

Can Marijuana Increase Your Risk for Suicide?

Why should you even ask this question? Everyone is okay, right? Wrong. Current suicide figures show that teen suicide rates have increased. Why?

Research shows a dangerous trend. According to the Colorado Violent Death Reporting System, annual teen suicides have doubled since marijuana was legalized medically. In Colorado in 2004, there were 33 suicides in teens, ages 15–18, and in 2020, there were 68.

The increase in suicides correlates with:

- Broader use of THC by teens
- Increased potency of THC
- More easily accessible THC concentrates

In Colorado in 2004, 15.2% of teen suicides, ages 15–18, had marijuana as the primary drug found in autopsies. In 2018, that figure was 38.5% of suicides.

According to the study, “The Impact of Adolescent Cannabis Use, Mood Disorder, and Lack of Education on Attempted Suicide in Young Adulthood,” out of

700 teens, ages 12-15:

- Marijuana use in those who weren't depressed before increased the risk of a suicide attempt by 7.5-fold.
- Any use of cannabis in the early adolescent period is a strong independent predictor of attempted suicide in young adulthood.

Research: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4219077

QUESTION:

Why do you think using marijuana can make teens feel more suicidal?

REFLECT

