



Connecticut Association of Prevention Practitioners, Inc.
CAPP.CT@GMAIL.COM

Marijuana and Minors: Medical Marijuana is shown to increase youth use.

States with Medical Marijuana Laws have among the highest rates of youth marijuana use in the country:

- The 2008-2009 federal estimates of State drug abuse show that four of the top five states, and 14 of the top 18 states with the highest percentage of past month marijuana users ages 12-17 are states with "medical marijuana" programs.
- Among youths age 12 to 17, marijuana usage rates are higher in states with "medical" marijuana laws (8.6 percent) compared with those without such laws (6.9 percent).
- 74% of kids in treatment for addiction in Denver report getting their pot from medical marijuana cardholders.

Marijuana use lowers IQ and negatively impacts academic achievement:

- A recent study found that those who used cannabis regularly in their teens and continued through adulthood showed a permanent drop in IQ of 8 points. (A loss of 8 IQ points could drop a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the intelligence range)
- The hippocampus, which is directly associated with regulating memory and emotions, was found to be 12 percent smaller in marijuana users as compared to non users.
- Youth with an average grade of "D" or below were more than four times as likely to have used marijuana in the past year than youth with an average grade of "A."