

Talking with Teens about Cannabis Use

A Resource Guide for Service Providers Working with Adolescents

MAINE SUD LEARNING COMMUNITY



Maine Substance
Use Disorders
Learning Community

Table of Contents

Keys to a Conversation When Working with Teens	pp. 3-5
Talking to Teens about Cannabis	pp. 6-10
Parent & Caregivers Guide to Preventing Cannabis Use	pp. 11-13
Fact Sheet & Resources	pp. 14-16
References	pp. 18-19

Contributions

This resource was developed by the [Maine Substance Use Disorders Learning Community](#), a program coordinated by the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine and funded through the Maine Office of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

Contributing authors: Ken Winters, PhD, Jesse Higgins, PMHNP, Kristen Erickson, MPH, Catherine Chichester, MSN, APRN

Published August 2025

Talking with Teens about Cannabis:

A Resource Guide for Service Providers working with Adolescents

As the landscape of legal cannabis evolves with an ever-growing list of THC-containing products available, healthcare providers need to be prepared to talk with their adolescent patients and parents and caregivers about the potential risks of cannabis use in effective ways. THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the primary active ingredient in cannabis. The high-potency THC in currently available cannabis products can be particularly harmful to a teen's developing brain, learning ability, and mental health. Since the prefrontal cortex responsible for executive functioning is still developing until around age 25, the earlier cannabis is used, the more likely long-term adverse effects, such as psychosis, dependence, and addiction. Planning, impulsivity, and impulse control may be impaired just when adolescents need those skills most. Nevertheless, cannabis is becoming more accessible and more acceptable, and there is a lot of misinformation about the potential risks and benefits.

Developed by the Maine Substance Use Disorder Learning Community, this science-informed resource toolkit provides information and talking points for healthcare teams when addressing cannabis use with their adolescent clients and affected families. The toolkit includes information on how to engage in conversation with adolescents, drawing on concepts from Motivational Interviewing, tips for responding to misperceptions about cannabis, a guide for parents/caregivers, a fact sheet, and resources on cannabis use.

Language note: This document uses the terms cannabis and marijuana. However, there is no one term universally recognized or used by youth, young adults, or parents to refer to cannabis or THC-containing products. You may need to adjust the language you use depending on who you are addressing. Limited research suggests that marijuana is a well-understood term among different age groups, even if it is not the term that people use themselves.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. *Cannabis Policy Impacts Public Health and Health Equity*. Washington DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27766>

National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2024). *Cannabis (Marijuana)*. <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/cannabis-marijuana>

Washington Healthy Youth Coalition. *Considerations for using the terminology cannabis or marijuana* | *The Athena Forum*. (2020). Retrieved July 22, 2025, from <https://theathenaforum.org/prevention-101/community-library/considerations-using-terminology-cannabis-or-marijuana>

Keys to a Conversation When Working with Teens

While there is no “script” for talking with your adolescent patient or client about cannabis, there are some guidelines to follow. Based on motivational interviewing literature, three useful general conversational tips are provided below. These tips can promote a productive discussion with an adolescent.

1. Getting the conversation started

Invite the teen to share about cannabis. This will help you better understand your client’s perspective about cannabis and will allow the teen to share their knowledge and thoughts in a non-judgmental, respectful way. Here are some examples:

What have you heard about cannabis? What do you know about it?

How does cannabis fit into your life, your friends' lives, others in your school, or your family?

What do you think about people your age using cannabis?

People often feel pressure to participate in things their friends are doing, even if they aren't sure they want to. How do you feel when other people are using cannabis? [If it hasn't happened] How do you think you might handle it?

2. Be a good reflective listener.

This means responding to the teen with a statement that reflects what the teen has said. Showing that you value and want to understand their perspective builds open communication and relationships with the teen. Reflective listening typically involves short statements paraphrasing or adding what is implied but not said.

Here are examples:

Cannabis is legal for adults and you do not see it as bad as alcohol.

Your friends use cannabis, and it's important for you to have friends.

Your parents use it, so it's hard to see how it could be bad.

3. Seek permission to offer your views and input and check-in about what they heard you say.

Here is an example of this point:

As your provider, I want you to know that I am concerned about how today's strong cannabis can be harmful to a teen. I have some information about cannabis use and how it can affect your brain and body. Would you mind if I shared some of my thoughts with you?

Here are some concerns I have about using cannabis as a teenager. After I read this list, please tell me your thoughts.

When a young person uses today's very strong cannabis, it can...

- 1. disrupt brain development*
- 2. harm ability to learn and do well in school*
- 3. eventually worsen problems with anxiety, depression, and sleep*
- 4. impair driving ability*
- 5. reduce ways to manage stress*
- 6. contribute to environmental problems*

In what ways is this information relevant to you? Is this information useful?

NOTE: See separate fact sheet for more information on harms of cannabis use.

4. Encourage the teen to make healthy choices.

Offer simple and realistic advice about cutting back or abstaining from cannabis use. Non-confrontational advice expressed with non-judgmental concern can optimize the motivation for an adolescent to change or rethink their use of cannabis. Examples include the following:

It's great that you are not using cannabis. I encourage you to stay the course. Cannabis can be very damaging to your developing brain and body. What are the things you are going to do to keep free of cannabis use?

Have you considered cutting back your use of cannabis? Doing so could reduce your risk of possible harms, even if you don't stop completely. I'm concerned that you could be doing damage to your mental health by using. And as we have discussed, the powerful cannabis now available can do real damage to your developing brain. What do you think of this? What changes might you be willing to make?

Your friends are important. How can you handle your choice, if you choose not to use with them?

5. Maintain an ongoing dialogue and keep the door open.

Keep your door open for the adolescent to talk more about cannabis and health issues. You want to encourage your client to feel free to ask for help. Examples can include the following:

We can talk more about this whenever you want. I'm not here to judge. I care about your health - I'm here to listen.

If you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or in a situation where you're unsure, I'm here to listen and help.

Sources

Miller, W. & Rollnick, S. (2023). *Motivational Interviewing: Helping People Change and Grow*.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. (2024). *Cannabis Policy Impacts Public Health and Health Equity*.

Talking to Teens About Cannabis

It's important knowing what to say in response to specific statements that a teen you are working with might make about cannabis use. Use this guide when your teen patient or client raises these issues.

1. Your teen client says nothing when asked about cannabis.

Your response: “What do your friends say about marijuana?” “What would you do if you were offered a gummy? Or a vape with cannabis? “Would it be ok if we talk about some concerns about cannabis use by teenagers?”

2. Teen says: “I know, I know. My parents have talked with me about this before.”

Your response: “It’s great you’ve had conversations about cannabis before. And I’ve learned some new things about cannabis that might help you make informed decisions about cannabis in the future. Can I share some of what I’ve learned with you?”

3. The teen says: “I’m only doing it once in a while on weekends, so it’s not a big deal.”

Your response: “I’m happy to hear that this is not something you do regularly. The fact is, using any substance can be harmful at your age because your brain and body are still developing.”

4. Your teen says: “I only did it once, and I’m totally fine.”

Your response: “And what was that like? Why did you do it only once? What is your thought about not doing it again?”

5. The teen says: “It’s less harmful than alcohol.”

Your response: “Both are not good for you. And a teen can use marijuana in a way that is much more harmful than drinking alcohol. But why use either? I don’t want to sound like the no-drug police. But all drugs are bad for your health – alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, opioids, all of them. And they can dull your feelings and experiences. Sometimes when people are feeling sad or

worried, they use substances to escape reality. Is there something going on in your life that makes you feel like you want to use?”

6. The teen says: *“Marijuana is a natural plant.”*

Your response: “Just because a plant is natural that doesn’t mean it’s healthy. Cigarettes come from the natural tobacco plant. Heroin from poppies. Poison ivy is a natural plant but no one would ingest that.”

7. The teen says: *“It helps me with my anxiety.”*

Your response: “I understand. Marijuana can provide temporary relief from anxiety for some teens. Are there other things or reasons you are using marijuana?”

“There are reasons people use substances and there are reasons why it may not be a good idea. Can I share some information about marijuana and anxiety?” [Assuming they say yes], “Did you know that most teens who use for extended periods eventually have a worse problem with anxiety? It seems better to find healthy ways to cope with difficult feelings like anxiety. What do you think about trying other ways?”

8. The teen says: *“It’s medicine. I’m not using something harmful.”*

Your response: “All medicines have side effects - some side effects of marijuana are low motivation, increased anxiety, and not really caring about things as much as usual. You know that many pain medications can be harmful. Fentanyl is an example. For adults, medical marijuana cards have no dose associated with them and research is pretty slim on all the issues that it is prescribed for.”

9. The teen says: *“But it’s legal. Why would they make something legal that could hurt me?”*

Your response: “Yes, it’s legal at age 21, like alcohol and tobacco. When you turn 21, I hope you’ve had enough time to think about cannabis use and health and make a sound decision. But it’s true, there are drugs that are legal but they can be harmful to people, and particularly to teenagers.

Are you interested in discussing this more? Why would states make something legal that could be harmful?"

10. The teen says: *"It's not addictive like hard drugs."*

Your response: "That is a common view of cannabis. But a person can get addicted to cannabis just like with other drugs. And the likelihood is much greater of getting addicted to cannabis when a teenager uses compared to an adult user."

11. The teen says: *"I vape it. This is better than smoking."*

Your response: "I'm glad you are not smoking. But vaping still means you are using cannabis. None of the possible harms of using go away because you are vaping. Many of the risks of cannabis come from its impacts on the brain, and that occurs no matter how you use cannabis. Vaping can also introduce chemicals into your lungs and the air that can be harmful."

12. Your teen says: *"I don't know what to say when other kids ask me to use."*

Your response: "Yes, that can be a big challenge. Let's talk about ways you feel comfortable in such situations. It might help us to start with some brainstorming. What do you think are some good things to say? (REINFORCE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE TEEN)

These are great. What do you think of these ideas?

- Nah, I'm not into that.
- You go ahead. I'm good not using today.
- Maybe later. Not now.
- I have a big game/event tomorrow and don't want to be out of it.
- My parents are going to start drug testing me if I give them reasons to be suspicious."

Using Open-Ended Questions to Explore and Engage

Below are some other open-ended questions that may be helpful in conversation with your teen patients or clients:

Open-ended questions to explore use and context:

- “Can you tell me a little about your experiences with cannabis?”
- “What are some of the reasons you choose to use cannabis?”
- “What do you like about using it, and what do you not like so much?”

Eliciting the teen’s own concerns or ambivalence:

- “What have you noticed about how cannabis affects your mood, energy, or schoolwork?”
- “What are some things that worry you (or others) about your cannabis use?”
- “If you were to make any changes in how much or how often you use, what might that look like?”

Exploring goals and values:

- “What are some things that are really important to you right now?”
- “How does cannabis fit into the kind of person you want to be or the goals you have?”

Building discrepancy and motivation for change:

- “On a scale from 0 to 10, how important is it to you to make a change in your cannabis use?”
- “What would need to happen for you to move up one point on that scale?”
- “What are some of the good things that might come out of cutting back or stopping?”

Eliciting confidence and supporting autonomy:

- “If you decided to make a change, what do you think would help you succeed?”
- “What strengths have you used in the past to handle tough situations?”
- “What would you like to happen next when it comes to your cannabis use?”

Oregon Research Institute. (2024). *Motivating Parents to Prevent Teen Cannabis Use*

Partnership to End Addiction. (2025). *How to Talk to Your Teen About Marijuana-Part 1*

Stanford Medicine. (2024). *Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Toolkit*

Miller, W. R., & Rollnick, S. (2013). *Motivational interviewing: Helping people change* (3rd ed.). Guilford Press.

American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Substance Use and Prevention. (2015). Counseling parents and teens about marijuana use in the era of legalization of marijuana. *Pediatrics*, 135(3), e769–e785. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2014-4147>

Knight, J. R., & Sherritt, L. (2010). Motivational interviewing for adolescent substance use: A review of the literature. *Adolescent Medicine: State of the Art Reviews*, 21(2), 229–246.

Parent and Caregivers: Guide to Preventing Cannabis Use

Parents and caregivers can have significant influence over whether your teen will use substances. You provide a safeguard between your teen and the many factors that can encourage substance use. A long body of research supports this principle. It might be difficult to influence who your teen's friends are or what music they listen to. However, your values and attitudes about substance use are important tools in your role as a prevention agent in the home. Here are what experts say are key ingredients to optimize your role to prevent cannabis use.

1. Be informed

- It's important to stay up-to-date with current information on cannabis. This includes why young people use cannabis and the specific harms of high potency cannabis.
- Be genuine when emphasizing that you don't want your teen to get into a habit that may do real harm to his or her well-being.
- Personalize your concerns when appropriate.
- To help with communicating facts and answering questions, use the accompanying "Cannabis Fact Sheet."

2. Talk early and often

- Start conversations before your teen is offered cannabis.
 - Experts emphasize that starting the conversation about the dangers of substance use can begin before middle-school.
- Maintaining discussions throughout the teen years is also vital.
- For your high school teen, conversations should focus on the importance of avoiding peer influences and how your teen can address the issue of peers who are using.
- Rules and expectations should be discussed and clarified.
- Continue to have frequent conversations, even in the face of the tendency for older teens to be less receptive to parent talks.

3. Conversation tips

- Be a good listener.
- Use open-ended questions, such as "What have you learned about the risks of using cannabis?"
- Conversation starters can be current events, school issues, messages from pop culture, and or observations in public.
- Ongoing, casual conversations can be more effective than one "big talk."
- Avoid sounding like the "fun police"; don't lecture or have a preachy tone.

- Acknowledge that it can be tempting to experiment with cannabis use and that it can be appealing to some, yet balance with emphasizing that use comes with risks.
- (If relevant) Be honest about your underage use as a teenager and acknowledge that you regret doing so.
- (If relevant) If there is a family history of addiction, it's recommended to note that your teen has a higher risk of developing a cannabis use problem. This is true for other substances as well.

4. Be a prevention agent in the home

In addition to frequent conversations, your parenting practices can support the health and well-being of your teen. Below are good habits to have as a parent.

- Be a good role model. Don't glamorize drug use, and if you use legal substances, be a responsible user.
- Support your teen's interests in healthy hobbies and extracurricular activities (e.g., sports, performing arts).
- Encourage your teen to have friendships with non-drug-using peers.
- Encourage your teen to succeed with school work; reward school achievements.
- Participate frequently in activities for the whole family (e.g., regular family meals).
- Support healthy relationships with other adults (e.g., relatives, coaches, teachers).
- Make some family activities substance-free: Participating in family activities without ingesting any substances sends a powerful message that adults can have fun without alcohol or drugs.

5. Signs your teen may have a problem

It can be challenging to know the difference between normal teen behaviors and those that may be related to cannabis use. Even professionals may struggle to identify these behaviors. Below are signs that may indicate your teen is using cannabis and is developing a problem. But be aware that there are no guaranteed "red flag" signs that your teen may be using cannabis. Sometimes the behaviors you are seeing are part of normal adolescence!

- **Changes in or uncharacteristic behaviors** (e.g., slurred, slow, or repetitive speech; lethargic movement; inappropriate laughter; abrupt changes in social life, including new peers)

- **Changes in or uncharacteristic health behaviors** (e.g., excessive sleeping; “cotton mouth;” dry, bloodshot eyes; excessive eating or snacking)
- **Changes in or uncharacteristic moods or attitudes** (e.g., too relaxed or reserved; paranoia over small inconveniences; confusion or disorientation; increased resistance to parental rules/expectations)
- **Home-related** (e.g., spends excessive time in the shower or outdoors to hide smell of cannabis; smell of cannabis in the car; drug paraphernalia; disappearance of money or other things of value)
- **School-related** (e.g., diminished school achievement; decreased attendance; disregard for rules at school)

6. A note to consider if you legally use cannabis for medical or non-medical reasons

If you consume cannabis as part of a cannabis medical program or legally for recreational use, it is advisable to keep the following considerations in mind:

- Not supplying cannabis to your teen
- Avoid using when your teen is present
- Store products in a secure place, including medicinal cannabis
- Avoid glamorizing cannabis
- Express disapproval of underage use
- Understand that your teen is likely aware of when you are inebriated; it changes our behavior and interactions more than we realize.

Partnership to End Addiction. (2024). *CANNABIS (MARIJUANA): What Families Need to Know to Help Protect Children, Teens and Young Adults*

Oregon Research Institute. (2024). *Motivating Parents to Prevent Teen Cannabis Use*

Ryan, S. A., Ammerman, S. D., & COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE AND PREVENTION (2017). Counseling Parents and Teens About Marijuana Use in the Era of Legalization of Marijuana. *Pediatrics*, 139(3), e20164069. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-4069>

The Maryland Collaborative (2025). *College Parents Matter: Cannabis*. <https://www.collegeparentsmatter.org/cannabis>

Fact Sheet, Resources and References

High Potency Cannabis

The negative health effects on youth due to use of cannabis is now well-documented in the medical and scientific literature. There are increasingly diverse ways of producing THC-containing products. This often involves increasing the strength and potency of THC, which is the psychoactive and addictive ingredient in cannabis. This trend has contributed to the availability of flavored THC products in concentrates, vaping products, and edibles with THC levels upwards of 90% (14).

Behavioral Risks

- Cannabis is one of the most used substances by adolescents. Among 12th graders in the U.S., nearly one-third reported using cannabis in the prior year and 13% said they used daily (15, 16).
- The National Academy of Sciences cites the risk to teen brain development and subsequent learning problems when cannabis is used. THC interferes with brain development, which leads to negative effects on memory, attention and decision making, all skills needed for learning and school success (17).
- The risk of getting addicted to cannabis is real. About one-third of teens that use cannabis will eventually meet criteria for a Cannabis Use Disorder (18). Symptoms include continued use despite negative personal and social consequences, repeated urges to use, difficulty in cutting back or halting use, and signs of tolerance.

Mental Health risks:

- Compared to adolescents who don't use marijuana, those who use have 2-4 times higher odds of reporting major depression and suicidal ideation (19). And teen users of high potency cannabis have about 5-6 times the likelihood of developing psychosis (20).
- High-potency THC use in teens is linked to an elevated risk of anxiety, depression, and psychotic-like symptoms, including paranoia and hallucinations. (21, 22)

Safety and Health risks:

- THC can severely impair skills and judgement needed for safe driving. States that have legalized cannabis are seeing an increase in fatal crashes linked to THC-impaired drivers, especially among adolescent and young adult drivers (23).
- There is an increase in cases of severe medical consequences due to ingestion of cannabis edibles by children and teens, reported by poison control centers across the US. This includes unintentional and intentional ingestion of edibles. Medical effects include vomiting, confusion, and drowsiness, and in severe cases, seizures, or coma (24, 25).

Environmental Concerns:

- Cannabis plants require an average of 6 gallons of water per day during the growing season, which can strain water resources in drier regions (26).
- Water runoff from cannabis cultivation can also pose a water pollution threat as it may contain chemicals, pesticides or other contaminants (26).
- Pesticide use in cannabis growing operations is not well regulated and can pose threats to wildlife, waterways, and consumers of cannabis products (26, 27).
- E-cigarette and vaping devices also have environmental impacts. For example, it was estimated that Americans threw away 500,000 disposable vapes per day in 2023, contributing electronic and plastic waste that can release toxic chemicals and affect wildlife, waterways and human health (28).

Online Resources for Parents and Caregivers

National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2018). [MARIJUANA: Facts Parents Need to Know.](#)

Partnership to End Addiction. (2024). [CANNABIS \(MARIJUANA\): What Families Need to Know to Help Protect Children, Teens and Young Adults.](#)

Parent Action Network. (2024). [Preventing Drug Use & Knowing When to Be Concerned.](#)

The Maryland Collaborative (2025). [College Parents Matter: Cannabis.](#)

Ruffin, M, The Maryland Collaborative (2022). [Cannabis Fact Sheet: Let's Talk About Cannabis.](#)

Stanford REACH Lab (2025). [Parent Corner.](#)

Prevention Action Alliance (2025). [Marijuana Fact Sheets.](#)

References

1. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. *Cannabis Policy Impacts Public Health and Health Equity*. Washington DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/27766>
2. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2024). *Cannabis (Marijuana)*. <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/cannabis-marijuana>
3. Washington Healthy Youth Coalition. *Considerations for using the terminology cannabis or marijuana* | *The Athena Forum*. (2020). Retrieved July 22, 2025, from <https://theathenaforum.org/prevention-101/community-library/considerations-using-terminology-cannabis-or-marijuana>
4. Miller, W. & Rollnick, S. (2023). *Motivational Interviewing: Helping People Change and Grow*.
5. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. (2024). *Cannabis Policy Impacts Public Health and Health Equity*.
6. Oregon Research Institute. (2024). *Motivating Parents to Prevent Teen Cannabis Use*
7. Partnership to End Addiction. (2025). *How to Talk to Your Teen About Marijuana-Part 1*
8. Stanford Medicine. (2024). *Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Toolkit*
9. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Substance Use and Prevention. (2015). Counseling parents and teens about marijuana use in the era of legalization of marijuana. *Pediatrics*, 135(3), e769–e785. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2014-4147>
10. Knight, J. R., & Sherritt, L. (2010). Motivational interviewing for adolescent substance use: A review of the literature. *Adolescent Medicine: State of the Art Reviews*, 21(2), 229–246.
11. Partnership to End Addiction. (2024). *CANNABIS (MARIJUANA): What Families Need to Know to Help Protect Children, Teens and Young Adults*
12. Ryan, S. A., Ammerman, S. D., & COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE AND PREVENTION (2017). Counseling Parents and Teens About Marijuana Use in the Era of Legalization of Marijuana. *Pediatrics*, 139(3), e20164069. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-4069>
13. The Maryland Collaborative (2025). *College Parents Matter: Cannabis*.
<https://www.collegeparentsmatter.org/cannabis>
14. ElSohly, M. A., Chandra, S., Radwan, M., Majumdar, C. G., & Church, J. C. (2021). A comprehensive review of cannabis potency in the United States in the last decade. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*, 6(6), 603–606.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bpsc.2020.12.016>

15. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2022). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP22-07-01-005, NSDUH Series H-57). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Table A.12AB. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2021-nsduh-annual-national-report>
16. Miech, R. A., Johnston, L. D., Patrick, M. E., O'Malley, P. M., & Bachman, J. G. (2024). Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975–2023: Overview and detailed results for secondary school students. Monitoring the Future Monograph Series. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Available at [https://monitoringthefuture.org/results/annual-reports\](https://monitoringthefuture.org/results/annual-reports/)
17. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. Cannabis Policy Impacts Public Health and Health Equity. Washington DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27766>
18. Hinckley, J. D., Ferland, J. N., & Hurd, Y. L. (2024). The Developmental Trajectory to Cannabis Use Disorder. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 181(5), 353–358. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.20231006>
19. Sultan, R. S., Zhang, A. W., Olsson, M., Kwizera, M. H., & Levin, F. R. (2023). Nondisordered cannabis use among us adolescents. *JAMA Network Open*, 6(5), e2311294. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.11294>
20. Di Forti, M., Quattrone, D., Freeman, T. P., Tripoli, G., Gayer-Anderson, C., Quigley, H.,... & EU-GEI WP2 Group (2019). The contribution of cannabis use to variation in the incidence of psychotic disorder across Europe (EU-GEI): A multicentre case-control study. *Lancet Psychiatry*, 6(5), 427–436. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(19\)30048-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(19)30048-3)
21. Di Forti, M., Marconi, A., Carra, E., Fraietta, S., Trotta, A., Bonomo, M., ... & Murray, R. M. (2015). Proportion of patients in south London with first-episode psychosis attributable to use of high potency cannabis: A case-control study. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 2(3), 233–238.
22. Levine, A., Clemenza, K., Rynn, M., & Lieberman, J. (2017). Evidence for the risks and consequences of adolescent cannabis exposure. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 56(3), 214–225.
23. Thomas, F. D., Darrah, J., Graham, L., Berning, A., Blomberg, R., Finstad, K., ... & Moore, C. (2022, December). Drug prevalence among seriously or fatally injured road users (Report No. DOT HS 813 399). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Available at: https://rosap.nhtl.bts.gov/view/dot/65623/dot_65623_DS1.pdf
24. Farah, R., Cole, R. J., & Holstege, C. P. (2024). Increasing severity of medical outcomes and associated substances in cases reported to United States poison centers. *Clinical Toxicology* (Philadelphia, Pa.), 62(4), 248–255. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2024.2337897>
25. Hughes, A. R., Grusing, S., Lin, A., Hendrickson, R. G., Sheridan, D. C., Marshall, R., & Zane Horowitz, B. (2023). Trends in intentional abuse and misuse ingestions in school-aged children and adolescents reported to US poison centers from 2000-2020. *Clinical Toxicology*, 61(1), 64–71. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2022.2120818>

26. Wartenberg, Ariani C., Patricia A. Holden, Hekia Bodwitch, et al. (2021). Cannabis and the Environment: What Science Tells Us and What We Still Need to Know. *Environmental Science & Technology Letters* 8 (2): 98–107. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00844>.
27. Environment. (n.d.). *UC Berkeley Cannabis Research Center*. Retrieved August 5, 2025, from <https://crc.berkeley.edu/research-theme/environment/>
28. Gutterman, L. (2025). *Vape Waste 2: The environmental, financial, and security cases for banning disposable vapes*. U.S. PIRG Education Fund. <https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PIRG-Vape-Waste-2.pdf>