PUBLIC HEALTH ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND **HEALTHIER WASHINGTON** Recreational Marijuana 101

Paul Davis, Marijuana Education and Tobacco Prevention Washington State Department of Health





- The Law
- DOH Mandates
- Today's Marijuana
- Medical Vs. Recreational
- Marijuana and Health
- Education plans







I-502 Marijuana Legalization in Washington State

- Persons 21 and over can legally purchase, possess and use:
 - > One ounce of useable Marijuana
 - > 16 oz. of marijuana infused product in solid form; or
 - > 72 oz. of marijuana infused product in liquid form.

• It is illegal to drive under the influence of Marijuana

- > THC levels greater than 5 nanograms per milliliter of blood.
- Blood test must be done to determine THC blood levels (no breath)
- It is illegal to consume marijuana in the view of the general public.





The Department of Health has 3 mandates for implementing Initiative 502

Marijuana use public health hotline

- utilizing evidence based public health approaches
- does not advocate an abstinence only approach

Media based education campaign

- Separately targeting youth and adults
- Community grants program to prevent/reduce marijuana use by youth.





Department of Health Mission

 The Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of people in Washington State.

 We will continue to seek connections between marijuana use and health and address the risks as evidence emerges.





Methods of Marijuana Consumption

- **Smoking-** most traditional form of ingesting marijuana.
- Vaporizing- inhaling active ingredients in marijuana through a vapor instead of smoke.
- Edibles- marijuana is infused into foods and/or drinks and are eaten.
- **Topicals-** lotions, salves, balms, and sprays that are applied directly to the skin.
- **Tinctures-** a concentrated form of marijuana in an alcohol solution that can be dropped under tongue.





Smokeable Marijuana



















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Today's Marijuana











Topicals & Tinctures





Advertising

Today's Marijuana





Medical vs. Recreational





Marijuana and Health



What we know at this time...

- Marijuana is addictive.
- There are health consequences associated with marijuana smoke.
- There are health risks to infants of mothers who use medical or recreational marijuana.
- Driving while under the influence of marijuana is not safe.
- Youth marijuana use is associated with higher addiction rates, lowered IQ, and academic failure.
- Anxiety, Depression, and existing Mental Health conditions.
- Additional concerns: Edibles, E-devices, No regulation of Medical Market.





What "Parents" Should Know

- **Marijuana is Addictive:** Most Teens that enter into Treatment Programs in WA State report that Marijuana is the main or only drug they use.
- Talk to Your Kids About Marijuana: Teens who use marijuana often start by age 14. Parents should have ongoing conversations by 4th or 5th grade.
- Express a No Use Attitude: Studies have shown that parents are the #1 influence in their children's lives.
- **Monitor your Children:** Ensure that rules are being followed, remain actively involved in your child's life, and know who their friends (and friends parents) are.
- **Monitor your Own Behaviors:** You are a role model to your child. Avoid heavy drinking around your child. Do not use marijuana around your child.





Marijuana Use by Grade and Year, WA HYS, 2002-2014





Percent



Differences by race and ethnicity

Marijuana Use by Race/Ethnicity Among 10th Grade Youth, WA HYS, 2014



Estimates based all participating schools





Youth E-Cigarette Use by Race/Ethnicity Among 10th Grade Youth, WA HYS, 2014



Estimates based on full census of schools





Some 2012 data





Many youth use more than one substance







Marijuana Smoking Among Adults by Income as Perce Federal Poverty Level in Washington, 2011-2013





ource: Washington Behavioral Risk Factor





Next steps:

- What are some ways we can reduce substance abuse?
 - Media campaign
 - Local coalitions
 - Policies and community norms





What's next with media campaign?

- Depends on funding
- Youth focused campaign will be informed by focus groups and other research
- Continue campaign to encourage parents and adults to talk to kids about not using
- www.starttalkingnow.org





Focus Group Findings

- Still gaps in knowledge about the law
- Scare tactics and 'most of us' messages tested poorly
- Younger kids think marijuana is more dangerous than older ones
- Parents and other adults are a good source of information, as are schools
- Sharing trustworthy health impacts can be useful
- Many kids don't want their life experience 'dulled'





A project of the Washington Healthy Youth Coalition



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 Parents
 Communities
 The Facts
 Resources

Who is the most powerful influence in your child's life? You.

Believe it or not, you have more influence on your children than friends, music and celebrities. Teens say the #1 reason they don't use alcohol or other drugs is that they don't want to disappoint their parents.

Now that you know the influence you have, click on the Parents tab for tips on how to start talking, and keep talking, to your child, teen or young adult.



How to prevent alcohol and drug use in three easy steps:

Bond

Children who feel close to their parents are less likely to use alcohol, marijuana or other drugs.

Set Boundaries

Set clear rules and expectations about no alcohol or drug use.

Monitor

Ask who, what, when and where.

Latest Information

Six parenting practices to reduce the chances your child will use alcohol or other drugs



The latest news on substance abuse and addiction.

Questions or Comments?

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Paul.Davis@doh.wa.gov

(360) 236-3642