

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

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 no-use attitude with very clear guidelines for healthy behaviors and your expectations for their lifestyle choices.



Be positive.

Make sure your child knows that these rules and expectations are coming from a place of love. You want to protect them and their futures.



Be 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 conversations 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. Communicate often, spend quality and fun time together.

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



CBD is non-psychoactive



The main ingredient, THC, is psychoactive

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.²

"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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