**FACT:** People who began using marijuana before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop problem use.
Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana

**FACT:** Daily use today can have stronger effects on a developing teen brain than it did 10 or 20 years ago. The amount of the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, THC, has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. For a new user, this may mean exposure to higher THC levels with a greater chance of a harmful reaction. Higher levels of THC may mean a higher risk for addiction.
Source: www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana

**FACT:** Smoking marijuana interferes with learning and memory, increasing the risk of poor grades and dropping out of school. Research shows it can lower your IQ if you smoke it regularly in your teen years.

**FACT:** Teen marijuana use has increased as the perceived harm of smoking marijuana has decreased.

- In 2008, 32.4% of high school seniors reported marijuana use in the past year; 25.8% perceived great risk in smoking marijuana occasionally.
- In 2015, 34.9% of high school seniors reported marijuana use in the past year; 15.8% perceived great risk in using marijuana.
Source: NIDA, 2015 Monitoring the Future.
DRIVING AND MARIJUANA USE
TRUE OR FALSE?
• Marijuana can decrease a person’s ability to drive a car. TRUE
• Marijuana affects certain skills required for driving – reaction time, alertness, concentration, and coordination. TRUE

TEENS AND MARIJUANA
• 80% of high school seniors reported it was fairly easy or very easy to get marijuana.
Source: NIDA, 2015 Monitoring the Future.
• 7.0% of adolescents aged 12-17 smoked marijuana in the past month.

DRUGGED DRIVING
WARNING
Acute marijuana use can impair driving by affecting critical thinking and motor skills.

For more information contact your local Elks Lodge or to order free drug education materials visit: www.elks.org/dap
For drug prevention information visit DEA’s website:
for parents: www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com; for teens: www.JustThinkTwice.com

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