Let's Be Clear Georgia
A Collaborative to Prevent Marijuana Abuse

Let’s Be Clear Georgia is a partnership of private and public agencies, employers, and individuals engaging in best practices and policies to prevent marijuana abuse in our state.

MARIJUANA AND TREATMENT

MARIJUANA ADDICTION
Marijuana remains the most widely used illicit substance in the United States.\(^1\) Long-term marijuana use can lead to addiction; that is, people have difficulty controlling their drug use and cannot stop even though it interferes with many aspects of their lives.\(^2\)

About 9% of adult users become addicted to marijuana and that number increases among those who start young and among people who use marijuana daily.\(^3\)

One in six adolescents who try marijuana get addicted.\(^4\) However, more recent research published in *JAMA Psychiatry* found that 1 in 3 past yearly users of marijuana met the criteria for marijuana use disorder – and research indicates that the earlier young people start using marijuana, the more likely they are to become dependent on marijuana or other drugs later in life.\(^5\)

MARIJUANA USE
The World Health Organization ranks the United States first among 17 European and North American countries for prevalence of marijuana use. And more users start every day. In 2010, an estimated 2.4 million Americans used marijuana for the first time; greater than one-half were under age 18.\(^6\)

MARIJUANA ABUSE
In 2009, approximately 18% of people aged 12 and older entering drug abuse treatment programs reported marijuana as their primary drug of abuse.\(^7\) Marijuana is the #1 reason...
adolescents are admitted for substance-abuse treatment in the U.S., which is more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy and other drugs combined.\textsuperscript{8}

**MARIJUANA TREATMENT**

Over the last two decades’ treatment admissions for marijuana have increased significantly. In 1992, approximately 93,000 people were admitted to treatment with marijuana as the primary drug for which treatment was needed. By 2009, these admissions were estimated at 362,000.\textsuperscript{5} Half of the individuals who enter treatment for marijuana use are under 25 years of age.\textsuperscript{9} Behavioral treatments, such as motivational enhancement therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and contingency management, as well as family-based treatments have been carefully evaluated and have shown promise.\textsuperscript{4}

**AMONG YOUTH**

- In 2010, over 1 million Americans ages 12 or older reported receiving treatment for marijuana use, more than any other illicit drug.\textsuperscript{5}
- Over the last two decades treatment admissions for marijuana have increased significantly.\textsuperscript{5}
- About 68\% of all medically necessary drug treatment admissions for youth ages 12-17 were for marijuana.\textsuperscript{10}

**AMONG ADULTS**

- On average, adults seeking treatment for marijuana use disorders have used marijuana nearly every day for more than 10 years and have attempted to quit more than six times.\textsuperscript{4}

**WHAT GEORGIANS SHOULD KNOW:**

1) Marijuana is the #1 reason adolescents are admitted for substance-abuse treatment in the United States.

2) Half of the individuals who enter treatment for marijuana use are under 25 years of age.

3) Data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse found that in 1993 marijuana comprised approximately 8\% of ALL treatment admissions, but by 2009 that number had increased to 18\%.\textsuperscript{11}

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT:**

http://clearga.org/marijuana-and-treatment
SOURCES


5. JAMA Psychiatry, Oct 2015, Prevalence of Marijuana Use Disorders in the United States, Between 2001-2002 and 2012-2013, Deborah S. Hasin, PhD; Tulshi D. Saha, PhD; Bradley T. Kerridge, PhD; Ris. B. Goldstein, PhD, MPH; S. Patricia Chou, PhD; Haitao Zhang, PhD; Jeesun Jung, PhD; Roger P. Pickering, MS; W. June Ruan, MA; Sharon M. Smith, PhD; Boji Huang, MD, PhD; Bridget F. Grant, PhD, PhD and Office of National Drug Control Policy. 2010. http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/frequently-asked-questions-and-factsabout-marijuana#trendsyouth


