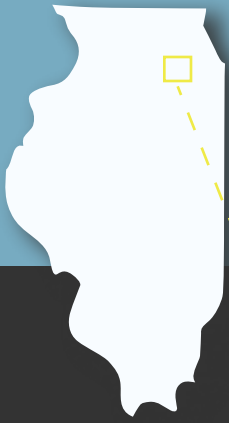


WHAT TEENS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA



As of January 1st, 2020, marijuana is legal for recreational use in Illinois for those **ages 21 and over**.

It also cannot be consumed in public spaces.

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



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."



Short Term Health Effects³

Marijuana use can impair:



Short-term memory



Reaction time



Attention span



Motor skills

Long Term Health Effects³

Marijuana use can cause:



Increased risk of developing schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety



Marijuana dependency



Memory problems



Legal implications



Poor school performance



Lung damage



Social and emotional problems

All of these effects can **impact your future**: career, relationship, education, family, and goals.



1 in 6 marijuana users under the age of **18** will become addicted³

The levels of THC concentration in marijuana have **increased** exponentially in the past decade.²

The popularity of vaping marijuana has also risen during this time.



Let's link up:

LinkTogetherCoalition.org
 Link Together Coalition
 @Link_Together

¹ 2018 Illinois Youth Survey, N= 7,318

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6312155/>

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

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