States that have legalized retail cannabis have seen an increase in teen use and a 25% increase in teen addiction due to the perception that using cannabis is normal and safe. As a result, it is important for parents to be aware of the risks of cannabis for youth and to talk early and often to their children about avoiding all substance use while underage.

Research shows that cannabis affects brain development in youth, is more addictive for youth than for adults, and exacerbates mental health problems (anxiety, depression and even psychosis). The most dangerous forms of cannabis are concentrates, which deliver very high strength THC to the brain and lungs. Since youth and young adults who use cannabis are more likely to vape it, they may be using concentrates up to 97% pure THC–especially when purchased over the internet.

In addition, parents should be aware of the risk of overdose incidents when the drug has been combined with food or drink in an "edible" form of marijuana. This is because marijuana in edible products can have very high levels of concentrated THC, yet may take up to 1 ½ or 2 hours for the effects to be felt, during which time the individual may continue to consume the product. When ingested in this manner, cannabis can have a stronger and prolonged effect sometimes requiring hospitalization. Edibles and drinks can be tempting to children because they may look like bakery products, candies or sodas. Children may mistake "edible" marijuana (like gummy bears, brownies, lollipops, etc.) for regular food and eat it unknowingly. It’s important for young children to be taught not to eat anything without permission from a trusted adult.