Marijuana at a Glance, South Carolina

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of marijuana use. This information can help local public health and community workers identify gaps and implement relevant strategies to address problems related to marijuana use.

How Does Marijuana Work?
- When marijuana is smoked, the mind-altering chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) passes from the lungs to the bloodstream.
- Blood then carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

How Is Marijuana Used?
- Marijuana is often smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints), pipes, or water pipes (bongs). People also smoke it in blunts, which are partly or completely emptied cigars filled with marijuana.
- Users can also mix marijuana in food or brew it as a tea. Foods take longer to digest, so people may consume more to feel the effects faster leading to dangerous results.

Source: NIDA

Marijuana Use Among Youth
- In 2017, 18.6% of youth used marijuana one or more times in the past 30 days compared to 19.8% nationally.
- In 2017, 35.5% of youth used marijuana at least once in their lifetime compared to 35.6% nationally.
- Roughly 7 in 10 (72.4%) of youth age 12 - 17 in 2016 - 2017 perceived no great risk from smoking marijuana once a month.

Source: 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

Know the Facts
- Research suggests that 30% of users might develop some form of problem use which can lead to dependence and use disorder.
- People who begin using marijuana before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop problem use.

Source: NIDA

Marijuana is unsafe if you are behind the wheel
- Marijuana is the most common illegal drug involved in auto fatalities.
- Marijuana is found in the blood of approximately 14% of drivers who die in car crashes, often in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

Source: NIDA

Physical and Mental Effects
- Physical effects include breathing problems, increased heart rate, and problems with child development during and after pregnancy.
- Long-term effects have been linked to mental illness such as temporary hallucinations and paranoia.

Source: NIDA

Tried Marijuana First Time Before Age 13 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
<th>Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)