



The Meaning of the November Ballot Initiative to Legalize Recreational Marijuana

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, Michigan citizens will be asked whether they want to legalize recreational marijuana. Medical marijuana was made legal in 2008, and voting "NO" on this proposal will not affect medical marijuana.

You need to understand **what this ballot initiative means**, and what it **does not address**.

This Proposal Will:

1. Allow the highest per person marijuana possession limit of any state in the nation.

- Adults will be able to possess 10 ounces or approximately 600-880 joints at home and 2.5 ounces of personal possession in public.
- Adults will also be allowed to have 12 plants in their home (12 plants per adult).
- In the seven states that have legalized recreational marijuana, the personal possession limit is 1 ounce. The exception is Maine, which allows 2.5 ounces for personal possession. Massachusetts allows the possession of 10 ounces of harvested marijuana at home.
- **Michigan would allow possession in both categories - at home and personal possession.**

2. Aggressively advance an agenda without easy citizen regulation. If initiative passes on November 6, **every Michigan community - whether their members want it or not - will be open for "marijuana business" as of January 2019. Towns will be forced to allow recreational marijuana businesses until they choose to "opt-out".**

- Every community means - every municipality or township in Michigan.
- Business refers to commercial growing and retail shops.
- To opt-out or limit the number of recreational marijuana businesses in your community, an individual in the community must petition to initiate an ordinance to "opt out" of the law, after it goes into effect. Said individual must gather 5% of voter signatures from the last governor election, and create a ballot proposal for a regularly held election (cannot be a special election), and get enough community support to pass the initiative at the next election.

3. It will not regulate like alcohol: there is limited specified regulations. The penalty for selling to minors is vaguely stated.

- Also, if a young person, ages 18 to 20 (under the age of legal purchase, possession, and use in this proposal) is ticketed, they need not be advised or required to take drug education or counseling.

4. It will allow the transfer (or giving) of 2.5 ounces of marijuana to *someone else without any regulation*.

5. This initiative does not regulate the potency of marijuana.

- Today's drug is much more potent - containing up to 2 to 7.5 times more THC, the addictive chemical compound in marijuana, than in the 1980s.
- The THC level in highly potent marijuana edibles (80% to 99% THC) is not regulated.

6. This initiative has unforeseen consequences for Michigan businesses and the economy.

- Expect decreased work safety and productivity with workers under the influence.
- Expect an increase in absenteeism (employees not showing up to work).
- Expect decreased workforce with applicants (and workers) that can't pass a drug test, etc.
- The US Navy estimates each drug user costs his or her employer an average of \$6,600 more than non-substance using coworkers
- In accordance with the National Drug Control Policy, the estimated national cost of lost worker productivity including absenteeism and poor job performance due to illicit drug use was 129 billion dollars.

7. Increases Law Enforcement's Job.

- This will make it difficult for police to prove a driver is under the influence of marijuana.
- This will affect enforcement and potentially accident liability and insurance rates.
- The PER/SE (BAC of .08+) criterion for driving under the influence of alcohol will not apply.

This Proposal Will Not:

1. The ballot initiative does not address possible dangerous *additives* to marijuana cigarettes.
2. This ballot initiative does not prohibit marijuana and alcohol sale and consumption in the same place of business (it allows consumption at the site of purchase). This further raises concerns about car crashes and fatalities, given the potential for drugged/drunk driving.
3. This ballot initiative does not allow citizens to FOIA Information to discover who owns/operates a grow establishment, even if the business creates a public nuisance.
4. This ballot initiative does not allow marijuana use/addiction to be used as a factor in determining child custody.

To learn more about this topic and to join our efforts to STOP the legalization of recreational marijuana in November in Michigan please visit our website today!

Sign up and learn more: www.HealthyandProductiveMI.org

Additional Q & A

Q1: WHAT IS THE CURRENT LAW WHEN IT COMES TO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IN MICHIGAN?

A1: It is currently illegal both on the federal and Michigan state level. Marijuana is a Schedule One controlled substance. Substances in this schedule currently have no accepted medical use in the United States. There is a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and a high potential for abuse. Many cities, townships, and counties have designated marijuana possession as a civil infraction i.e. a ticket.

Q2: WHAT IS THE CURRENT LAW WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA?

A2: Medical marijuana was made legal in Michigan in 2008. If an individual has a medical marijuana card, they can consume marijuana within the guidelines of the law and not be prosecuted by the state. *This ballot initiative however is regarding recreational marijuana not medical.*

Q3: WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA TO BE LAW IN MY TOWN, COMMUNITY, OR NEIGHBORHOOD?

A3: The ballot initiative, if passes, will make it law and you will have to get your town leadership to opt out of the law.

Q4: IF THIS NOVEMBER 6 BALLOT INITIATIVE PASSES, HOW CAN WE ADD REGULATIONS INTO IT?

A4: The Michigan Legislature will need to amend the law. As recently experienced in the case of Medical Marijuana in Michigan, **it could likely take up to 10 years for changes and additional regulations to be put in place.**

Q5: IF THIS BALLOT INITIATIVE PASSES, HOW SOON WILL IT GO INTO EFFECT?

A5: January 1, 2019

Q6: IF IT PASSES WILL CITIZENS HAVE ANY RECOURSE TO STOP THIS?

A6: No. The Michigan Legislature would need to overturn the law with a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote (i.e. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Legislative Body in each chamber would have to agree). Even changing anything as small as a comma to the policy will require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the State Senate and House members.

Q7: WHO ARE THE PEOPLE THAT ARE FUNDING THIS BALLOT INITIATIVE TO MAKE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGAL IN MICHIGAN? WHO WANTS TO MAKE THIS POLICY LAW?

A7: Marijuana Policy Project based out of Washington DC is the "bank" pertaining to funding. They could be filtering money from bad businessmen and out-of-state businesses that want to come to Michigan and profit by marketing to our youth and communities.

Q8: HOW WILL LAW ENFORCEMENT MAKE SURE USERS FOLLOW THE LAW?

A8: It will be very challenging for law enforcement, as there is not a reliable impairment test in the instance of impaired driving. Law enforcement will also have the obstacle of enforcing personal possession limits of marijuana, and underage sales and distribution of marijuana, as well as marijuana in the school systems.

Q9: WOULDN'T IT HELP LAW ENFORCEMENT TO MAKE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGAL? THEY WILL HAVE LESS THINGS TO MONITOR, WON'T THEY?

A9: The ballot proposal allows 2.5 ounces on your person and 10 ounces at home, and 12 plants at home. **Law enforcement will have to monitor that people follow the law in regards to possession limits and approved locations for use.**

With an increase in marijuana-impaired driving accidents and fatalities, law enforcement will have the issue of identifying and enforcing impaired driving identification. Law enforcement will also likely have to deal with large crime organizations like cartel moving to Michigan to operate in our communities where it is legal and easier to market and transport to states where marijuana is not legal.

If this passes, it will most assuredly make law enforcement's job *harder not more simple*.

Q10: WHERE WILL YOU BE ABLE TO BUY OR OBTAIN RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA?

A10: A provisioning center will be able to set up shop in *any* Michigan community as the ballot language is written that a community has to opt-out (as a community) if they do not want it.

Because marijuana is illegal federally, where Michigan citizens would obtain their marijuana is in question. It seems that in order to buy marijuana seeds a business owner or citizen that would wish to grow marijuana, would have to turn to the black market (funding terrorism and other crimes).

Q11: WILL THERE BE ANY SORT OF REGULATIONS FOR HOME USE?

A11: 10 ounces at home and 12 plants as well as 15 grams of 99% THC concentrates. There will be no recourse for neighbors to influence whether their neighbors set up shop or smoke it as it will be a "legal substance." **If smoke from a neighbors use goes onto your property where your children play you will have no recourse.**

Q12: WHO WILL BE MONITORING TO MAKE SURE HOMES ONLY HAVE 12 PLANTS PER ADULT?

A12: Local law enforcement and prosecutors. Michigan's State Licensing Bureau (LARA) will be responsible for regulating but not enforcing.

Q13: ARE THERE ANY REGULATIONS OF A HOMEOWNER SELLING MARIJUANA OUT OF THEIR HOUSE?

A13: No - an individual can transfer 2.5 ounces without any regulation whatsoever (i.e. no ID, taxes or payment will be necessary for an exchange of hands). Yes it will be the wild wild west.

Q14: WON'T THE TAXES FROM THE SALE OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA HELP OUR ECONOMY?

A14: The costs far outweigh the 'proposed' benefits. Even a conservative estimate of a few projected economic and social *costs* of marijuana legalization total 61.2 million for 2020, exceeding the revenues projected by pro-legalization activists. ([Click here to read more.](#))

Q15: RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA, IF MADE LEGAL, WILL PROVIDE JOBS TO THE COMMUNITY, RIGHT?

A15: It will hurt our economy, workforce, *and employers*. The costs will include employers not being able to hire employees who can't pass a drug test, and big businesses potentially leaving Michigan. ([Read this from MI Chamber.](#))

Q16: HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY INCARCERATED BECAUSE OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BEING ILLEGAL?

A16: Recent discussion with the MI Prosecutors Association, 6 (yes six) people were in prison for marijuana related offences. We support that there is a better alternative to incarceration, and people should not go to jail for using marijuana. But this ballot initiative is not a good alternative.

Q17: MARIJUANA IS JUST A PLANT! DON'T YOU THINK IT IS WRONG TO MAKE PLANT USE, OF ANY KIND, ILLEGAL?

A17: Poison Ivy is also a plant and natural, would you smoke that? Heroin is derived from poppy plants, cocaine from coca leaves. This argument that some are making is not sustainable.

Q18: DOESN'T LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA CONTRIBUTE TO FREEDOM?

A18: Not when a market is emerging that is profiting from addiction and making products that are targeting our youth - that is a public health problem.

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TALKING POINTS

WHY LEGALIZED RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS BAD FOR MICHIGAN

Here are talking points to use when conveying to your fellow voters for why recreational marijuana should NOT be made legal in Michigan, on the November 2018 ballot.

THE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA INDUSTRY TARGETS OUR YOUTH

- **The Marijuana Industry Deceives Our Youth:** They not only come up with gummy bears to entice young people (remember that's how they make their money) but they target people whose brains are developing to create lifelong customers.
- **They Distract Families - in Midst of Opioid Crisis:** They manage to convince people in the midst of an opioid epidemic that making more drugs more accessible isn't really that bad. Which of course, when you think logically, doesn't make any sense.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA MAKES FOR DANGEROUS DRIVERS

- **Police Officers will Not be Able to Control Drugged Driving:** People using recreational marijuana will continue to drive. As the drug influences senses, it will influence alertness and safety in driving. If Police Officers pull someone over from impaired driving, they will have no way of gauging, testing, or disciplining drivers for irresponsible behavior pertaining to recreational marijuana use.
- **Drugged Driving Endangers Other Drivers:** In Washington state, marijuana-impaired driving fatalities have more than doubled. One in five drivers are under the influence of marijuana. That is up from one in 10 prior to legalization. 64.2% of respondents who reported using marijuana and driving, stated they didn't think it impaired their ability to drive at all (Source: Washington Traffic Safety Commission).

TODAY'S MARIJUANA IS NOT THE MARIJUANA YOUR PARENTS USED

- **Marijuana Concentrates Can Now Contain Up to 90% THC** (the active ingredient in marijuana). With newer high potency THC, we are seeing increased hospitalizations and mental health concerns.
- **Marijuana as Plant Matter Can Now Contain Up to 25% THC.** Marijuana in the 1960's, in the same form, contained less than 1% THC.
- Michigan citizens will be allowed to possess up to 15 grams of marijuana concentrate, 2.5 ounces of plant matter on their person, 10 ounces of plant matter at home, and 12 plants at home, **giving Michiganders the highest possession limit in the nation.**

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA INCREASES CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- **Who is Your Neighbor? With Recreational Marijuana Legalization, It Could Be the Drug Cartel:** Police in Colorado have documented that cartel organizations are purchasing homes and setting up drug operations in Colorado. The reason is simple: it is easier for them to operate where marijuana is legal, and the prices can be undercut.
- The Colorado Attorney General (where recreational marijuana has been legal for 6 years now) Cynthia Coffman stated, "**The criminals are still selling on the black market. We have plenty of illegal activity that has not decreased at all.**" (2/23/15 US News)

WHY LEGALIZED RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS BAD FOR MICHIGAN

(Recreational Marijuana Increases Criminal Activity cont.)

- **A Black Market Exists When Regulated Prices Can Be Undercut.** When you tax and regulate something in a very draconian way, as this is being proposed, legality does not remove the black market.

THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION.

- **False Comparison:** We are being presented with this false dichotomy that when it comes to recreational marijuana we either have to legalize it or people will be incarcerated for using it.
- **The Answer is Not Tobacco 2.0:** We don't want people to go to prison for smoking marijuana, but the answer to that isn't Big Tobacco 2.0. The answer to that is increased education and awareness campaigns.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

It is imperative that Michigan citizens understand that Medical marijuana was made legal in Michigan in 2008. This ballot initiative is about recreational marijuana and nothing about influencing medical marijuana.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS NOT GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY

- **Recreational Marijuana Will Hurt Local Economies:** In business communities, the unemployment rate hovers between 4.3% and 4.5%. There is a need and a want for entry level, and skilled trades jobs. Recreational marijuana legalization will make hiring practices harder for employers
- **It Will Discourage Businesses** from relocating to Michigan, or staying in Michigan.
- **Employers Will Not Be Protected:** There are no explicit statutory protections for employers, and no easy impairment test when it comes to employers confronting potential (or current) employees on marijuana use. Open-ended liability will be an issue.



Questions? Email us at
info@healthyandproductivemi.org



Join us! Sign up at:
healthyandproductivemi.org/volunteer

More resources: healthyandproductivemi.org

OUR GOAL WITH HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE MICHIGAN IS:

Awareness: To inform public policy with the science of today's marijuana.

Reform: To have honest conversations about legal reforms that include reducing the unintended consequences of current marijuana policies, such as lifelong stigma due to arrest.

Prevention: To prevent the establishment of Big Marijuana that would market marijuana to children and to prevent Big Tobacco from taking over Big Marijuana. Those are the very likely results of legalization.

Research: To promote research on marijuana in order to obtain FDA-approved, pharmacy-dispensed, cannabis-based medications.



HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE

michigan



A new report says Michigan's auto insurance rates are still the **highest in the nation** (ZEBRA). The average annual auto premium in Michigan is about \$2,600 which is nearly twice the national average.

Legalized recreational marijuana makes it difficult for police to prove a driver is under the influence of marijuana affecting enforcement, accident liability and insurance rates.

Marijuana-impaired driving fatalities have surged in states with legal recreational marijuana:

- One in five drivers are under the influence of marijuana, up from one in ten prior to legalization (Washington Traffic Safety Commission)
- Since legalization in Colorado there has been a 66% increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths (Rocky Mountain HIDTA)

States that legalized recreational marijuana saw an increase of 16% in average auto insurance premiums the year after legislation passed, as compared to the year prior.



Colorado saw a 33% and Nevada saw a 40% increase in average yearly premiums within the year prior and year after legalization passed.



HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE

michigan



Marijuana legalization has led to massive increases in youth exposure to the substance, according to the 2017 annual toxic trend report compiled by the Washington Poison Center.

Colorado leads the country in past-month youth marijuana use (HHS)

25% of 12th Graders are likely to use marijuana if legalized (Monitoring the future)

High potency marijuana edibles are marketed to children, and are the most prevalent form of marijuana on the market today



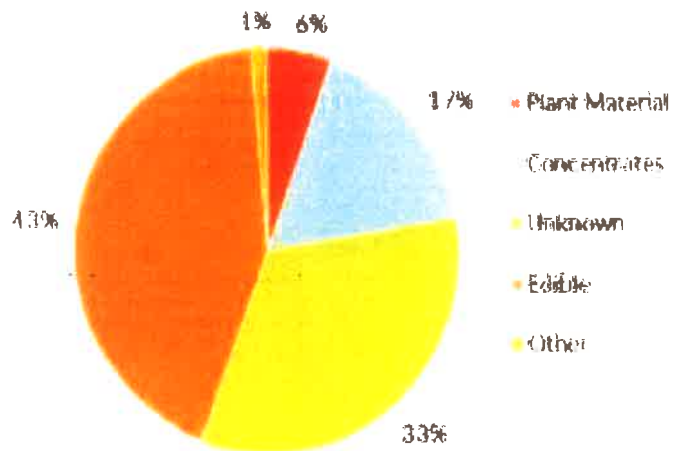
Marijuana potency has increased 36 times since the 70s.

Big tobacco saw to be successful in generating lifelong consumers they needed to market to youth under the age of 18. Big marijuana is using the same tactic

Dangerous high potency marijuana has already affected families in Michigan. Henry MacDougall a junior in high school was given high potency marijuana, allowed to drive home and tragically passed away in an auto accident.

#peoplebeforeprofits

Types of Cannabis





www.michiganpreventionassociation.org

Proposal to "Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol"

Michigan Proposal to Legalize Recreational Marijuana in 2018

1. **ALLOWS THE HIGHEST PER PERSON POSSESSION LIMIT OF ANY STATE IN THE NATION** – 10 ounces or approximately 600-880 joints at home and/or 2.5 ounces personal possession in public. In the 7 states that have legalized recreational marijuana, the personal possession limit is 1 ounce. The exception is Maine, which allows 2.5 ounces for personal possession. Massachusetts allows the possession of 10 ounces of harvested marijuana at home. **Michigan would allow possession in both categories – at home and personal possession.**
2. **EVERY MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE WOULD BE FORCED TO ALLOW RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BUSINESSES (COMMERCIAL GROWING AND/OR RETAIL SHOPS) UNLESS THEY HELD AN ELECTION TO "OPT OUT"**. To opt-out or limit the number of recreational marijuana businesses, an individual in the community must petition to initiate an ordinance, gather 5% of voter signatures from the last governor election, and create a ballot proposal for a regularly held election (cannot be a special election). **In Massachusetts, communities across the state are currently struggling to keep retail marijuana out because of the "opt out" provision in the legalization proposal approved there.**
3. **DESPITE ITS NAME, THIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT "REGULATE LIKE ALCOHOL", THERE IS LIMITED SPECIFIED REGULATION AND THE PENALTY FOR SELLING TO MINORS IS VAGUELY STATED.** In addition, if a young person, ages 18 to 20 (under the age of legal purchase, possession, and use in this proposal) is ticketed they need not be advised or required to take drug education or counseling.
4. **ALLOWS THE TRANSFER OF 2.5 OUNCES OF MARIJUANA TO SOMEONE ELSE WITHOUT ANY REGULATION.**
5. **DOESN'T REGULATE THE POTENCY OF MARIJUANA.** **Today's drug is much more potent** - containing up to 3 to 7.5 times more THC, the addictive chemical compound in marijuana, than in the 1980s. The THC level in highly potent marijuana edibles (80% to 90% THC) is not regulated.
6. **HAS UNFORSEEN CONSEQUENCES FOR BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY**, e.g. decreased work safety and productivity with workers under the influence, absenteeism, decreased work force with applicants (and workers) that can't pass a drug test, etc.
7. **MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR POLICE TO PROVE A DRIVER IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA, EFFECTING ENFORCEMENT AND POTENTIALLY ACCIDENT LIABILITY AND INSURANCE RATES.** The PER/SE* (BAC of .08+) criterion for driving under the influence of alcohol will not apply. (See Page 2 for an explanation of "Per se" laws related to alcohol.)

IN ADDITION, THIS PROPOSAL...

- **DOESN'T ADDRESS POSSIBLE DANGEROUS ADDITIVES TO MARIJUANA CIGARETTES.**
- **DOESN'T PROHIBIT MARIJUANA AND ALCOHOL SALE AND CONSUMPTION IN THE SAME PLACE OF BUSINESS AND ALLOWS CONSUMPTION AT THE SITE OF PURCHASE.** This further raises concerns about car crashes and fatalities, given the potential for drugged/drunken driving.
- **DOESN'T ALLOW CITIZENS TO FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) INFORMATION TO DISCOVER WHO OWNS/OPERATES A GROW ESTABLISHMENT, EVEN IF THE BUSINESS CREATES A PUBLIC NUISANCE.**
- **DOESN'T ALLOW MARIJUANA USE/ADDICTION TO BE USED AS A FACTOR IN DETERMINING CUSTODY.**

Professional Organizations That Oppose the Use and Legalization of Marijuana:

- **The American Academy of Pediatrics** www.aap.org
- **The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry** www.aacap.org
- **US Office of National Drug Control Policy** www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp
- **The American Society of Addiction Medicine** www.asam.org
- **Community of Anti-Drug Coalitions of America** www.cadca.org

Marijuana & Your Business

Deciding to legalize marijuana is more than a personal-choice issue. It impacts businesses in three specific areas:

Workforce Readiness

Workplace Operations

Legal Consideration

Think you're prepared? Marijuana use compromises a number of cognitive behaviors including



Hand-eye Coordination



Judgment



Depth Perception



Reaction Time

Statistics show that with availability comes more use.

Marijuana Positivity Increase Year-Over-Year

	2012-2013	2013-2014
U.S. Workplace	5%*	14.3%*
Colorado	20%	14%
Washington	23%	16%

*Includes states with and without legalization

Quintessential, 2015

If marijuana is legal could you answer these questions?

- Will you be able to find/qualified employees capable of passing a pre-employment drug test?
- Will you be able to make hiring and firing decisions based on a positive marijuana drug test?
- Will you be able to provide a safe work environment for your employees?
- Will you be able to test for marijuana?
- How will you know if an employee is okay to perform work duties?
- Can your drug-free workplace policy prohibit employees from using marijuana?
- Will you have to accommodate an employee's medical marijuana use?
- How will your insurance – workers' compensation, unemployment, liability, etc. – be affected?
- Will you have to pay for damage done by an employee under the influence of marijuana?
- Will you have to pay for medical marijuana treatment?
- What accommodations will have to be made for out-of-state workers?
- How will you navigate the conflict between state and federal law?
- What ADA and disability accommodations will you be required to make?
- Will you have to accommodate marijuana use in the workplace?
- Can you comply with OSHA requirements?

We are entering into unexplored territory. Because there is a lot of gray area with this issue, decisions you make may result in a higher cost of doing business, e.g., acquiring workforce, maintaining productivity, fighting legal battles, and paying insurance costs.

Call to action:

- Be attentive to how proposed legislation will impact your business **BEFORE** marijuana is legalized.
- Help your workforce understand how legalization could impact their work life.



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What **PARENT** Every **VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION** SHOULD KNOW ABOUT **MARIJUANA** & How it Affects Our Youth

RISKY BUSINESS

Chronic adolescent users (at least 1x per week) are:

(Fergusson & Boden; Riggs)

80% more likely to become **welfare dependent** by age 25.

Regardless of how you feel about **marijuana**, it is still **bad** for youth.

72% more likely to be **unemployed** as an adult.



Will earn on average **23%** less than non-users as an adult.

178% less likely to earn their **college degree** than non-users.

Use of **marijuana** during adolescence...



- Quadruples the **risk** of developing **psychosis** (i.e. hallucinations and schizophrenia). (Hallfors et al)
- Doubles the **risk** of developing depression or **bipolar disorder**. (Di Forti, M. et al)

IT'S NO LONGER JUST A JOINT

5x

Today's **marijuana** has 217% more of the psychoactive ingredient **THC** - than it did in 1995. (ElSohly)

Looking for a hidden joint?

You may not find it that easy.

Youth can hide **marijuana** in e-cigarettes, or smoke pipes acting as Hi-Liters or markers.



Marijuana now comes in multiple, more **concentrated** forms - including **candy, cookies, waxes, dabs, and oils**. (Rocky Mountain HIDTA)

Concentrated marijuana EDIBLES, OILS, AND WAXES are **50-90% THC**. (ElSohly)

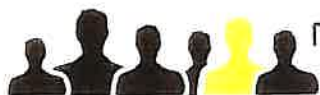
FAST FACTS



9% of youth ages 12-17 used **marijuana** in the last 30 days. (MIPHY)

14

the average age Allegan County youth start using **marijuana** (MIPHY)



1 in 6 teens who use **marijuana** become **addicted**. (NIDA)

- In 2014, **THC** extraction labs were the cause of **32 home explosions** in Colorado. Extracting the **THC** from the buds and leaves of the plant increase product potency, but the process of extracting **THC** is as flammable as a **methamphetamine** lab. (Rocky Mountain HIDTA)

Paid for by Drug Free Communities Grant Funds.

Law Enforcement View of Impacts of Legalization in Colorado

Following are excerpts from the conclusions of the 2016 RM-HIDTA report (4th Volume) on the Impacts of legalized marijuana use in Colorado. Bold members are in original text.

Section 1 – Impaired Driving:

Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 48 percent in the three-year average (2013-2015) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the three-year average (2010-2012) prior to legalization. During the same time, all traffic deaths increased 11 percent.

Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 62 percent from 71 to 115 persons after recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013.

In 2009, Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths involving operators testing positive for marijuana represented 10 percent of all traffic fatalities. By 2015, that number doubled to 21 percent.

Section 2 – Youth Marijuana Use:

Youth past month marijuana use increased 20 percent in the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the two-year average prior to legalization (2011/2012). Nationally youth past month marijuana use declined 4 percent during the same time.

The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado youth ranked #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #4 in 2011/2012 and #14 in 2005/2006.

Colorado youth past month marijuana use for 2013/2014 was 74 percent higher than the national average compared to 39 percent higher in 2011/2012.

Section 3 – Adult Marijuana Use:

College-age past month marijuana use increased 17 percent in the two-year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the two-year average prior to legalization (2011/2012). Nationally college-age past month marijuana use increased 2 percent during the same time.

The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado college age adults ranked #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #3 in 2011/2012 and #8 in 2005/2006.

Colorado college age past month marijuana use for 2013/2014 was 62 percent higher than the national average compared to 42 percent higher in 2011/2012.

Adult past-month marijuana use increased 63 percent in the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recre-

ational marijuana compared to the two-year average prior to legalization (2011/2012). Nationally adult past month marijuana use increased 21 percent during the same time.

The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado adults ranked #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #7 in 2011/2012 and #8 in 2005/2006.

Colorado adult past month marijuana use for 2013/2014 was 104 percent higher than the national average compared to 51 percent higher in 2011/2012.

Section 4 – Emergency Department Marijuana and Hospital Marijuana-Related Admissions:

Colorado Emergency Department visits per year related to marijuana: 2013 – 14,148; 2014 – 18,255

Emergency Department rates likely related to marijuana increased 49 percent in the two-year average (2013-2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the two-year average prior to legalization (2011-2012).

Number of hospitalizations related to marijuana: 2011 – 6,305; 2012 – 6,715; 2013 – 8,272; 2014 – 11,439

Hospital rates likely related to marijuana increased 32 percent in the two-year average (2013-2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the two-year average prior to legalization (2011-2012).

Section 5 – Marijuana-Related Exposure:

Marijuana-related exposures increased 100 percent in the three-year average (2013-2015) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the three-year average (2010-2012) prior to legalization.

Marijuana-only exposures increased 155 percent in the three-year average (2013-2015) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the three-year average (2010-2012) prior to legalization.

Section 6 – Treatment:

Marijuana treatment data from Colorado in years 2005 – 2015 does not appear to demonstrate a definitive trend. Colorado averages approximately 6,500 treatment admissions annually for marijuana abuse.

Over the last ten years, the top three drugs involved in treatment admissions, in descending order, were alcohol (average 13,382), marijuana (average 6,652) and methamphetamine (average 5,298).

Our drug task force is looking for real world information. These are some of the many comments.

Colorado deputy- Major increase in homelessness population and petty crimes. Multiple studies done have reflected this.

Nebraska deputy- The government will never listen as long as they can make money on it. I know the drug traffic from Colorado to my state Nebraska has sky rocketed. Nothing but problems came with their approval of marihuana.

Colorado deputy- my 2 cents, on the recreational side of marihuana, one of the major problems in Co involves the notion that it still remains in the drug culture. Pot shops look like head shops. The staff is paid in cash or pot. The belief is if you know the high you can sell the drug. ...One just needs to sit in the parking lot of any pot shop and although legally you can't light up in public, people walk out the door and are lighting up, getting behind the wheel and the rest is history.

Colorado deputy- Co was not prepared for the mass amounts of people relocating here. It did increase the homeless population because many came simply to satisfy their need to be high. Rents went thru the ceiling.

Social services saw a drastic increase in the number of people they were serving. The gangs still divide territories with legal pot repacking and sold illegally. They make a profit particularly if they own the pot shop.

Colorado deputy- your state needs to be prepared for what is about to come, since it will be by vote you will have little to say about it.

A social worker whose husband has a back injury responded also- My husband is one of those with severe back injury. He reduced his dependence on narcotics through the use of medical marihuana. His focus was on the high CBD strains and these typically have less THC than the recreational side... the one thing I can say is that there is a need for additional education for patients. Just like any other drug or substance that has the capacity to alter one's mind, education is important, it needs to be known that legal or not, it is a drug, a powerful one.

Washington State deputy- Robberies at pot shops. DUI drugs way up, suicides up, mental health issues up. Workforce performance down, sick leave use up.

It will increase your LE workload and if your kids are headed to college, they should study to be social workers or shrink, because the demand for their services will explode.

Former deputy in Colorado- Crime rates up, drugged driving up, virtually everyone I arrested had MJ in the last 24 hours. Criminals from Florida, Texas and other places coming to grow and ship home. They say minor use isn't up but I don't believe it.

Humboldt county California deputy- My home county has been destroyed by a drug culture. Our prisons are full, everyone walks around in altered state. No employment, no drive nobody can pass a drug test...

California deputy- Banks don't do business with the shops so lots of cash on hand. Homicides and burglaries have gone way up in and around the shops.
Include homes where it's grown.

Alaska officer- Alaska's crime rate has skyrocketed. Even though MJ was legalized, the majority of murders were over MJ this last year and we had a record murder year. It is awful.

Nebraska EMS- We have more kids than ever from the age of 11 and up smoking it. Some parents are even supplying it to their kids.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/the-sad-anniversary-of-big-commercial-pot-in-colorado/article/2640413>

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/november/stoned-colorados-five-years-of-legal-commercial-pot?amp>

Important Websites

Healthy & Productive Michigan

<http://healthyandproductivemi.org/>

Talk Sooner

<http://www.talksooner.org/>

The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact

<https://www.rmhidta.org/html/FINAL%202017%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>

Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

<https://rmhidta.org>

Smart Approaches to Marijuana

<https://learnaboutsam.org/>

Colorado Video

<https://vimeo.com/280127474>