

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 23, 2021

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Press Release

L.E.A.D. IS POSITIONED TO ADDRESS YOUTH CANNABIS CONCERNS IN NJ

L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence) is positioned to address all of the concerns being raised with regards to the cannabis legislation signed into law by Governor Murphy yesterday. While L.E.A.D. is not in a position to dictate legislation, we are here with the only tested proven-effective substance abuse curricula that includes cannabis education for New Jersey school aged children. *"Regardless of what side your on with regard to the legalization issue, we all should be able to agree that drug education and prevention is needed for young students. We must intensify our efforts now more than ever"*, says Chief Robert Kugler, L.E.A.D. Board Chairman.

In follow-up to yesterday's cannabis legislative actions, it is imperative we intensify evidence-based cannabis education throughout the State of New Jersey. We are proud to offer the only tested and proven effective K-12 substance abuse prevention curricula that includes cannabis education. It is most important that children understand the consequences of cannabis use. A recent study by Mallie J. Paschall at the Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation had a report published by the Journal of Studies on Alcohol & Drugs ¹ that demonstrated the need for cannabis education and showed alarming increases in drug use. We are concerned, and we will address and help the youth of New Jersey.

L.E.A.D. is here to assist the legislature and New Jersey leaders in serving the students in our great state.



Nicholas R. DeMauro
Executive Director/CEO



Robert J. Kugler
Chair

¹ Teens may be more likely to use marijuana after legalization for adult recreational use

Mallie J. Paschall and colleagues at the Prevention Research Center of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation analyzed data from more than 3 million students in grades 7, 9, and 11 who participated in the California Healthy Kids Survey from 2010-2011 to 2018-2019. They found that marijuana use among adolescents increased after the state legalized the drug in 2016. This was surprising because adolescent use had steadily decreased before legalization. They found an 18 percent increase in the likelihood of lifetime use and a 23 percent increase in past-30-day use. The increase was even more likely among demographic groups with historically low rates of use.

Read *EurekAlert* article [here](#).

Read *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* abstract [here](#)

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