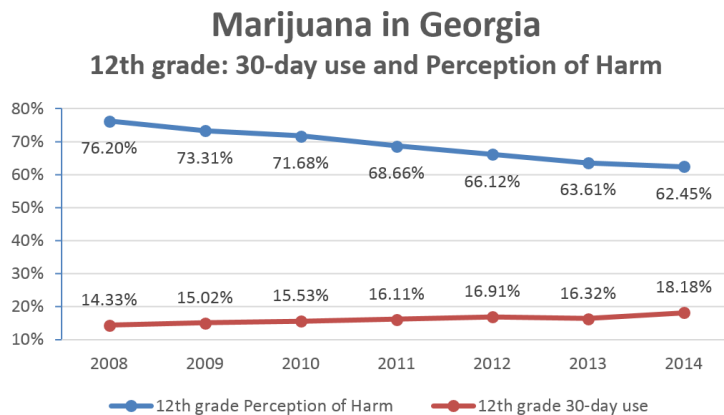


Let's Be Clear Georgia

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 EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES



According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, studies show that marijuana use interferes with attention, motivation, memory and learning. Students who use marijuana regularly tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school than those who don't use.¹

Those who smoke marijuana daily may

be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time. Considerable evidence suggests that students who smoke marijuana have poorer educational outcomes than their nonsmoking peers.²

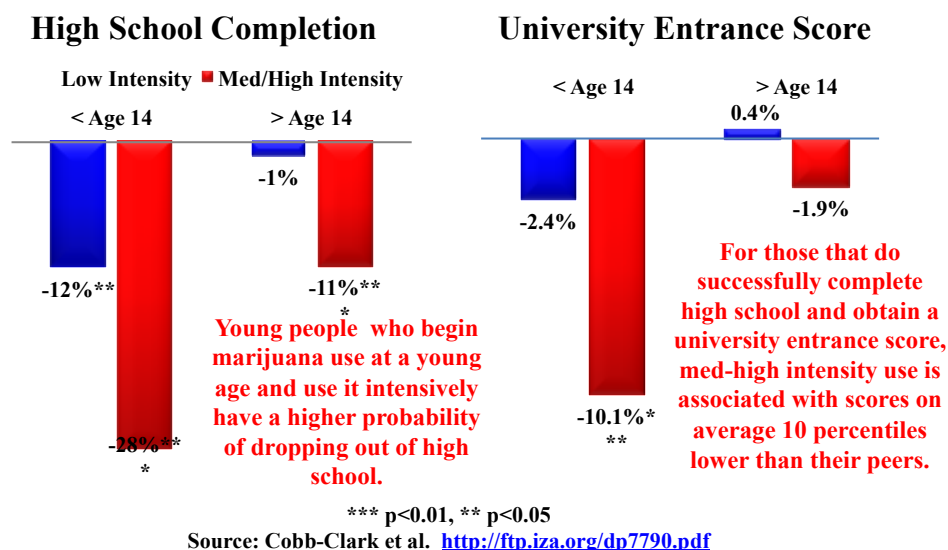
WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

- A review of 48 relevant studies found marijuana use to be associated with reduced educational attainment (i.e. reduced chances of graduating).²
- An analysis using data from three large studies in Australia and New Zealand found that adolescents who used marijuana regularly were significantly less likely than their non-using peers to finish high school or obtain a degree.³
- Regular heavy marijuana use by teens can lead to an IQ drop of up to 8 points.⁴
- Factors associated with college students' marijuana use include spending more time at parties and socializing with friends, spending less time studying, and perceiving religion and community service as non-important.⁵
- College students at large schools, commuter schools, and coeducational schools are more likely to use marijuana.⁵
- A study conducted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association found that a majority of athletes who use marijuana started using it prior to college. 63.7% of users started in high school; 12.9% of users started during their first year in college; and 8.6% of users stated after their first year in college.⁶

HEAVY MARIJUANA USE BY TEENS IS LINKED TO THESE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

- lower grades and exam scores
- less likely to enroll in college
- less likely to graduate from HS or college¹

Early Marijuana Use and Intensity of Use are Associated with Educational Attainment



The impact of teen marijuana use on learning is critical, and often proves pivotal in the failure to master vital interpersonal coping skills or make appropriate life-style choices. For college students, regular marijuana use may directly affect academic achievement, as students may experience increasing difficulty in problem solving and poor long-term memory. Long-term use might also lead to lack of motivation to involved in campus life or achieve academic, career, and personal goals.⁷

WHAT GEORGIANS SHOULD KNOW:

- 1) The percentage of school-enrolled youths reporting that they had seen or heard drug or alcohol prevention messages at school has declined from 2002 to 2013.⁸
- 2) Marijuana is the primary drug being sold by students.⁹
- 3) 44% of high school students know of a student who sells drugs.⁹

4) As is the case with students nationally, as Georgia high school seniors perception of harm decreases, their use during the last 30 days increases. ¹⁰

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

<http://clearga.org/marijuana-and-educational-outcomes>

SOURCES

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