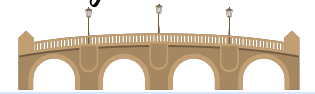


DRUG TRENDS

CANNABIS - Impact on Communities

PREVENTION
bridge to success



CANNABIS - THE NEW 'BIG TOBACCO'



WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW

Since Colorado legalized recreational cannabis in 2012:

- Youth cannabis use is **85% higher than the national average**
- Cannabis-related **traffic fatalities** increased 151%
- **Violent crime** increased 25% (18,426 in 2013 to 23,009 in 2017)
- **Aggravated assaults** increased 31% (9,714 to 12,711)
- Motor **vehicle thefts** increased 73% (12,806 to 22,187)



BRAINS AT RISK

According to the CDC, cannabis use may have long-lasting or permanent effects on the developing adolescent brain. Negative effects include:

- Difficulty with **critical thinking skills** like attention, problem solving and memory
- **Impaired reaction time and coordination**, especially as it relates to driving
- Decline in **school performance**
- Increased risk of mental health issues including **depression** or **anxiety** and in some cases, **psychosis** where there is a family history of it
- Research also shows that about **one in six teens** who repeatedly use cannabis can become **addicted**, as compared to one in nine adults

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Communities can write Ordinances to ban sales and grow sites in their neighborhoods.
- Start locally; attend Town Halls, write letters, speak with your representatives and find out if they plan to allow drugs in your backyard.
- Speak with your children about the risks of cannabis use, addiction, and accidental ingestion.

