



MARIJUANA IN MASSACHUSETTS

**MARIJUANA IS ILLEGAL FOR
PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 21.
EXPOSURE DURING DEVELOPMENT
(ADOLESCENCE) CAN CAUSE LONG-
TERM OR POSSIBLY PERMANENT
ADVERSE CHANGES IN THE BRAIN.**

**EARLY FIRST USE = GREATER RISK
FOR DEVELOPING SUBSTANCE
ABUSE LATER IN LIFE.**

**IT'S ILLEGAL TO DRIVE UNDER THE
INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA.**

**MANY TOWNS/CITIES HAVE
SPECIFIC MARIJUANA-RELATED
ORDINANCES AND BYLAWS, WITH
ADDITIONAL PENALTIES AND
FINES.**

*SAFE is a regional coalition of
community partners in Western
Norfolk County (serving Franklin,
Foxboro, Mansfield, Medway, Millis,
Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole, Wrentham
and surrounding towns) who have
come together to provide a pathway
for support, education, treatment
options and coping mechanisms for
those affected by substance use
disorder. We do so by empowering
those affected, including their families,
with the tools necessary to succeed on
their journey to recovery. We
understand that while I can't, we can.*

**PO Box 434
Franklin MA, 02038**

**Get Help Now! For Help Call the
SAFE support Hotline:
508-488-8105**

safecoalitionma.org



MARIJUANA 101



SAFECOALITIONMA.ORG

Marijuana and the Teen Brain

The teen brain is not fully developed until the mid 20's. Effects on the brain include:

- Difficulty thinking and problem solving.
- Problems with memory and learning.
- Impaired coordination.
- Difficulty maintaining attention.

Other risks include:

- Poor decisions made under the influence. (impaired driving, sexual activity, etc).
- Poor school performance.
- Mental health issues.
- Risk of addiction.

I smoked marijuana as a kid and turned out okay. What's the difference?

Today's marijuana is 57-67% more potent than it was in the 1970's/80's.

Additionally, with the advent of legal (21+/medicinal) products, young people are consuming more THC than the dose recommends (often 1 cookie contains 4 servings).

The "high" also comes slower with edible marijuana, causing people to consume more to reach the "high." The result? Vomiting and sometimes cognitive symptoms such as psychosis/feelings of impending doom.

Marijuana Can Be...

Smoked with a pipe, bong, joint, blunt, bubbler or dab.

"Vaped" using an e-cigarette/vaporizer

Drank in tea, soda or alcohol.

Consumed by eating candy, baked goods, and many other products.

Found in pill form, sprays and oils.

THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, can be extracted from the plant and placed into products/food items using home-methods found online or YouTube



Young people are tricked into purchasing/consuming products marketed to them.



Signs your child is using:

- Physical signs like bloodshot eyes, slow movement, poor coordination, mucus-filled cough.
- Behavioral signs like sudden drop in grades, poor memory, rambling, paranoia, confusion.
- Finding items in their room: rolling papers, pipes, cans with holes on the side, vaping devices, Visine, plant residue in baggies, increased use of gum, mouthwash, perfume, or cologne.

What to do if your child is using:

- Wait until your child is sober to discuss.
- Have an open, non-judgmental conversation.
- Offer solutions in the form of speaking with pediatrician, a mental health counselor, or a treatment program.

Use online resources below:

- wait21.org
- drugabuse.gov/
- mass.gov/learn-about-marijuana
- drugfree.org
- dea.gov

Talk about marijuana early and young!
Network with other parents and schools!
Bring the SAFE Coalition's Hidden In Plain Sight demonstration to your community.
 (We set up a bedroom and show you the hiding spots and paraphernalia!)