Marijuana: Women, Pregnant Women, & Girls

Percentage of Pregnant Women Reporting Smoking Marijuana (2009-2016, KPNC)

- 41% of females 12 and over reported using marijuana in their lifetime and 8% reported using marijuana in the last month (NSDUH, 2018)

In a study of pregnant patients aged 12 and older in Northern California, the overall rate of marijuana use during pregnancy rose from 4% in 2009 to 7% in 2016 (Young-Wolff et al., 2017).

THC, the main psychoactive component in marijuana, binds to the brain's receptors and has been linked to:

- low birth weight
- increased likelihood of premature birth
- poor cognitive function
- hyperactivity
- respiratory issues

(Levine et al., 2016)

Sources:


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Marijuana in Middle School

11% of Delaware female middle school students report having ever used marijuana and 6% report having used it within the past month.

Marijuana & the Developing Brain

Marijuana use impedes the development of the adolescent brain and leads to other declined performance in work and school settings. (Johnston et al. 2019)

Percentage of Female High School Students Reporting Past Month Marijuana Use (YRBS, 2017)

- 20% in U.S.
- 26% in Delaware

Youth who chronically use marijuana have been shown to be at increased risk of prescription misuse compared to youth who have never used marijuana (Jones & McCance-Katz, 2019).

Similarly, adults with marijuana use disorder appear to be at increased risk of nonmedical use of prescription opioids or developing opioid use disorder later (Olfson et al, 2017).

Sources:
School Survey Data: 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered by University of Delaware Center for Drug and Health Studies.

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