



# WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS & SIGNS OF CANNABIS USE?

Misinformation about cannabis is common. A recent national survey reports that about 70% of grade 12 students did not think regular cannabis use was harmful. The truth is that regular cannabis use can be harmful.

- feeling relaxed, happy, high
- more sociable
- heightened & distorted perceptions
- decreased motor coordination
- · impaired judgement & problem solving
- · impaired memory & learning capability
- increased heart rate & body tremors
- anxiety or panic\*
- psychotic symptoms\*
- nausea & vomiting\*

\*tend to occur with exposure to high doses or overdose.

Note: Using cannabis together with other drugs/alcohol can increase negative effects.

- impaired cognitive function (attention, memory & problem solving)
- lack of motivation
- school drop-out/poor academic achievement
- chronic bronchitis
- increased risk for Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, Psychotic Disorders & Cannabis Use Disorder (addiction)

Negative long-term effects are more common when use begins before age 16, and when cannabis use is daily.

The greater the dose & duration of cannabis use, the greater the negative impacts. Stopping regular & heavy cannabis use may not fully restore cognitive impairments.

## Effects on driving:

- It is dangerous for a person to drive if they've used cannabis (cannabis doubles the risk of a fatal crash)
- There's no clear time limit to when negative impacts on driving performance decrease or stop
- Tell your teen they shouldn't get into a car driven by someone who's used cannabis
- Driving after using cannabis is illegal

While it can be diffcult to know if your teen is using cannabis, some <u>possible signs</u> include:

- more withdrawn/secretive
- red eyes, cannabis scent on person
- decrease in activities they used to enjoy
- friend group using cannabis increases probability your teen will

- periodically more gregarious/sociable
- decline in academic performance
- nausea, vomiting, anxiety symptoms, panic, paranoia



# WHAT SHOULD I DO IN AN EMERGENCY? (SJSS)

If a young person has overdosed on cannabis (i.e. "greened out"), follow these steps:

bring them to a place

if they aren't vomiting, give them lots of fruit

if they've passed out, lie them on their and call 911

if they're panicky or paranoid, stay with them to provide reassurance and



- If you're uncomfortable with what's happening, or suspect synthetic cannabinoid use, call 911
- · Afterwards, have a frank, open and non-threatening discussion about your child's cannabis use
- If it isn't your child, decide if and when to discuss the situation with their caregivers



## HOW DO I TALK ABOUT CANNABIS USE?

There's a lot of misinformation about cannabis. Get informed, know the facts and TALK SMART. When speaking with your teen about cannabis: be open but not permissive; listen actively and respectfully; provide evidence-based information; help them choose healthy life options.

Help your teen understand:

- If they don't want to use drugs, they are their own person and it's their decision not to, even if their friends are.
- They're encouraged to educate themselves about cannabis to have evidence-based information

## Keep in mind:

• Parents are role models for their children