

## AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS ABOUT MARIJUANA

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### **Did You Know?**

Marijuana puts kids at risk. It is the most widely used illicit drug among youth today and is more potent than ever. Marijuana use can lead to a host of significant health, social, learning and behavioral problems at a crucial time in a young person's development. Getting high also impairs judgment, which can wreak havoc on teens in high-pressure social situations, leading to risky decision making on issues like sex, criminal activity or riding with someone who is driving high.

And don't be fooled by popular beliefs. Kids can get hooked on pot. Research shows that marijuana use can lead to addiction. More teens enter treatment for marijuana abuse each year than for all other illicit drugs combined.

This fall, America's youth will hear a new message about marijuana, thanks to collaboration among federal agencies, public health organizations, educators and concerned parents. The initiative will inform young people that using marijuana has real consequences and can put their futures at risk. It will teach them that the dangers of marijuana are not overblown and must be taken seriously. Most of all, this campaign will dispel the myths about marijuana by concentrating on the facts.

Time and again, kids say their parents are the single most important influence when it comes to drugs. So this message needs to start with you. Kids need to hear how risky marijuana use can be. They need to know how damaging it can be to their lives. And they need to begin by listening to someone they trust.

To learn more about marijuana and how to keep your kids drug-free, please visit **[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)** or call 800-788-2800.

Then talk with your kids. Together, we can help them separate the myths from the facts.

Signed:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American Medical Association
- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- Child Welfare League of America
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America/  
Drug-Free Kids Campaign
- National Asian Pacific American Families  
Against Substance Abuse
- National Association of State Alcohol  
and Drug Abuse Directors
- National Center for School Health Nursing
- National Crime Prevention Council
- National Families in Action
- National Family Partnership
- National Indian Health Board
- National Medical Association
- National PTA
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
- The National Center on Addiction  
and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University

**P A R E N T S .**  
T H E A N T I - D R U G .