



STOP AND IMAGINE

Healthy Conversations About Marijuana

Because it is now legal for adults age 21 and older in Illinois to use marijuana, it can be hard to understand if it is bad for you.

Some people use it as a medicine, including people who aren't 21 yet. What is medicine for some doesn't mean that it is good for everyone. STOP to think and IMAGINE the consequences of using marijuana and the advantages you'll have when you choose not to use.

How does marijuana hurt the lungs?

Smoking marijuana can irritate the lungs just like a tobacco cigarette can. Marijuana that is smoked may contain some of the same harmful things, like carbon monoxide or tar.

How does marijuana affect the brain?

In our brain we have cells that are called neurons that allow our brains to work and we can do things like balance, remember and learn. Marijuana has a chemical in it called THC. Doctors and scientists have found out that THC can interfere with functions of the brain. *It is illegal and dangerous to drive with any marijuana in your system.*

Marijuana can be a risk to your future. Using marijuana has consequences. Using, buying or having marijuana is illegal for people under the age of 21 and can have serious punishments. You might not be allowed to be on sports teams or do other activities like music or art. Being caught with marijuana could cost you a college scholarship. Many jobs don't allow their employees to use marijuana, so don't let it get in the way of the job you want now, or the career you dream about for your future.

Talk to your family physician!

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