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Marijuana

Then and Now
It's not what you think!

In the Massapequas, youth (grades 7-12) who reported using marijuana, began initial use before the age of fifteen.*

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- Today's marijuana is much more potent than it was in the past. THC content, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, has tripled its potency than from the early 1990s (NIDA 2019).
- Marijuana oils and waxes are being vaped which delivers much higher levels of THC. This presents a higher risk of negative health effects and may cause psychosis or panic attacks, leading to treatment in the emergency room. Marijuana exposure during adolescent development can cause long-term or possibly permanent adverse changes in the brain (NIDA).
- Today, almost any food (gummies, brownies, lollipops, etc.), can be infused with marijuana. The amount of THC concentration in edibles varies and consequently overdose symptoms are often more severe (US DEA).
- Approximately 1 in 10 people who use marijuana will become addicted. When they start before age 18, the rate of addiction rises to 1 in 6 (SAMHSA).



Massapequa youth (grades 7-12) report first using marijuana before the age of fifteen.*



For prevention tips, go to [mtacoalition.com](https://www.mtacoalition.com)

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*Massapequa youth statistics are cited from the New York State Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Partnership for Success Student Survey administered in September 2018 in Massapequa Public Schools grades 7-12.