

CONCLUSION

The clutter of messages about marijuana in the popular culture creates an atmosphere of confusion and sends kids mixed signals about the drug. But what should be clear is that no responsible person thinks young people should use marijuana. Kids can learn the truth about marijuana at www.freevibe.com.

Parents can help keep their children away from marijuana by letting them know its dangers, and by monitoring their activities and staying involved in their lives. For more information and useful tips about talking to kids about marijuana, visit www.theantidrug.com. Both of these Web sites are supported by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Schools and communities can also play an important role by providing activities that keep kids interested and involved in healthy, drug-free programs.

If you want to help dispel misperceptions and spread the truth about marijuana to help kids grow up drug-free, you can:

- Educate yourself about the dangers of marijuana and keep up with scientific research into its harmful effects. For a wealth of good information, visit the Web site for the National Institute on Drug Abuse at <http://www.nida.nih.gov>
- Help kids in trouble with marijuana get into drug treatment programs
- Be an advocate for better, more informed drugged-driving laws
- Support after-school programs and get involved in local anti-drug coalitions
- Stay informed about the marijuana laws in your state, and take a stand against changes in legislation that would increase the drug's availability in your community

- Support efforts to launch a student drug-testing program in your local schools
- See “What You Need to Know About Drug Testing in Schools,” available by calling 800-666-3332 and online at http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/pdf/drug_testing.pdf
- To learn more about drug and alcohol abuse, visit the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration’s National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at <http://www.health.org/> or call its 24-hour hotline: 1-800-729-6686 or 1-800-788-2800