#### School is over. Summer has begun. It's a good time to have an important conversation!





# PARENTS! TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN/TEENS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF MARIJUANA USE & VAPING. TALK EARLY. TALK OFTEN.





### Youth Believe Using Marijuana & Vaping is Harmful

(Students across the US and in Chippewa Valley Schools increasingly report that vaping and using marijuana is SAFE.\*



#### IT'S BETTER TO HAVE TWELVE 5-MINUTE CONVERSATIONS THAN ONE 60-MINUTE TALK.

To Start... Ask: How old will you be when your brain stops developing? Listen.

Inform: Your brain continues to develop until you are about 25 or even older. 1

**Ask:** What do you know about the effects of Alcohol, Marijuana, Vaping Nicotine, and the use of other drugs on the developing brain? **Listen.** 

*Inform:* Brain scans show that Vaping and the use of Alcohol and Marijuana can damage the developing brain, leading to the possibility of lifelong changes in thinking, memory, and learning. Inform that the young brain is more likely to become addicted to any substance, because it's still in the process of development. <sup>1</sup>

#### TALK WITH YOUR CHILD/TEEN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF USING MARIJUANA:

To Start... Ask: Do you think marijuana is a safe drug, particularly for children and teens? Listen.

**Inform:** Research shows that marijuana use by people your age can change the brain and use is connected to problems learning, doing poorly in school, and addiction. Use of marijuana in any form, including vaping it, presents a danger for you. <sup>1, 2</sup>

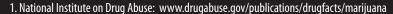
**Ask:** What do you know about the potency (strength) of marijuana today?

*Inform:* THC, the addictive chemical in marijuana, is about 15 times stronger than it was 20 years ago. Marijuana edibles (food, beverages) and oils can contain 50% to 90% THC, making them extremely strong and potentially addictive. After using them, some people have needed emergency room treatment. <sup>3</sup> *Listen.* 

Ask: Do you think marijuana is safe for your emotional well-being? Listen.

*Inform:* Many people are confused about the effects of marijuana use on someone's emotional health. Marijuana has been linked to **increased anxiety, depression, and to thoughts of suicide.** <sup>2</sup>

Inform: Legalizing marijuana DOES NOT make it a safe drug, particularly for teens.



<sup>2.</sup> Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/teens.htm

<sup>3.</sup> Marijuana Fact Check: www.mjfactcheck.org/potency



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#### TALK WITH YOUR CHILD/TEEN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF VAPING:

Ask: What do you know about the dangers of vaping? Listen.

*Inform:* Vaping nicotine (the additive chemical in tobacco) or THC (the addictive chemical in marijuana) can damage the developing brain and lead to addiction. Nicotine can negatively affect the functioning of the heart, lungs, and other organs in the body. Vaping flavored products can also harm the lungs. <sup>1</sup> *Listen.* 

Ask: What do you know about the dangers of vaping devices? Listen.

*Inform:* Devices used to vape have particles, chemicals, and metals that can be harmful. <sup>2</sup> *Listen.* 

**Inform:** Vaping may increase the risks of smoking. Teens and young adults who vape are almost 4 times more likely to begin smoking cigarettes than those their age that don't vape.

- 1. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids: https://drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-with-your-kids-about-vaping/
- 2. US Surgeon General: https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/



#### ALSO VISIT: WWW.CVCOALITION.ORG

JOINING SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY IN PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE HEALTHY, RESILIENT, AND DRUG-FREE YOUTH AND PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDE.

