

**PREVENTION OF
ILLICIT DRUG USE
AND YOUTH
MARIJUANA USE
MAY 17**

FAST FACT



Using illicit drugs or marijuana changes your brain chemistry. The longer you use drugs, the more damage is done.

**ACTION TODAY.
HEALTHIER TOMORROW.**

Children and teens may think that marijuana is harmless because some states have legalized it for medical and/or recreational use.

So what can YOU do?



Talk early and often with your child.



Set clear rules and enforce them fairly.

Marijuana Use Facts

24,000,000+
(Up **2 million** from last year)

The number of individuals, age 12 and older, who were current users of marijuana in **2016**.

Marijuana Use in Connecticut



In Connecticut, 20.4% of high school students currently use marijuana (reported using marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days).

Cocaine Use Facts



RISK

Young people who have used marijuana are at greater risk of using cocaine than those who have not.



Cocaine use speeds up HIV infection. According to research, cocaine impairs immune cell function and promotes reproduction of the HIV virus.

Heroin Use Facts



Studies have shown some loss of the brain's white matter associated with heroin use, which may affect decision-making, behavior control, and responses to stressful situations.

Sources: dea.gov, cdc.gov, drugabuse.gov and NSDUH, 2015-2016

Learn more:

CT.GOV/DMHAS/NPWResources

#ctpreventionweek

