Don't smoke your future

HAVE THIS

WEAR THESE

RISK THIS...

Norristown Area Communities That Care for Youth

610-630-2111 ext. 236
www.norristownctc.org

Marijuana will cost you…
Debunk the myth

THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA

Debunking the Myth:

Marijuana is a serious and harmful drug, yet due to false information, many people do not perceive it to be a problem.

Marijuana is the most widely used illegal drug among America's youth. The strength of the drug has increased in the past two decades, and other chemicals are often added to increase its effects.

KNOW THE FACTS

Marijuana is Addictive

- 60% of teens currently in drug treatment have a primary marijuana diagnosis. More youth enter treatment with a primary diagnosis for marijuana dependency than for all other illegal drugs combined.
- Today's marijuana is stronger and its effects can be more harmful.

Marijuana Hurts Bodies and Minds

- ***The brain.*** Marijuana leads to changes in the brain similar to those caused by cocaine, heroin and alcohol.
- ***Lung damage.*** Regular marijuana users often develop breathing problems, including chronic coughing and wheezing, and marijuana makes lung conditions, such as asthma, worse.
- ***Mental health.*** For young users, marijuana can lead to increased anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and other mental health problems.
- ***Risky behavior.*** Studies show that teens age 12 to 17 who use marijuana weekly are nine times more likely than non-users to experiment with other illegal drugs or alcohol, five times more likely to steal, and nearly four times more likely to engage in violence.

Marijuana Affects Learning and Academic Achievement and Impairs Driving

- Researchers have found that heavy marijuana use impairs the ability of young people to concentrate and retain information.
- Marijuana affects alertness, concentration, perception, coordination, and reaction time, many of the skills required for driving and other tasks. These effects can last up to four hours after smoking marijuana.

Marijuana Users are Younger Than Ever Before

- Scientists now know that humans undergo a second major spurt of brain development in their early teens. Marijuana use at this age could pose great risks for the health and development of young people.

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