

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



Marijuana use is illegal in Illinois for those under the age of 21. The teen years represent a critical time of brain development. A youth's brain is uniquely vulnerable to the negative effects of any substance, including marijuana.

In Wheeling Township, most high school and middle school students do not currently use marijuana.¹

What YOU Can Do

95% of Wheeling Township parents and guardians think it would be wrong for their teen to smoke/use marijuana.¹

Make sure

your child

knows that

these rules

expectations

are coming

from a place

of love. You

protect them

want to

and their

futures.

and

However, only 49% of students report that their parents/guardians

talked to them about not using in the past year.¹



Be Clear.

Confidently and clearly express a nouse attitude with very clear guidelines for healthy behaviors and your expectations for their lifestyle choices.

Be Ве positive. ready.

Talk early and talk often. Start talking with your child about the impacts of drug use while they are young and continue having these conversation s as they grow older.



Be supportive.

Help your child develop strong refusal skills so that they can say no to drugs if ever offered.



Be involved.

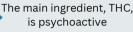
Be aware of your child's life. Communica te often, spend quality and fun time

together.

There are two main components of marijuana: THC and CBD.







This is what

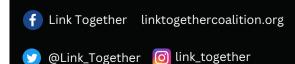
causes powerful surges of dopamine, a neurotransmitter released in the brain's pleasure or reward center.

Dopamine surges create an intense level of pleasure, or a "high." The more a person uses a substance, the more they need to use in order to reach that same "high."

1 in 6

Marijuana users under the age of 18 will become addicted.

"About 3 in 10 people who use marijuana have a marijuana use disorder. The risk of developing marijuana use disorder is higher in people who start using marijuana during youth or adolescence and who use marijuana more frequently." ³



1 2022 Illinois Youth Survey, N= 6,342

2 https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana

3 https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/teens.html

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