

Did you know...

Any use of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs is risky business. It can lead to addiction and there is no way to tell who will develop a problem and who will not.

Among Maryland 12th graders:

- 23,898 have used marijuana at least once
- 1 in 5 used marijuana before age 15
- 84% of those who have used marijuana think it's safe to smoke
- 80% of those who have used marijuana say their parents would think it's okay
- 37% have been a passenger in a vehicle in which the driver was under the influence of alcohol
- Less than half have an adult at home who always listens when they have a problem

CESAR's study of Maryland teens

The University of Maryland's Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) analyzed data collected by the State Department of Education as part of the Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS) of public school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in 2002. Nine scientifically validated "warning signs" that identified early marijuana users were found. Get the full report at www.cesar.umd.edu.



Center for Substance Abuse Research
4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501
College Park, MD 20740
www.cesar.umd.edu
Tel: 301-405-9770



Maryland State Department of
Education
Student Services Branch
410-767-0318

September 2004

This brochure was supported by BYRN-2003-1007, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) through the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). The Assistant Attorney General, coordinates the activities of the program offices and bureaus. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of USDOJ or GOCCP.

Know the **9**
warning signs
of drug & alcohol problems.

Fact:

- Parents are one of the most important influences in a teen's decisions about using alcohol and other drugs.

Question:

- How can you tell if your teen is using drugs?

9 warning signs of alcohol & other drug problems in Maryland teens

5 BEHAVIORS

Alcohol use before age 15

Cigarette use before age 15

20 or more unexcused absences
from school

Alcohol arrest

Drug arrest

4 ATTITUDES

Smoking cigarettes is safe

My parents think it's O.K. to smoke
cigarettes

Smoking marijuana is safe

My parents think it's O.K. to smoke
marijuana

Is cigarette and alcohol use really a big deal?

Teens with two or more of these 9 warning signs
are at higher risk for:

- poor school performance
- being drunk/high at school
- health and family problems
- driving under the influence
- dependence on alcohol or other drugs
- using marijuana before age 15

What can you do?*

LEARN as much as you can. Be prepared for
common statements and questions from your
teen.

TALK to your child. Be specific about your
concerns.

LISTEN to what your child has to say.

BE involved. Ask who, what, when, and where.

SET clear ground rules for your family.

ASK for help.

*Parenting tips adapted from www.theantidrug.com

Where can you get help?

General Drug Info:

- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol & Drug
Information
www.ncadi.samhsa.gov 1-800-729-6686
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
www.nida.nih.gov

Tips for Parents/Families:

- The Anti-Drug
www.theantidrug.com
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America
www.drugfreeamerica.org 1-212-922-1560

Tips for Teens:

- NIDA for Teens
www.teens.drugabuse.gov
- Teen Hotline
1-800-788-2800

Treatment Referrals:

- Maryland Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Administration
www.maryland-adaa.gov
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Maryland Education Info:

- Local School Student Support Services
Personnel and Local Safe and Drug Free
Schools Office 1-410-767-0318

More Warning Signs = Greater Risk