



cannabis and young people

Using cannabis before age 16 can cause significant problems.

how many young people use cannabis?

- a 2005 Australian survey found 18% of school students aged 12-17 had used cannabis at least once
- 5% of 12 year olds and 32% of 17 year olds had tried cannabis
- the number of students using cannabis decreased between 1996 and 2005
- before 2007, males were more likely to use than females
- however in a national 2007 survey, males were no longer using at higher rates than females

impact on school performance

Cannabis use can cause learning difficulties and poor motivation. This may mean that people:

- have more days off
- do badly in school
- drop out of school
- leave school without any qualifications

concerns about young people using cannabis

While under the influence of cannabis, cannabis can:

- impact on memory and learning
- affect concentration
- affect movement and balance
- result in a small decrease in IQ (intelligence)

a young person with cannabis problems might experience

- mental health problems
- cannabis dependence
- relationship conflicts
- problems at home
- problems at work
- money problems
- legal issues

Take home message:

Using cannabis heavily from a young age creates problems in all areas of your life –money, relationships, family and health