

Volume 9
Number 12
2010-2011



HEALTH NOTES

What's With Weed

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What's With Weed is a peer education program designed to engage high school students in discussing the problematic use of marijuana, including the risks, potential problems and ways to reduce, avoid or prevent these problems. This program has been piloted in 7 Ontario schools and tested with youth leaders. Evidence shows that the peer-to-peer approach is most effective because of the common experiences of problems either from personal use or from having seen or heard about problems.

This program provides tools to address problematic marijuana use from a harm-reduction approach. According to the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (2009), 45% of students will use at least once in Grade 12 and do not view marijuana use as risky. Findings from the pilot project found that 38% of participating students changed their minds about the risks of marijuana use. This program is led by youth and supported by the Porcupine Health Unit and other treatment organizations. 73% of teachers reported that they would like the program repeated at their schools.

To view the full report and evaluation of this project, visit www.parentactionondrugs.org.

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