- Create a safe space
- Use “teachable moments” to raise issues.
- Be prepared
- Balance danger messages with messages of care and support



Ways to Take Action

Get Involved in Prevention!

- Get involved in local prevention!
- Youth 2 Youth
- Local Prevention Councils / Substance Abuse Coalitions
- Regional Action Councils
- [SADD](#)

If You Think They are Using

1. Focus - Don't panic, but act right away
2. Start talking - Let your child know you are concerned - communicate your disapproval
3. Set limits – set rules and consequences appropriate for the action
4. Monitor – Look for evidence, make lists, keep track
5. Get outside/professional help – you don't have to do this alone



For More Information:

Visit our Website: www.PreventionWorksCT.org

Sign up for our Blog, Prevention News and get the latest information

[Prevention News](#)

Learn tips and tools for talking to your teen about Marijuana

[Marijuana Talk Kit](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[Talk. They Hear You](#)

Check out The Partnership for Drug Free Kids website

[The Partnership for Drug Free Kids](#)

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