THE FACTS ABOUT TEENS AND MARIJUANA.

Here's some good (and surprising) news: When it comes to reliable information on marijuana and other drug use, teens look to their parents and other trusted adults in their lives.

And here's some even better news: **We know that talking to teens works**. Whether it's in the car, over dinner, or just a walk around the neighborhood, when you discuss marijuana use with your teens, they're listening.

They will have questions, and you know from experience that you'll need to have answers.

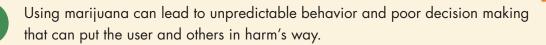
So... how does marijuana affect teens?

Marijuana can hurt their grades. Early marijuana use can change the way a teen's brain develops and have lasting effects on memory, learning, and intelligence.



Marijuana is more addictive for teens than adults. In WA, most teens who enter drug treatment programs report marijuana is the main drug they use.

Using marijuana can affect coordination and reaction time and is related to more fatal crashes in WA, especially when mixed with other substances.





It is against the law for people under 21 to use marijuana. This law is often inequitably enforced and avoiding marijuana use can protect teens from interactions with lawenforcement and the criminal legal system. Getting caught and the associated stigma could impact the ability to get a job in the future or get financial aid for college.

Now that you have the facts, **talk to your teens about the potential dangers of marijuana use.** Be clear about your rules and expectations. Let them know that you are there for them.

For additional information and to learn more about the facts, visit **StartTalkingNow.org**. If your teen wants to learn more about making healthy choices, they can check out **YouCanWA.org**.

If your teen feels more comfortable speaking with a peer, there is a confidential and free helpline staffed by trained teens. Encourage your teen to call, text, or chat **1-866-TEENLINK (833-6546)**.

If you think that your teen is struggling with marijuana or other substance use, contact their doctor or the **Washington Recovery Help Line at 1-866-789-1511**.

