

FACTS TO CONSIDER ABOUT MEDICAL MARIJUANA

BASED ON OTHER STATES' OUTCOMES

Outcomes on Youth Marijuana Usage:

- From the time that medical marijuana dispensaries opened in Colorado to 2012, drug-related referrals for high school students testing positive for marijuana increased over 150%. (Rocky Mountain HIDTA 2013)
- Colorado has the 5th highest teen usage rate in the nation– 50% above the national average. (NSDUH 2013)
- 74% of Denver-area teens in treatment said they used somebody else's medical marijuana on average of 50 times. (Salomonsen-Sautel et al., 2012)

Outcomes on Public Safety:

- Drivers who tested positive for marijuana in fatal car crashes doubled between 2006 and 2010. Colorado opened medical marijuana dispensaries in 2005. (Colorado Department of Transportation)
- A survey of drivers conducted by the California Office of Traffic Safety found that drivers are almost twice as likely to test positive for drugs that may impair driving, compared to alcohol. (Join Together, November 20, 2012, DUI More Likely to Involve Drugs than Alcohol in California)

Facts About Marijuana as Medicine:

- Only a small percentage of medical marijuana users report any serious illness. In Colorado, 2% reported cancer as their illness, less than 1% reported HIV/AIDS and 1% reported glaucoma. In Oregon, less than 4% reported cancer as their illness, less than 2% HIV AIDS and 1% glaucoma. (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 2011; Oregon Public Health Authority 2011)
- Marijuana has components that have medical properties, but it does not need to be eaten, ingested or smoked to receive them. There are FDA approved marijuana-based medications. "It was shown in carefully controlled clinical trials to have therapeutic benefit for relieving nausea associated with cancer chemotherapy and stimulating appetite in patients with wasting syndrome (severe weight loss) that often accompanies AIDS. However, the scientific evidence to date is not sufficient for the marijuana plant to gain FDA approval. (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
- Marijuana as medicine does not have scientific evidence to support it. "The truth is we lack evidence not only for the efficacy of marijuana, but also for its safety. This concern is especially relevant in children, for whom there is good evidence that marijuana use can increase the risk of serious psychiatric disorders and long-term cognitive problems." (New York Times, February 12, 2014, We Need Proof on Marijuana, By Orrin Devinsky and Daniel Friedman, physicians at the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center)
- "Marijuana contains around 80 cannabinoids (THC is the major psychoactive cannabinoid, largely responsible for the high) and more than 400 other compounds. The chemical composition of two genetically identical plants can vary based on growing conditions, soil content, parasites and many other factors." (New York Times, February 12, 2014, We Need Proof on Marijuana, By Orrin Devinsky and Daniel Friedman, physicians at the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center)



Covington County
Children's Policy Council

P.O. Box 1418, Andalusia, AL 36420

334.881.2319

www.childrenspolicycouncil.com

If you care about ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT...
you need to care about increased marijuana use.

WHY?

Because marijuana use lowers IQ!

- Those who used marijuana heavily in their teens and continued through adulthood had a permanent drop in IQ of 8 points. (1 M.H. Meier, Avshalom Caspi, et al. 2012. "Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)
- The more a student used marijuana, the lower their grade point average and the more likely they are to drop out of school. (1 Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., Bachman, J.G., & Schulenberg, J.E.. University of Michigan, 2011. *Monitoring the Future Study*)



If you care about HIGHWAY SAFETY...
you need to care about increased marijuana use.

WHY?

Because marijuana use impairs driving ability!

- Marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers and motor vehicle crash victims. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Drug Involvement of Fatally Injured Drivers. U.S. Department of Transportation Report No. DOT HS 811 415. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2010.)



If you care about EMPLOYMENT...
you need to care about increased marijuana use.

WHY?

Because marijuana use is bad for business!

According to the American Council for Drug Education in New York, employees who abuse drugs are:

- 10 times more likely to miss work
- 3.6 times more likely to be involved in on-the-job incidents
- 5 times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim

