

Marijuana: facts about use and perceptions

More Anne Arundel County youth reported marijuana use (17.5%) in the last 30 days than cigarette use (6%). (Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2018)

FACT Marijuana is **addictive**. Problem use can lead to dependence. Those under the age of 18 are at an increased risk of developing marijuana use disorder or marijuana addiction.

FACT Marijuana affects **memory and brain development**. Areas of the brain responsible for learning, decision-making, emotions and reaction time are compromised with use.

FACT Marijuana has **immediate side effects**. Emergency room visits related to marijuana use have been increasing each year. The greatest increase is from teens 12 to 17 years old.

31% of high school students reported ever using marijuana.

FACT Marijuana **irritates the lungs**. Coughing, lung infections and many other respiratory problems happen as a result of smoking marijuana.

FACT Marijuana has **long-term side effects**. Mental health effects include severe depression, suicidal thoughts, lung cancer and impaired brain development in teens.

FACT Marijuana **edibles are also dangerous**. Since digesting edibles takes longer to feel the effects, greater quantities may be consumed making overdose more likely.

68% of people feel that it is unsafe to drive a car under the influence of marijuana.

FACT Marijuana is **stronger than it used to be**. THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is found in increasingly higher levels, making marijuana use even more dangerous.

FACT It is **possible to overdose on marijuana**. High levels of THC can lead to dehydration, vomiting and psychotic episodes requiring emergency room attention.

FACT Marijuana **dependence is treatable**. Nearly 4 million people had marijuana use disorder in 2016, yet only 30,000 received treatment.

The most common reasons for using marijuana are to control anxiety, for recreation and to control pain.



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Adolescent and Family Services 410-222-6725

Treatment Referral Line 410-222-0117

System Training Education and

Prevention Services 410-222-6724

www.aahealth.org

www.facebook.com/aahealth

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System Training Education and Prevention Services (STEPS)

122 Langley Road North, Suite A, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

410-222-6724

Reducing drug and alcohol misuse among young people in Anne Arundel County through public health information and education. STEPS provides evidence-based programs to increase awareness of the risks of drug and alcohol use.

Annapolis Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (ASAP)

Facilitating healthy community change to reduce alcohol and drug use among youth and young adults through locally lead collaborations and evidence-based prevention strategies.

443-837-5892 asap@prevents substancem misuse.org facebook.com/AnnapolisSubstanceAbusePrevention

Northern Lights Against Substance Abuse Coalition (NLASA)

Uniting the community to reduce alcohol and drug misuse in adolescents and young adults through collaborative efforts. Uses evidence-based strategies to serve

Brooklyn Park, Curtis Bay, Glen Burnie and Pasadena.

410-349-7128 nlasa@prevents substancem misuse.org facebook.com/NorthernLightsCoalition

South County Bridges to a Drug Free Community

Improving life pathways for a healthy community, preventing youth substance misuse, increasing awareness, educating the community and promoting individual neighborhoods' social, economic, spiritual and emotional healing process in Southern Anne Arundel County.

443-351-7989 soco@prevents substancem misuse.org facebook.com/SoCoBridges

Western Anne Arundel Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WASP)

Establishing a safe and informed community free of underage drinking and the misuse of alcohol and other drugs in Ft. Meade, Hanover, Jessup, Laurel and Severn.

443-351-7989 wasp@prevents substancem misuse.org facebook.com/WASPCoalition

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