

# Cannabis Prevention Education

## Context

### Youth Cannabis Use Concern

Cannabis use in adolescence can be associated with many risks including (with frequent use) changes in memory and attention (even after abstinence) and increased rates of school absences, drop-out rates, and other concerns. Additionally, risk for developing or for early onset of psychotic disorders also increases with frequency of use and potency of the product (source: 2019 Surgeon General's Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain). The potency of present-day cannabis is much higher than it was decades ago, and newer and increasingly popular methods of administration/ingestion (e.g., vaping and dabbing) present new risks and concerns. No drug use is safe for a developing brain, and cannabis use is also illegal for youth.

## Resources and Materials

### Cannabis Education

The resources below include cannabis prevention education curricula as well as toolkits and other resources. Many educators around the state have taken pieces of these resources and combined them with their own to create materials that they felt best matched the needs of their students. If you'd like to be connected with others who have experience implementing some of the below resources, contact Beth Keister at [beth.keister@vermont.gov](mailto:beth.keister@vermont.gov).

### Resources

- [Vermont Department of Health Let's Talk Cannabis: Cannabis and Youth:](#) Includes fact sheets and infographics.
- [Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network's Cannabis Prevention and Education Toolkit](#)
- [SAMHSA's Preventing Marijuana Use Among Youth:](#) This guide was published in October 2021 and reviews the research specific to cannabis use outcomes for several well-known prevention curriculum, and includes tips for considering the needs of the target population relative to selecting a curriculum.
- [The Stanford Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Toolkit:](#) This is a free resource provided by Stanford University that covers all of the necessary information about cannabis. It can be used in a classroom (high



school level) or with an adult audience. This includes the [Smart Talk Curriculum](#) with various materials for download.

- [Panaptic IMPACT Program](#): IMPACT is an online/digital curriculum that can be facilitated with a group or taken self-paced style. The licensing cost includes access to both parent and educator trainings as well.

## **Contact Information**

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact: Beth Keister at [beth.keister@vermont.gov](mailto:beth.keister@vermont.gov) or (802) 498-5126.