

**Be guided by science, not dollars. Promote a balanced, public health approach, reducing criminal penalties, with responsible policies protecting our Health, our Children, our Families, our Communities, Social Justice, Education, our Environment and our Business community. Legalization is not the answer.**

## GRAPHICS RESEARCH

- Harmful long-term effects, including adverse psychiatric effects, altered brain development and cognitive impairment, anxiety, depression, appearance of psychotic symptoms and disorders.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Marijuana THC levels continue to increase through smokable and edible concentrates of cannabis with THC as high as 80 – 90%.<sup>3,4</sup> Increased likelihood of addiction, in part, due to the increased concentration of THC in marijuana now available.
- Users of Cannabis are more likely to become psychotic and more likely to have a 1st psychotic episode at an earlier age than those who do not use cannabis.<sup>3,5</sup>
- 15% of all users will experience psychotic symptoms, with half of these users becoming chronically schizophrenic. Marijuana use significantly increases the risk of psychosis and schizophrenia.<sup>5</sup>
- Average Youth past month use by 12 to 17 year olds is nearly two times higher in states that have legalized recreational marijuana.<sup>6</sup>
- Increase in treatment admissions for teens in states with legalization.<sup>7</sup> In Colorado, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, the number of marijuana related Emergency Room visits increased 123%, from 8,197 in 2011 to 18,255 in 2014.
- Increased Emergency Department and hospital visits, including children's poisoning.<sup>8</sup>

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

- One in ten adult marijuana users become addicted, with rates increasing for daily users.<sup>9</sup>
- According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine: "...cannabis, cannabis-based products and cannabis delivery devices should be subject to the same standards that are applicable to other prescription medications and medical devices, and... should not be distributed or otherwise provided to patients unless and until such products or devices have received marketing approval from the Food and Drug Administration. ASAM rejects smoking as a means of drug delivery since it is not safe..."<sup>2</sup>
- One in six youth marijuana users become addicted with rates increasing to 25– 50% for daily users.<sup>2,3,9</sup>
- Early drug use results in a greater likelihood of use of other drugs, alcohol dependence and other drug abuse or dependence especially for those using marijuana by age 17.<sup>7</sup>
- Increase in auto accidents and fatal crashes from drivers testing positive for marijuana<sup>3</sup> and rise in marijuana related DUI cases in Colorado.<sup>3</sup>



## MARIJUANA & HEALTH

<sup>1</sup> McCormick, MA, Shekhar, A. (2014) Review of Marijuana Use in the Adolescent Population & Implications of its Legalization in the United States, Journal of Drug Metabolism & Toxicology 5:165; [www.omicsonline.org/open-access/marijuana-use-in-adolescent-population-and-implications-of-its-legalization-in-united-states-2157-7609-5-165.php?aid=25599](http://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/marijuana-use-in-adolescent-population-and-implications-of-its-legalization-in-united-states-2157-7609-5-165.php?aid=25599)

<sup>2</sup> American Society of Addiction Medicine Public Policy Statement on Marijuana, Cannabinoids and Legalization (September 2015)

<sup>3</sup> Bertha Madras, PhD, professor of psychobiology, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, "Marijuana in the Brain."; Mike Castro, "Playing with Fire," Sacramento Bee, August 17, 1994; National Institute of Drug Abuse, "Marijuana," 2010; SAMHSA, "2009 National Survey of Drug Use and Health," September 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Polency Monitoring Program, Quarterly Report Number 123, National Center for National Products Research (NPNRP) at the University of Mississippi, under contract with the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

<sup>5</sup> Di Forti, Dr. Marta, et als., Proportion of patients in South London with first-episode psychosis attributable to use of high potency cannabis: a case-control study. The Journal Lancet Psychiatry, February 18, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> SAMHSA.org, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment; Colorado Hospital Association.

<sup>8</sup> Allface, I. (2013, May 27). Children Poisoned by Candy-looking Marijuana products. Nature World News; Jaslow, R. (2013, 28 May). CBS News.

<sup>9</sup> Anthony, J.C., Warner, L.A., & Kessler, R.C. (1994). Comparative Epidemiology of dependence on tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances and inhalants: Basic findings from the National Comorbidity Survey. Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, 2; Giedd. J. N., 2004



A PROGRAM OF THE NEW JERSEY PREVENTION NETWORK (NJPN)

NJPN.ORG

**INSIDE**  
**EDGE**  
ON MARIJUANA

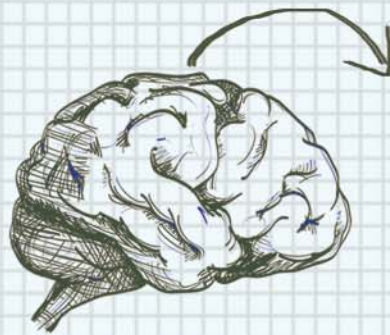
If you care about your **HEALTH** and that of your family and community, you should be **CONCERNED** about marijuana use.

Marijuana use, even among infrequent users, increases the likelihood of addiction, especially among young marijuana users. Marijuana is now available in significantly higher THC levels, increasing hospital admissions, auto accidents, and harmful psychiatric effects. Marijuana use negatively affects our youth's developing brain and impacts memory, learning, reaction time, and increases depression and anxiety disorders.

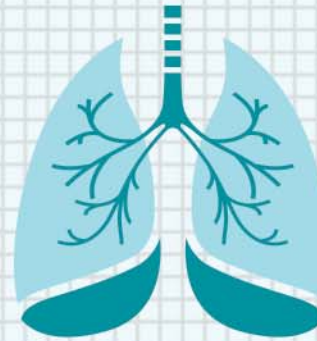
Contrary to the rhetoric, legalization of recreational marijuana is resulting in higher rates of youth use of marijuana. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health that has tracked drug use among our youth for over twenty years, youth marijuana use is much higher in states that have legal recreational marijuana use.

Legalization causes a reduction in perception of risk and an increase in availability which are two major risk factors that cause increased use. Marijuana use negatively impacts many components of health in our youth and adults.

**MARIJUANA NEGATIVELY AFFECTS**



- MEMORY
- LEARNING
- REACTION TIME
- DEPRESSION
- ANXIETY



EDIBLE MARIJUANA EXPOSURES ARE INCREASING & MAY LEAD TO **SEVERE RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION**

**CANNABIS USERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BECOME PSYCHOTIC & TO HAVE A FIRST PSYCHOTIC EPISODE, AT AN EARLIER AGE, THAN THOSE WHO DON'T USE CANNABIS**

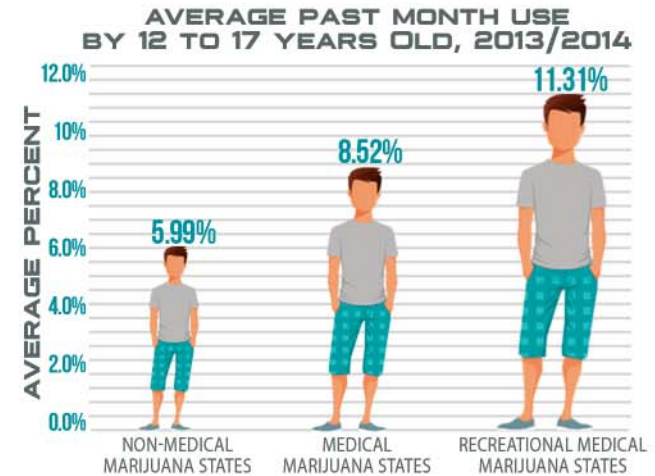
**MARIJUANA & PSYCHOSIS**



**15%** of all marijuana users will experience psychotic symptoms

Marijuana is more likely to cause long-term schizophrenia than ...

METH COCAINE  
LSD OPIATES  
AMPHETAMINES



**EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS INCREASED, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S POISONINGS**

- +268% KIDS UNDER 5**
- +83% KIDS 6-12**
- +118% KIDS 13-14**
- +15.3% ADULTS 26**

In Colorado, the number of marijuana related Emergency Room visits increased 123%, from 8,197 in 2011, to 18,255 in 2014.

COLORADO ER ADMISSIONS 2006-09 vs 2010-13

