



Teens, Technology & Drugs

THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY

While generations of old experienced the advent of television and the advent of the internet, technology's rapid evolution over the last several decades has profoundly affected the world we live in.

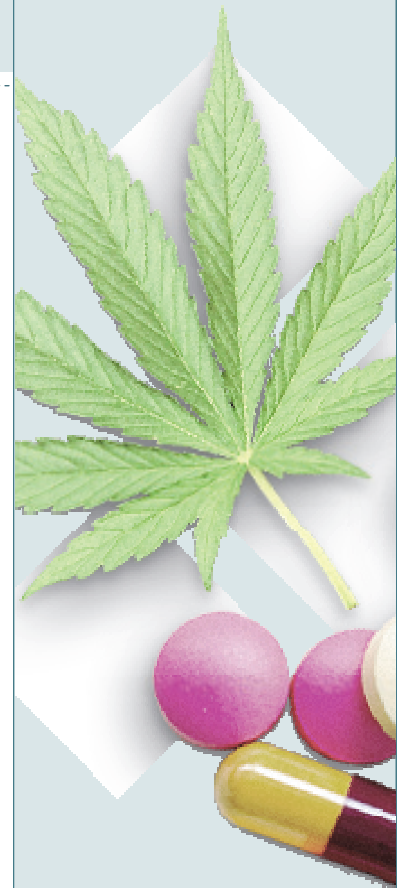
People now communicate through emojis and photo sharing apps on smartphones, and information is now literally at fingertips. Today's consumer has unparalleled access to news and updates happening around the world. The internet has especially influenced Generation Z.

Recent studies show that 92% of teens aged 13–17 go online every single day, including a quarter of whom who report being connected to the internet nearly all the time. Among teenagers with mobile devices — including phones and tablets — the number of those who hop online for something each day jumps to 94%.

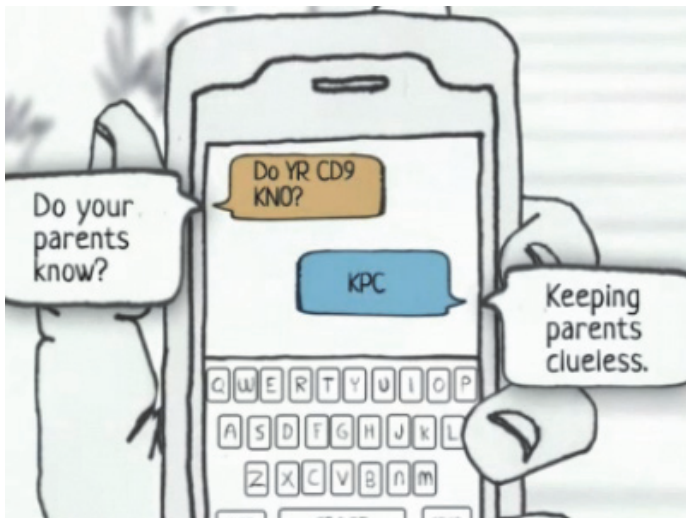
While technology has increasingly simplified the process of surfing the web, it's becoming more important than ever — as parents — to know what information your child is consuming. Teens are using drugs as early as middle school, and technology is making this easier than ever.

TEENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In particular, social media has — in no uncertain terms — taken over the collective consciousness. Social networks like Facebook, Instagram, Snap-



The culture of drugs in our society is ever changing. Businesses are flourishing around the design of clothes, the opportunities to conceal drugs, and the means of communicating within the drug community. It is important for those who interact with teens to be aware of, and look out for, the cultural differences. This publication, created by AAA-The Auto Club, includes information from subject-matter experts in hopes of expanding the reader's knowledge of issues related to teen drug use and driving.



chat and Twitter allow users to interact and exchange information through photos, messages and discussion groups.

Among teens, the usage rate is enormous:

- 71% have a Facebook account
- 52% have an Instagram account
- 41% have a Snapchat account
- 33% have a Twitter account

Teens aged 15–17 are more likely to use Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter than teens who are 13–14 years old — they tend to use Instagram more.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND PEER PRESSURE

The fact that teenagers use social networks may not come as much of a shock in a world where everything is becoming increasingly connected. Instead, it's how peer pressure has shifted that's become something to be concerned with.

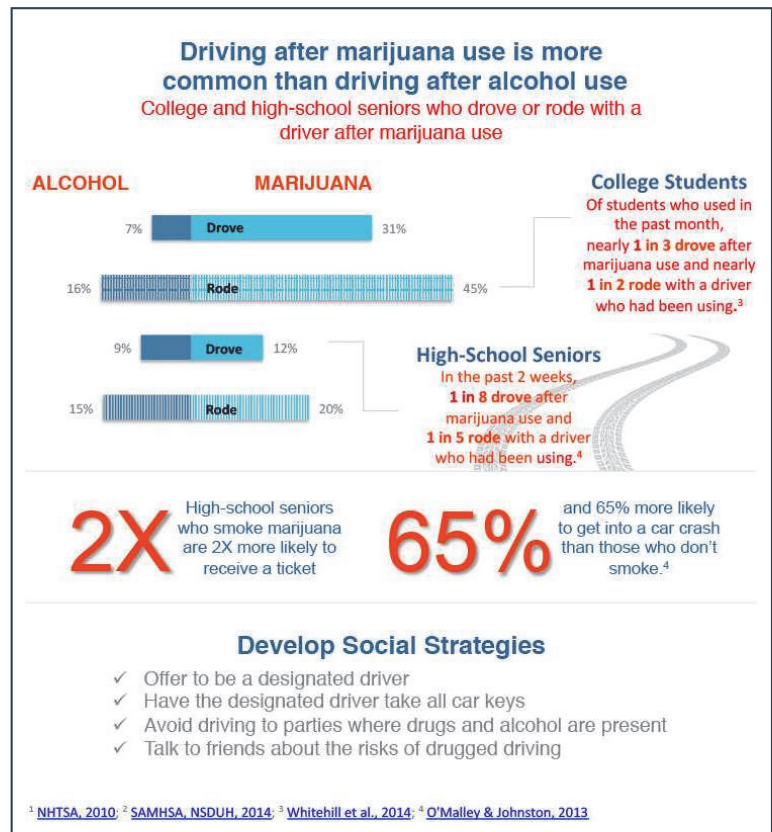
Recent studies show that 75% of teenagers seeing photos on social networks of other teens smoking weed or drinking encourages them to party in the same way. Teens who have come across these kinds of photos online are 4 times more likely to have used marijuana and more than 3 times more likely to have consumed alcohol. Social media has also begun to desensitize children at a younger age as well — 90% of these kids saw their peers in these photos online before they were even 16 years old.

This “digital peer pressure” amplifies the peer pressure teens already face in their turbulent adolescent years. Drug use, which is already pervasive in schools across the U.S. — 60% of high school students say their school is “drug-infested” — effectively is becoming a “norm” of sorts for adolescents. They see drugs and alcohol being swapped around by friends and acquaintances, and social media helps provide further validation that this behavior is the “cool” way to do things.

Pro-drug social media posts also help to affirm what teens see in the movies. Studies show that 22% of films contain at least one scene involving drugs — the majority of these don't show any harmful consequences of drug use. On top of that, people who watch R-rated movies are significantly more likely to try marijuana.

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TeenRehabCenter.org. Additional source cited.



From light switches to outlet plates, don't be left in the dark with where your teen could be hiding drugs. If your gut is telling you that your teen is hiding something, take a closer look at those seemingly innocent items lying around the house.

MOST COMMON PLACES TEENS HIDE DRUGS

Clothes

The drug culture has developed caps, tee-shirts and shoes with secret hiding places for drugs from pills to waxes. Additionally, many logos on these items identify the teen wearing the items to other drug users and drug sellers.

Writing Utensils

You may think that that highlighter is used to highlight important information, but it actually may be concealing pills, pot, or powdered substances. Just pop off the back and instantaneously that highlighter converts into a pipe for marijuana. And if a teen needs to learn how to transform his marker or highlighter into a pipe, the internet has tons of videos that show how to do it in less than three minutes flat. That BIC can serve a double purpose, first to conceal small drugs and also as a straw to snort cocaine.

Cans and Wrappers

Empty soda cans are great diversion safes and they can be homemade or purchased. Just unscrew the top of the can and store the stash of drugs, money and paraphernalia. If you see a soda can or food wrapper that rarely moves, or is constantly present, you may want to investigate the scene.

Personal Hygiene Items and Makeup

From lipstick tubes to lip balm, from deodorant sticks to hair product bottles, teens will empty and hollow out any item that helps them to hide their stuff. Watch out for those hygiene bottles – they are an especially easy place to store alcohol.

Vehicles

Cars are one of the most common places for teens to hide drugs. Teens often conceal marijuana in tea bags and tape them behind the dashboard, under the seats, and/or under the hood.

Bathroom Toilets and Vents

Vents are easy to remove and replace, making them an ideal spot to store items that weren't meant to be discovered.

Yes, they went there! Under the toilet tank lid is a popular place to hide drugs, as well as bathroom vents. You have to get one step ahead of your teen.

Candy Containers and Wrappers

Those Altoid tins and Lifesaver containers may pack more of a punch than just a powerful mint. Candy containers are great concealment devices, and easily accessible.

Belt Buckles

Belts aren't meant to just hold up pants anymore. Some clever kid found a way to change the buckle into a secret

compartment to hide drugs and paraphernalia. If you suspect your teen's buckle could be serving a dual purpose, flip it over and make sure the back doesn't slide off.

Posters and Wall Hangings

Pictures are worth a thousand words, but not if they're a disguise for drugs. Teens will flatten drugs and tape them behind posters and picture frames. If you notice the frame of a picture is constantly hanging crooked or the tape on the corner of a poster is peeling, it may be worth a peek just to make sure nothing is hiding behind the scene.

Books

They say don't judge a book by its cover and that's especially true if your teen has cut out the pages and created a drug safe.

Mattresses and Toys


Teens can cut holes into stuffed animals or mattresses to create a secret compartment that hides their drugs. Pay particular attention if your teen insists on taking that stuffed animal to sleepovers.

From light switches to outlet plates, don't be left in the dark with where your teen could be hiding drugs. It's important to pay close attention to the signs of drug use. If you suspect your teen is using drugs please seek professional help. If your gut is telling you that your teen is hiding something, take a closer look at those seemingly innocent items lying around the house. Ignorance is never bliss when it comes to protecting your child from drug abuse and addiction.


By Raychelle Cassada Lohmann, MS, LPCS, GCDF. Rehabs.com
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MARIJUANA USE & EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES



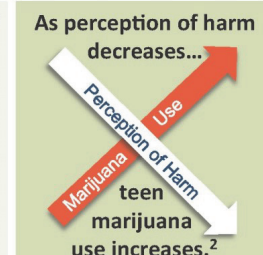
MOST MARIJUANA USE BEGINS IN ADOLESCENCE



78%


of the 2.4 million people who began using in the last year were aged 12 to 20.¹

As perception of harm decreases...



Perception of Harm Use

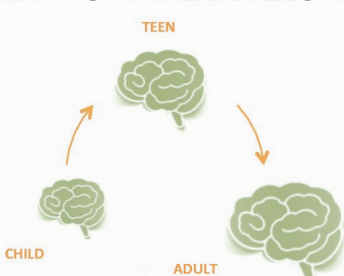
Marijuana teen marijuana use increases.²



EVERY DAY, 3,287 TEENS USE MARIJUANA FOR THE FIRST TIME¹

MARIJUANA MAY HURT THE DEVELOPING TEEN BRAIN

The teen brain is **still developing** and it is especially vulnerable to drug use.










IQ

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Regular heavy marijuana use by teens can lead to an IQ drop of up to **8 points³**

HEAVY MARIJUANA USE BY TEENS IS LINKED TO⁴:

Educational Outcomes		Life Outcomes	
 lower grades and exam scores	 less likely to graduate from HS or college	 lower satisfaction with life	 more likely to be unemployed
 less likely to enroll in college	 more likely to earn a lower income		



National Institute on Drug Abuse

¹ NSDUH, SAMHSA, 2014; ² MTE Survey; ³ Meier et al 2012; ⁴ MTE Survey; Cobb, Clark et al. 2013; Silins et al 2014; Tucker et al 2005; Homel et al. 2014; Volkow et al 2014; Ferrusson and Boden 2008; Brook et al 2013