Parents:
Talk to your children about MARIJUANA

According to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), addiction rates among 12-17 year olds are the highest levels in states that have approved “medical” marijuana programs. Surveys of teens across Michigan show that they increasingly see marijuana use as “safe.”

IT’S TIME TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION.

ADDITION
Marijuana use can be addictive! The EARLIER marijuana use begins, the HIGHER the risk of addiction. Those who begin using marijuana in their teens have about a 1 in 6 chance of developing marijuana addiction. According to the National Institute on Drug Addiction (www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/marijuana), children and teens are 6 times more likely to be in treatment for marijuana than for all other illegal drugs combined.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
Marijuana use negatively affects learning. A teen that uses marijuana is 4 times more likely to report “D” grades. A teenage marijuana user is 2 times more likely to drop out of school than a non-user.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
The brain continues to develop until a teen is in his/her 20s. Marijuana use affects the prefrontal cortex, which controls impulses and decision-making behaviors. A recent study found that marijuana users had abnormalities in areas of the brain that interconnect regions involved in memory, attention, language and executive function skills. Heavy marijuana use during the teen years can permanently lower intelligence (IQ) in adult life by as much as 8 points, potentially lowering intelligence from average to low average.

MENTAL HEALTH
Marijuana can worsen depression and has been associated with other serious mental health issues, e.g. schizophrenia and anxiety. Weekly use of marijuana DOUBLES a teen’s risk of depression and anxiety.

DRUGGED DRIVING
Overall, marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims. Evidence from both real and simulated driving studies indicated that marijuana can negatively affect a driver’s attentiveness, perception of time and speed and ability to draw on information obtained from past experiences.

SECOND HAND SMOKE
Marijuana smoke contains more carcinogens than tobacco smoke and is therefore more harmful to the lungs.

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1 Effects of Medical Marijuana Legalization, CADCA www.cadca.org/policyadvocacy/priorities/marijuana
2 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MIPHY), Michigan Department of Education, 2002
3 The National Institutes of Health (NIH)
4 Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 National Institute on Drug Abuse
7, 8 National Academy of Sciences

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