

# Marijuana and Your Teenager

## Teens are More At-Risk for Marijuana Use

### 8th

Students who try marijuana typically start as early as eighth grade<sup>1</sup>



Less than 20 percent of high school seniors think *trying* marijuana puts people at great risk<sup>1</sup>



Three out of four high school seniors don't think *regular* marijuana use puts people at great risk<sup>1</sup>

### SIGNS YOUR TEEN MIGHT BE USING MARIJUANA<sup>2</sup>



→ Grades go down



→ Skipping class



→ Lower interest in hobbies or activities



→ Changes in relationships, both friends and family



→ Stealing money or items from home

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA IS NOW LEGAL IN ARKANSAS



→ That does not mean marijuana is safe for teens. It can cause:<sup>3,4</sup>



⇨ Decreased mental sharpness



⇨ Increased respiratory infections



⇨ Increased risk of lung cancer



⇨ Dependence

## Parents Need to Take Action

- Talk with your children early
- Explain that medical marijuana doesn't mean marijuana is safe
- Be involved in your teen's life
- Know what your teen is doing
- Call 1-800-662-HELP if your teen has started using marijuana

For more information, visit [preventionworksar.org](http://preventionworksar.org)

REFERENCES: 1. Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment, 2015; 2. Mayo Clinic, 2014; 3. National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2017; 4. American Lung Association, 2015



THE ARKANSAS FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL CARE INC. (AFMC) IS UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS), DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SERVICES. THE CONTENTS PRESENTED MAY NOT BE THE SAME AS ARKANSAS DHS POLICY. ARKANSAS DHS IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH TITLES VI AND VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT. REVISED APRIL 2017