



December 2013

Educative outcome	At the completion of this activity, students will demonstrate increased knowledge of normative data relating to cannabis, alcohol and tobacco use in Australia
Task	Students mingle to test each other's knowledge of cannabis using question cards they retain if answered correctly
Duration	15 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 1: question and answer cards, cut out and folded in half, taped or stapled together for students • Worksheet 1: question and answer cards, cut into separate questions and answers for students if conducting alternative activity • Worksheet 2: reflective worksheet, if desired for students

Introduction:

Introduce the topic with an interactive discussion asking students whether they know how many people in our society and in secondary schools use drugs. Discussion might include questions like: "How do we know how many people use tobacco? Alcohol? Cannabis? Other illicit substances? Where do we get this information from?"

Discuss credible sources of information (for example NCPIC website, National Drug Strategy Household Survey, Australian Secondary School Survey, etc.)

Activity:

- Each student is provided with five cards that contain a question on one side and answer on the other (Worksheet 1)
- Students 'mingle' with the rest of the class
- When a sound is heard, the students stop where they are and pair up with the person closest to them. The first student asks the second student the question they have on their card. Once the second student has attempted to answer, the first student provides them with the correct answer. If the student answered the question correctly, they collect that card. Conversely, if they get it wrong, the first person keeps the card. This process is reciprocated
- The 'mingling' begins again. The process is repeated four more times
- After five exchanges, see who has managed to collect the most cards
- Facilitate a whole of class discussion reflecting on some of the information that was discovered. Ask if students can remember one or more of the statement/answer cards they came across during the exercise
- The reflective worksheet may be given to students to fill in if desired

This activity has been adapted from the *Get Wise Package* (2000) Victoria Department of Education, Employment and Training.

Summary and concluding remarks:

- Ask students 'Why do you think we did this activity today?' The key message is that most young people do not use cannabis
- Whole of class discussion may raise issues regarding perception verses fact. Students are asked:
 - 'Were you surprised by any of the facts you discovered?'
 - 'Why do you think most young people don't use cannabis?'
- For a more critical analysis, it could also be useful to point out that these figures were from two main sources (a national household survey and the Australian secondary schools survey) and to discuss some of the advantages and disadvantages of this type of data

Alternatives

- Students are divided into small groups and provided with five question and five answer cards. Their task is to match the question cards to the correct answer cards. Each group reports their answers back to the group and the correct answers are discussed. Use Worksheet 1 for this activity and cut each question separately from its answer. Keep a hardcopy of the whole worksheet for yourself intact to identify the answers
- Use an interactive white board, whereby students match the correct question and answer moving the questions around

Extensions

- Ask students to critique the source of data by considering some of the implications around the NDSHS and the Australian Secondary School Survey. Methodological issues might include self-reporting, accuracy, honesty, access to young people in the NDSHS is limited to those living at home, and so on
- Students discuss the impact of new information and how this affects drug use in society. For instance, drug use trends might change according to discoveries regarding the harms a drug can cause (e.g. there has been a decrease in smoking cigarettes due to increased knowledge and public perception about the harms from tobacco)



Key messages for communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most young people do not try or use cannabis
Activity Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity focuses on statistics about alcohol and other drug use in Australia, with a focus on cannabis use among young people. This activity normalises non-use and therefore focuses information on the larger majority of people who do not try or use cannabis. It uses data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey Report 2010 and the Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2011.

For more information please access these NCPIC fact sheets and other resources

- [‘What is cannabis?’ factsheet](#)
- [‘Cannabis and young people’ factsheet](#)
- [Australian secondary school students’ use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2011](#)
- [National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 2010](#)
- See also: *Information for Teachers* in this package (downloadable PDF on website)

