



Did You Know?

August 2018

Marijuana Laws in New York State: With laws changing all across the United States, marijuana is a constant topic of discussion. A problem we are seeing is the spread of misinformation about marijuana, which often makes things very confusing. This is especially true for children, teens and young adults. Ensuring that young people have accurate information when it comes to marijuana increases their ability to make informed decisions that can affect their safety and health.

What You Should Know:

- Recreational marijuana is not legal in New York State, and use or possession of marijuana can result in legal consequences.
- Since marijuana is illegal in all regards federally, a person cannot bring marijuana across the international border of Canada, even when Canada's decision to legalize recreational marijuana goes into effect. This includes medical marijuana, even with a medical marijuana card.
- Medical marijuana is legal in NYS for certain severe conditions. The complete list of qualifying conditions can be found on the NYS Department of Health website: https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/. The most recent change includes approval of medical marijuana for individuals who are in treatment for an opioid use disorder and for other health conditions that might typically be treated with prescribed opiates.
- A common misconception, especially among teens, is that medical marijuana is available to be consumed in a smokable or edible form. This is not the case in NYS.

What You Can Do:

- Keep informed about ongoing changes in recreational and medical marijuana legislation in NYS and throughout the United States.
- Clarify the facts about marijuana with young people. They should be aware that recreational marijuana is not legal in NYS and that using marijuana illegally can have lifelong consequences. They should also know that the brain is not fully developed until around age 25, and use of any illicit substance before that age puts them at heightened risk of negative health effects.



Information obtained from: www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/; www.dea.gov

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The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs -- America's #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • www.eccpasa.org