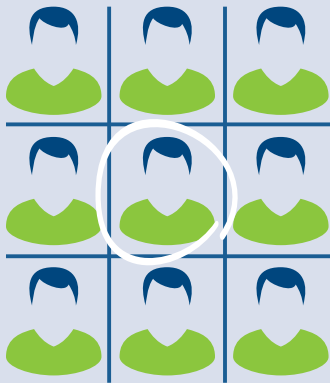




# WAWMCC Snapshot Focus on Marijuana

Fall 2013 Newsletter



## 1 in 9 people

who use marijuana become addicted (about the same number as alcohol).

**BUT** start using marijuana in adolescence, the addiction rates jump to

## 1 in 6 people<sup>1</sup>

**Short-term effects of marijuana use include:**

- Distorted perceptions
- +
- Memory impairment
- +
- Difficulty thinking & solving problems

**= (F)**

**LOWER GRADES!**

### Sources

<sup>1</sup>Budney, A. J., Roffman, R., Stephens, R. S., Walker, D. 2007.

"Marijuana dependence and its treatment." *Addict Sci Clin Pract*, Vol 4, Issue 1, pp 4-10.

<sup>2</sup>2011 WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

<sup>3</sup>Healthy People 2020.

<sup>4</sup>Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., & Schulenberg, J.E. (December 14, 2011). University of Michigan, 2011 Monitoring the Future Study.

Here's where we were in

# 18.9%

Percentage of Wisconsin youth using marijuana during the past month.<sup>2</sup>

2009

Here's where we were in

# 22%

Percentage of Wisconsin youth using marijuana during the past month.<sup>2</sup>

2011

Here's where we want to be in

# 6%

Healthy People 2020 Goal<sup>3</sup>

2020



# 77%

of US high school seniors thought there is not a great risk of harm from smoking marijuana occasionally.<sup>4</sup>



# 37%

of Wisconsin students reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup> But that also means 63% of WI youth have not tried marijuana.

## Talk

early and talk often about all forms of substance abuse.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# WAWMCC Snapshot

## Focus on Marijuana



## Did you know...

- ▶ Marijuana is the most commonly abused illegal drug in the US.
- ▶ Today's marijuana is not the same as marijuana from the 60's and 70's, it's stronger & more potent.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ The West Allis - West Milwaukee Community Coalition is a group of community leaders and partners working together to prevent underage alcohol use and substance abuse in our community.
- ▶ **YOU** make a difference in our community whenever you support and encourage a teen to make positive and healthy decisions.

### Facts About Marijuana

- Marijuana and driving do not mix. It is the most common illegal drug found in drivers who die in accidents (around 14 percent of drivers), sometimes in combination with alcohol or other drugs.<sup>2</sup>
- Persistent marijuana use starting in the teen years can lower IQ by 8 points.<sup>3</sup>

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup>Debunking Marijuana Myths (MCTFT webinar).

<sup>2</sup><http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/want-to-know-more-some-faqs-about-marijuana>.

<sup>3</sup>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, August 27, 2012. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3479587/>

Become one of the powerful voices encouraging positive choices to create a safer and healthier community

West Allis • West Milwaukee  
Community Coalition



Powerful Voices, Positive Choices

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## Become Informed

- Receive email updates from the Coalition about underage substance abuse issues.
- Visit the Coalition's website ([www.wawmcc.org](http://www.wawmcc.org)) for Important News, Community Resources and Parent Tips.
- Join the Forum on the Coalition's website.

## Become Involved

- Read the Parent brochure for ways to talk with your children about alcohol and drugs.
- Sign the Family Pledge.
- Host alcohol-free parties and attend alcohol-free family events.
- Voice your ideas and concerns at Coalition meetings.
- Spread the word by sharing the Coalition's mission with others.
- Attend bi-monthly Coalition Meetings held the 3rd Wednesday of every other month. Go to the website for dates and locations.

## Become Invested

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Meet your children's friends and introduce yourself to their parents.
- Look for signs of drug use or suspicious activity in your neighborhood.
- Join your neighborhood block watch.