What’s the Beef with the Reef?
Cannabis Use in Youth

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Disclosure Information

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Disclosure of relevant financial relationships:
I have no financial relationships to disclose

I will not be discussing off-label use of medications or other treatments
Objectives

- Recognize known risks from cannabis use in youth
- Become familiar with guidelines for substance use screening
- Understand importance of exploring substance use in clinical and cultural context
- Name skills in approaching cannabis youth discussion with parents versus youth
More Questions than Answers

- Cognition
- Relationship to psychiatric conditions
- Precursor to other substance use

Kids really are not simply tiny adults

and they’re not rats either
Teens Are Not Mini Adults

16-17 year-old  vs  24-28 year-old

subjective, memory, physiological and psychotomimetic effects

<satiety

inhibitory processes


Cannabinoid exposure in rat adolescence reprograms the initial behavioral, molecular, and epigenetic response to cocaine

Maria Scherma, Johanna S. Qvist, Arun Asok, Shao-shan C. Huang, Paolo Masia, Matteo Deidda, Ya B. Wei, Rajesh K. Soni, Walter Fratta, Paola Fadda, Eric R. Kandel, Denise B. Kandel, Philippe A. Melas

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences May 2020, 117 (18) 9991-10002; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1920866117

Just Says In Rats

Adolescent cannabis exposure increases heroin reinforcement in rats genetically vulnerable to addiction

Daniele Lecca a, Andrea Scifo a, Augusta Pisanu b, Valentina Valentini c, Giovanna Piras a, Annesha Sil d, Cristina Cadoni b, c, d, Gaetano Di Chiara a, d
More Questions than Answers

- Cognition
- Relationship to psychiatric conditions
- Precursor to other substance use
Always Consider Culture and Identity Context

- Age/Generation
- Disability Status (developmental)
- Disability Status (acquired)
- Religion and Spiritual Orientation
- Ethnicity
- Socioeconomic Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Indigenous Heritage
- National Origin
- Gender

Talking Points with Caregivers

- Educate caregivers first
- Connect caregivers to care if needed
- Facilitate determination of rules and expectations
- Modeling non-substance means of self-regulation and stress relief
- Role of parental self-disclosure

Summary

- Engage with parents before substance use can start
- Respect youth as experts on their own experience
- Know what the youth is reading
- Don’t jump to diagnose
- Consider use in cultural, identity, and social context
Resources


