



# MARIJUANA USE & EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Studies show that marijuana interferes with attention, motivation, memory, and learning. Students who use marijuana regularly tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school than those who don't use. Those who use it regularly may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time.

**MOST MARIJUANA USE BEGINS IN ADOLESCENCE**

**78%**  
of the 2.4 million people who began using in the last year were aged 12 to 20.<sup>1</sup>

**As perception of harm decreases... Use increases.**<sup>2</sup>

**EVERY DAY, 3,287 TEENS USE MARIJUANA FOR THE FIRST TIME<sup>1</sup>**

**MARIJUANA MAY HURT THE DEVELOPING TEEN BRAIN**

The teen brain is **still developing** and it is especially vulnerable to drug use.

**IQ**  
Regular heavy marijuana use by teens can lead to an IQ drop of up to **8 points**<sup>3</sup>

**HEAVY MARIJUANA USE BY TEENS IS LINKED TO<sup>4</sup>:**

Educational Outcomes		Life Outcomes	
<b>lower grades and exam scores</b>	<b>less likely to graduate from HS or college</b>	<b>lower satisfaction with life</b>	<b>more likely to be unemployed</b>
<b>less likely to enroll in college</b>		<b>more likely to earn a lower income</b>	

1. [NSDUH SAMHSA 2014](#); 2. [MTE Survey](#); 3. [Meier et al 2012](#); 4. [MTE Survey](#); [Cobb-Clark et al 2013](#); [Silins et al 2014](#); [Tucker et al 2005](#); [Homel et al 2014](#); [Volkow et al 2014](#); [Fergusson and Boden 2008](#); [Brook et al 2013](#)