

Did You Know?

- Cannabis-involved emergency visits among youth under 25 increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the highest rates in teens and young adults.
- Unintentional ingestions of high-THC edibles among children under 10 significantly rose, especially in 2022.
- Visits for ages 11–14 increased during the pandemic, with females showing higher rates, possibly as a way to cope with stress.
- Among 15–24-year-olds, use of potent THC products like vapes and dabs has resulted in more serious health incidents.
- The rise in ED visits may be linked to pandemic stress, increased cannabis availability, and confusing packaging.
- To help prevent these risks, safe storage of cannabis, youth-focused education, and stronger packaging laws are essential.
- Community efforts and information campaigns are crucial to keeping youth safe and reducing unintentional ingestions.

Source: Visits Among Persons Aged <25 Years Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, 2019–2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:758–765. DOI: dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7228a1.



The Mission of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) is to prevent deaths and injuries caused by chemically impaired or distracted operators of any motor vehicle or watercraft and to assist victims of these crashes in Illinois.

Contact AAIM

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Empowering Youth”

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Beyond
the Haze
The Cannabis
Conversation

Lets Get Real

Program Overview

Promoting Safe Roads: Youth Cannabis Use & Impaired Driving Prevention

Helping teens make smart, safe choices.



WHY WE DO THIS

This initiative focuses on educating high school students about the dangers of cannabis-impaired driving and the broader impacts of cannabis use on health and safety. The program emphasizes how impairing substances like cannabis, alcohol, prescription meds, and distractions affect reaction times, motor skills, and cognitive functions, increasing crash risks for everyone.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

Targeting the Illinois collar counties—DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will—as well as Chicago/Cook County. These areas encompass urban, suburban, and rural communities, ensuring broad outreach during the school year, with scheduled presentations during school hours and potential summer programs. Additionally, we are exploring opportunities to extend our outreach to other towns across Illinois to maximize impact and engagement.

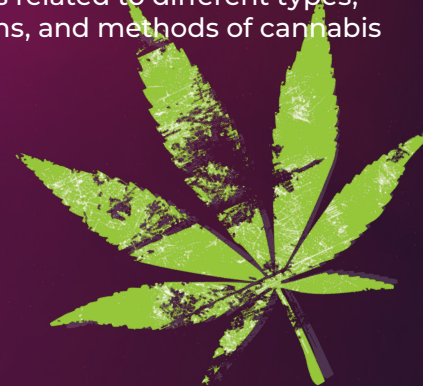


Why It Matters

- Young drivers aged 15–24 are involved in the most fatal crashes (IDOT, 2022).
- Nearly 1 in 5 fatal crashes involve drivers testing positive for drugs, mainly cannabis (IDOT, 2019).
- Cannabis use is linked to mental health issues, memory problems, and risky behaviors.
- Almost 70% of teens wrongly believe you can drive safely even if you don't feel “high.”

OUR GOALS

- Prevent fatalities and injuries among teens caused by cannabis use.
- Reduce the number of teens driving under the influence of cannabis.
- Increase awareness of the health and safety risks associated with cannabis use.
- Promote safe habits for driving, walking, biking, and ridesharing.
- Empower teens to speak up and look out for their friends and peers.
- Provide accurate information about the risks related to different types, strengths, and methods of cannabis use.



What We Do

- **Fun, Interactive Activities:** Real-time polls and quizzes to see what teens know, what they believe, and what's true.
- **Open Talk & Feedback:** Share thoughts through honest discussions and Q&A sessions—your voice matters!
- **Peer Power:** We team up with local schools, law enforcement, and youth groups to keep the safety talk alive and engaging.
- **It's Relevant & Real:** No boring lectures—just real stories, facts, and challenges that matter to teens and their life.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Join the movement! Invite AAIM to your community. Our fun, peer-friendly, customizable presentations for high schools, driver education, sports programs, teen camps, teen retreats, law enforcement, and health fairs are offered **FREE** of charge.

Call us at: **847-240-0027**
Email: **info@aaim1.org** or
Visit: **aaim1.org** to schedule a session.