OPPOSITION TO LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA
Opposition to Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Representing NYS PTA Advocacy Team

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Opposition to Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Smoking and Respiratory Consequences
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THC and the Developing Brain

A

Vulnerable Window

Psychiatric Illness (Risk)

Relative Levels

B

2-AG

CNR1

Anandamide

Adolescence

Adulthood

Change in Full-Scale IQ Score, Child to Adult

Never Used

Used, Never Regularly

Used Regularly at 1 Assessment

Used Regularly at 2 Assessments

Used Regularly at 3-5 Assessments

-6

-5

-4

-3

-2

-1

0

1
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Addiction - Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD)

1 in 3 Past-Year Users Have CUD (Addiction)

- 1 in 3 who used marijuana in the past year will become addicted to it (Cannabis Use Disorder)
- The adolescent brain is especially susceptible to marijuana use
- When kids use, they have a greater chance of addiction since their brains are being primed

Comparison of addictive potential by drug type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Teens</th>
<th>Daily Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulants</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analgesics</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychedelics</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Marijuana Has Become Significantly More Potent Since the 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90s

From an average of 3% to an average of nearly 20% THC

**Reported Cannabis use**
- Less than monthly
- At least monthly
- At least weekly

**Risk to illicit drug-use (odds ratio ± 95% CI)**

**Age group (years)**
- 14-15
- 17-18
- 20-21
- 24-25

**MARIJUANA PLANT POTENCY**
- 2008: 8.9%
- 2017: 17.1%

**CONCENTRATE POTENCY**
- 2008: 4.7%
- 2017: 55.7%

(Chandra et al., 2019)
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Not This...

...But This
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Unintended Consequences for Youth
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The prevalence of Marijuana Use Disorder in children 12-17 increased 25% after recreational marijuana legalization. (Corda, et al., 2020)

Annual Marijuana Vaping Has Dramatically Increased in the Past Few Years

Monitoring the Future, 2020
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Monitoring the Future Data (2018)

One in four 12th graders would try marijuana or increase their use of the drug if marijuana were legalized.

2019 Colorado Health Department Report

- **400% increase** in marijuana poisonings of children 0-9 years of age.
- 23,009 homes with children are not storing marijuana products safely.
- 32,800 homes where children 1-14 years of age are exposed to second-hand marijuana smoke.
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Myth of Anticipated Revenue

Revenues v Reality

Marijuana Taxes as a Percent of State Budgets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>0.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>0.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(California Legislative Analyst’s Office (2016).)

Marijuana Hospitalizations Increases Since Legalization

- Colorado: 101%
- Alaska: 45%

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1 in 5 drivers are stoned.

That is up from one in ten prior to legalization.

64.2% of respondents who reported using marijuana and driving stated that they didn’t think that it impaired their ability to drive at all.

Marijuana-Impaired Driving Fatalities are Skyrocketing

- **Washington State & Colorado**: More than doubled since legalization
- **Oregon**: 50% of all drivers assessed tested positive for marijuana-impairment after legalization
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Changing Laws and Social Injustice

<20%
Fewer than 20% of all marijuana businesses are owned by minorities

4%
Only 4% of all marijuana businesses are owned by African Americans

Colorado’s marijuana arrest rate for African Americans (233 per 100,000) was nearly double that of Caucasians (118 per 100,000) in 2017. (CDPS, 2018)


Source: https://www.greentrepreneur.com/article/315526
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Not This...

But This...