Effects of Cannabis on the Teenage Brain

Evidence ratings: 🌟
This resource has undergone expert review. See our Help/Q&A section for more details.

Year: Year 9–10, Year 11–12
Targeted Drugs: Cannabis
Tags: brain development
Time Allocated: Partial lesson (under 45mins)
Links to National Curriculum:
ACPPS072 (Yr 7–8), ACPPS073 (Yr 7–8), ACPPS076 (Yr 7–8), ACPPS095 (Yr 9–10), ACPPS096 (Yr 9–10)
Origin: Australian
Cost: Free

Developers
• Eastern Health, Turning Point, State Government Victoria
• National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC).

Available
Access Effects of Cannabis on the Teenage Brain

Summary
Video length: 4:30
This engaging animation shows how the teenage brain develops, and highlights the effects of cannabis on different brain regions, as well as its impact on behaviour. It presents complex and up-to-date neurobiological research in a way that is engaging and relevant for teenagers.

Expected Benefits
• Increased knowledge of cannabis-related effects and harms.

Evidence Base
Expert Review*:
Developed by the team that produced "Under Construction: Alcohol and the Teenage Brain", this video presents complex, scientific information in a simple and engaging way. Creative animation demonstrates the development of the brain circuitry systems responsible for learning and memory, motivation and mood, and shows how cannabis affects the wiring of these circuits. The video explains why the adolescent brain is especially vulnerable to cannabis and explores social and occupational consequences of relevance to young people. This video has the potential to be included in either a Science or PDHPE context; however we note that it does not comprehensively cover Alcohol and other Drug items in the Years 7-10 PDHPE curriculum such as assertive decision-making and support-seeking.

*Review provided by researchers at the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use.