

What?

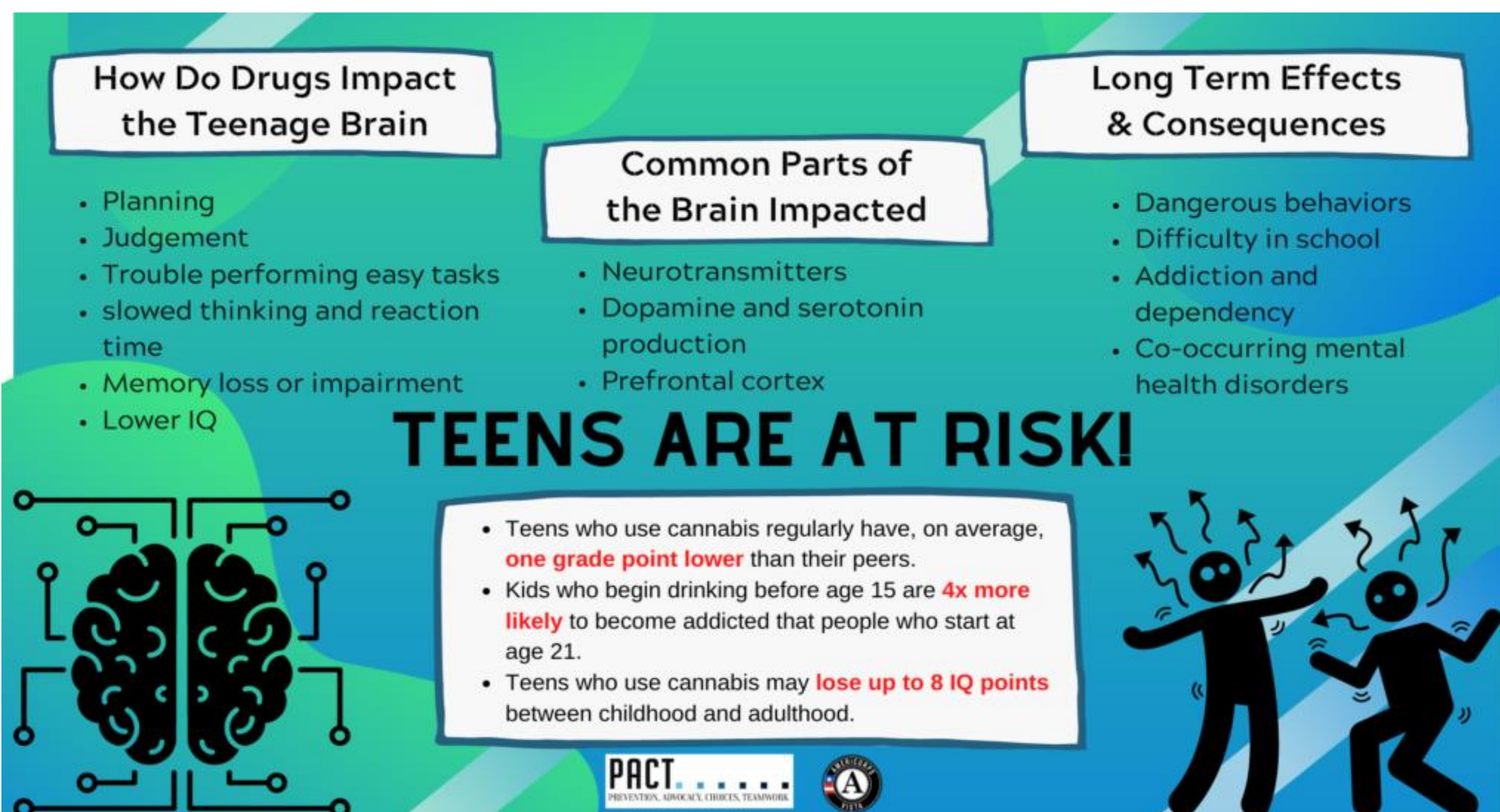
- Current local data on substance use amongst teenagers in Pitt County is limited and outdated.
- The mission of the Pitt County Coalition on Substance Use is to create a community where youth reject substance uses.
- Important issues addressed by PCCSU is
 - Need for parental awareness and education about substance use
 - Socio-cultural influence on substance use.
 - Negative impact of substance use on the community.

So What?

- Youth drug abuse is a high public health concern.
- Overdose deaths in individuals aged 15-24 years old has quadrupled.
- In North Carolina
 - 8.14% of teens use drugs
 - 9.15% of teens use drink alcohol
- High-risk drug use in youth increase likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors.
- Schools, parents, families and community organizations can help prevent high-risk drug use.

Now What?

- Collect updated statistics on substance use locally
- Engagement with PCCSU Youth Team to encourage peer education
- Plan, prepare and host the PCCSU Youth Summit in the spring of 2025 focused on:
 - Youth empowerment
 - Mental health
 - Education on substance use
 - Parent resource fair



How Do Drugs Impact the Teenage Brain

- Planning
- Judgement
- Trouble performing easy tasks
- slowed thinking and reaction time
- Memory loss or impairment
- Lower IQ

Common Parts of the Brain Impacted

- Neurotransmitters
- Dopamine and serotonin production
- Prefrontal cortex

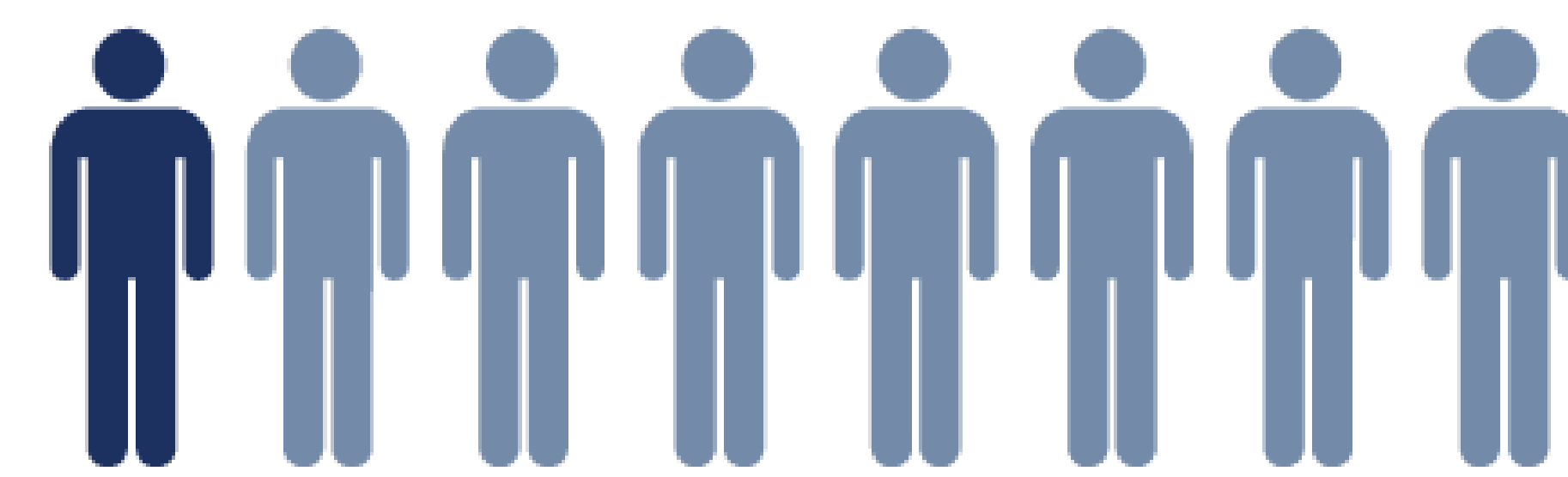
Long Term Effects & Consequences

- Dangerous behaviors
- Difficulty in school
- Addiction and dependency
- Co-occurring mental health disorders

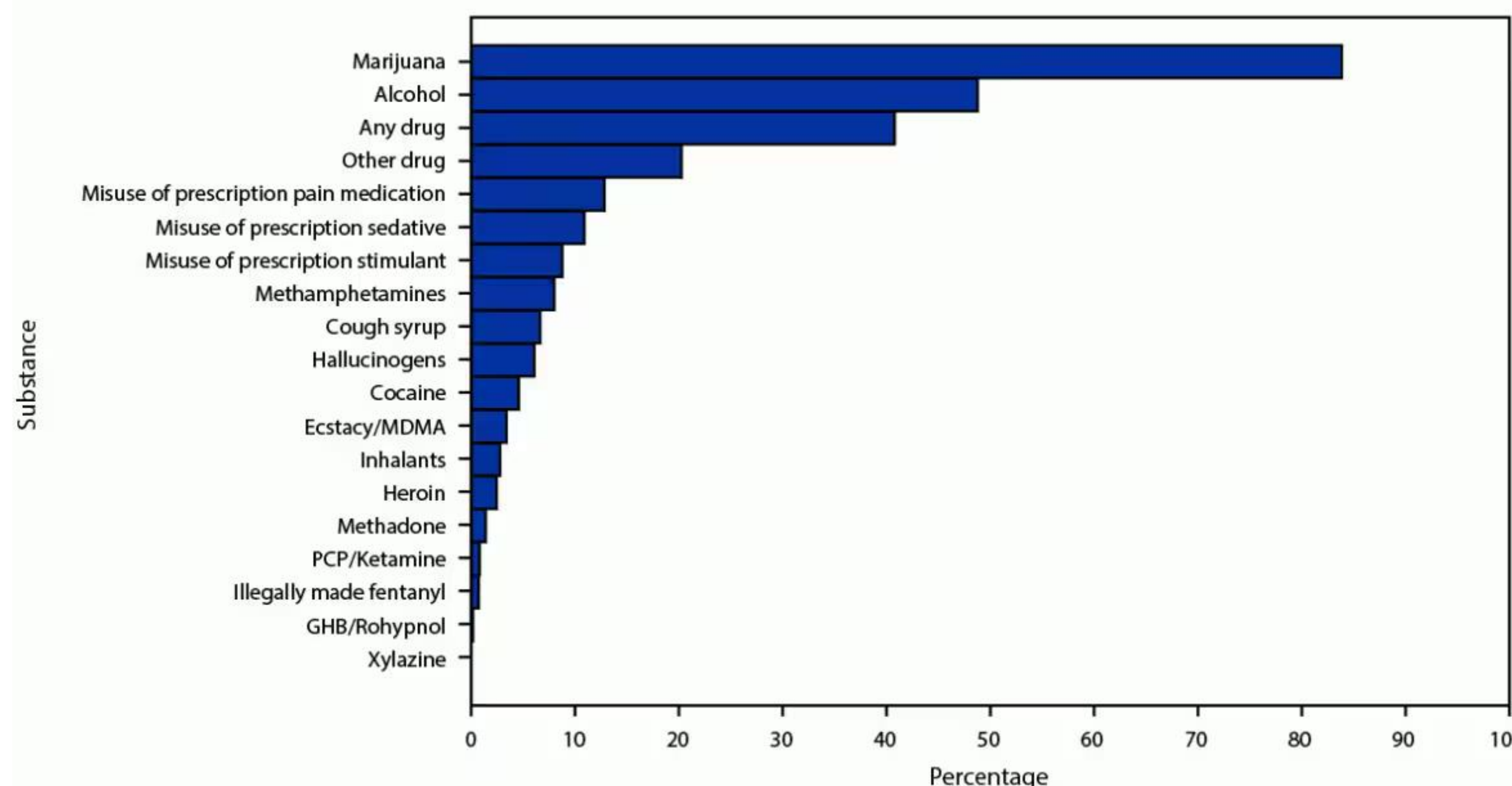
TEENS ARE AT RISK!

- Teens who use cannabis regularly have, on average, **one grade point lower** than their peers.
- Kids who begin drinking before age 15 are **4x more likely** to become addicted than people who start at age 21.
- Teens who use cannabis may **lose up to 8 IQ points** between childhood and adulthood.

PACT
 PREVENTION, AWARENESS, COMMUNITY, TRAINING



1 in 8 teenagers abused an illicit drug within the last year



Scan me to visit the PCCSU website!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Table 1: Percentage of substance used within past 30 days of persons aged 13-18.