

The Dangerous Truth About Today's Marijuana: Johnny Stack's Life and Death Story



JOHNNY'S
AMBASSADORS

for Teens

Program Description

Laura Stack's 19-year-old son, Johnny, died by suicide on November 20, 2019, after becoming delusional from dabbing high-THC marijuana concentrates. Soon afterward, Laura started a nonprofit organization, Johnny's Ambassadors, to educate parents and teens about the dangers of youth marijuana use. Before marijuana, Johnny was a computer whiz with a 4.0 GPA and a perfect math score on the SAT. After marijuana, he stole his family dog from the home and threatened to kill it without payment from his mother. Three days before his death, Johnny issued his own warning about his marijuana usage. Through this tragic tale, Stack hopes to help teens understand how marijuana can harm them.

Speaker Bio

Laura Stack is Johnny Stack's mom. After her son died by suicide because of his marijuana addiction and resulting psychosis, she now helps teens understand why today's high-potency THC products can cause problems with their brain development, the development of mental illness, and thoughts of suicide. Before Johnny died, Laura was a speaker and author for 30 years. Now, Laura sees it as her responsibility to share Johnny's warning with other teens to keep them from following Johnny's path. More than anything, Laura wants to help teens understand the science and potential harms of today's marijuana. She is determined to start a movement to get young people to #StopDabbing.

Objectives

- Who's Johnny?
- "Then" vs. "Now" marijuana
- Why do youth use marijuana?
- Is marijuana medicine?
- Adolescent brain development
- Impacts of THC use on adolescents
- Risks of mental illness, psychosis, and suicide
- How the marijuana industry markets to youth (with media examples)
- Recognizing risky situations and learning refusal skills



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