

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

MONTANA NATIVE YOUTH AND THE NEED FOR MARIJUANA PREVENTION

43%

of Native youth report starting to use marijuana before age 15, compared to 21% of all Montana high school students.

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

1.4X

Native youth are 1.4X more likely to vape marijuana than non-Native youth.

Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, 2020

19%

of Native high school youth in Montana report using marijuana 10+ times in the past 30 days, compared to 9% of Montana youth in general.

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021

MARIJUANA & NATIVE YOUTH

Native youth in Montana are less likely to use alcohol than non-Native youth, but more likely to use marijuana. While most Native youth (58%) have never used marijuana, those who do report starting marijuana use at a younger age, using more often than their peers, and are more likely to use high potency products like vapes.

Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, 2020

IT'S NOT "NATURAL" ANYMORE

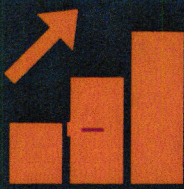
In 1980, the average level of THC in marijuana plants was less than 2%. Since legalization and commercialization, marijuana plants have been cultivated to increase their potency. Montana dispensaries are advertising vapes, "dabs," and other concentrated products for sale now with as much as 98% THC.

EISohly, et al., 2000; Missoulameds.com, 2022; Starrrbuds.com, 2022

CULTURE IS PREVENTION

↑ The risk of physical and mental health harms from marijuana increases with potency, frequency of use, and the younger a youth begins using - all of which mean Native youth are at increased risk.

Protect Native youth from substance use by supporting prevention programs that promote protective factors like positive cultural identity and healthy activities, while reducing risk factors in our communities.



MARIJUANA POTENCY

The potency of THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana, has increased dramatically over the past few decades, both in plant material and in concentrates



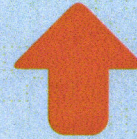
10 x

In the 1970s, "weed" contained roughly 1–3% THC. Marijuana plant material has increased to an average potency of 18-23% today.¹

Montana's max THC is 35% adult-use flower. No max on medicinal. (MCA 16-12-224)



99%



56%



In 2017, THC concentrates had an average THC potency of 55.7%.²

Today, many retailers promote and profit from products containing up to 95–99% THC.³

The risk of psychosis **TRIPLES** when using products with 15% THC potency or higher. Daily users are nearly **5 TIMES** more likely to develop a severe mental illness such as psychosis or schizophrenia.⁹

SHORT TERM HARMs



- Overdoses.
- Marijuana related Hospitalizations & and ER visits.¹¹
- Accidental child ingestion and a rise in marijuana-related poison control calls.⁴
- Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (repetitive cycles of nausea and vomiting).⁴

LONG TERM HARMs



- THC addiction.⁶
- Psychosis.⁷
- Depression.⁵
- Anxiety.¹⁰
- Suicide.⁵
- Reshaping of brain structure.⁸

1. www.drugcaucus.senate.gov/sites/default/files/02%20March%202021%20-%20Cannabis%20Policy%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf

2. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00406-019-00983-5>

3. <https://www.thegrowthop.com/cannabis-culture/cannabis-communities/the-distillates-clean-odorless-and-extremely-potent>

4. www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html

5. Gobbi G, Atkin T, Zytynski T et al. Association of cannabis use in adolescence and risk of depression, anxiety and suicidality in young adulthood.

6. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32459328/>

7. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26884547/>

8. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00839/full>

9. The 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)

10. Dennerstein et al. "The persistence of the association between adolescent cannabis use and common mental health disorder into young adulthood."