

Health Impacts

National Academies of Sciences (NAS), entitled The Health Effect and Cannabis and Cannabinoids (1). Based on a review of approximately 10,000 academic articles, it was found that there is substantial evidence that cannabis use leads to:

- Increased risk of development of schizophrenia or other psychoses
- Increased risk of motor vehicle accidents
- Problem cannabis use for those who start using at an earlier age

A 2016 World Health Organization (2) reported similar findings that:

- Regular cannabis users can develop dependence
- Association between cannabis use in adolescence and risk of developing psychosis or schizophrenia

Approximately nine percent of marijuana users become addicted. This number increases to 17 percent among young people who use marijuana. (3)

Cannabis use has also been shown to impact the developing brain which does not reach full maturity until about age 25. (4)

It is important to note that nearly all studies conducted to date have not assessed the risks of using newly available high-potency cannabis products marketed for recreational use that contain up to 99% THC content. The exact effects of these more potent cannabis products are not fully understood which is a reason to take a cautious approach when introducing the products into an environment where youth can perceive it as harmless because it is legal and available.

Black Market

There is no solid evidence that selling cannabis through legal channels keeps it out of the hands of youth. In fact, based on reports out of Colorado, the black market seems to be thriving. (5)

Impaired Driving

Car crashes and drugged driving deaths have increased in states that have legalized cannabis. (6)

Big Cannabis

Atria made a \$1.8 billion investment in Canadian marijuana producer, Cronos Group, purchasing a 45% equity stake in the company, as well as a warrant to acquire an additional 10% ownership interest in it. Separately, Atria announced it will invest \$12.8 billion in e-vapor manufacturer JUUL Labs for a 35% equity stake in the company, valuing JUUL at \$38 billion. (7)

Taxes

There is no guarantee that the town will profit from cannabis revenue. Towns with limited staffing resources need to consider the costs of processing applications, performing inspections, gathering records and enforcing cannabis-related ordinances. The expense of regulation and oversight could easily outweigh any tax benefit.

For every dollar gained in tax revenue, Coloradans spent approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization. (8)

Prop 64 doesn't equate to recreational storefronts

Similar progressive Marin communities voted by majority in favor of Prop 64 and yet maintain very strict local ordinances. If Novato allows recreational storefront, it will be the only jurisdiction in Marin to do so and will likely become a destination for "weed tourism".

Marin County youth already have higher than average rates of cannabis use

Based on the most recent California Healthy Kids Survey data, this is how we compare in reported **current use of cannabis among 11th graders**:

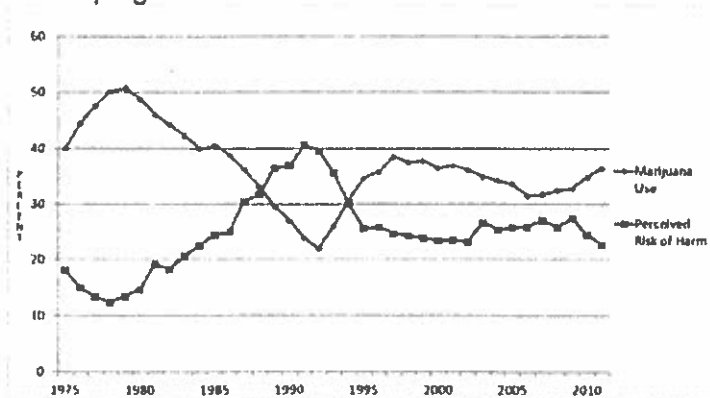
California - 20%

Marin County - 32%

Considering the local conditions, stricter policy would create more protections for at risk youth.

Normalization and Perception of Harm

We know that cannabis use is already normalized in our community which decreases the perception of harm by young people – and the less harmful it is perceived, the more likely youth are to use it. The presence of a storefront that sells commercial marijuana and cannabis products including concentrates of up to 99% THC is likely to send the message that these products are okay even though cannabis has known harmful effects on developing adolescent brains.



Source: Monitoring the Future Study, www.monitoringthefuture.org

Access is not an issue for adults

There is access for patients who rely on medical marijuana – as well as adults who choose to use cannabis recreationally. Currently, anyone who needs marijuana or wants cannabis products can get it safely, easily and legally through personal home cultivation and delivery.

Cash only businesses

Since marijuana is still illegal on a federal level and banks are under federal control, cannabis businesses deal primarily in cash which can make them a target for theft.

Role of parents

While it is the parents' responsibility to educate their children, set boundaries and model healthy behaviors - we know that some will and some won't. Regardless, it is not enough. Protective policies and environmental prevention are proven to reduce access and use.

Sources:

(1) National Academies of Sciences. The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2017/health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids.asp>

(2) World Health Organization. The health and social effects of nonmedical cannabis use http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/cannabis/en/

(3) <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-addictive>

(4) <https://www.pnas.org/content/109/40/E2657>

(5) Why Colorado's black market for marijuana is booming 4 years after legalization

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/colorado-marijuana-black-market-1.4647198>

The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact Volume 5, Rocky Mountain HIDTA

<https://rmhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-%20Volume%205%20UPDATE%202018.pdf>

(6) The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

<https://wtsc.wa.gov/new-report-shows-multiple-drug-use-responsible-for-one-in-four-washington-traffic-deaths-in-2016/>

Crashes rise in first states to begin legalized retail sales of recreational marijuana

<https://m.iihs.org/mobile/news/mobilenews/crashes-rise-in-first-states-to-begin-legalized-retail-sales-of-recreational-marijuana>

Fatal Road Crashes Involving Marijuana Double After State Legalizes Drug

<https://newsroom.aaa.com/2016/05/fatal-road-crashes-involving-marijuana-double-state-legalizes-drug/>

(7) <https://www.investors.com/news/altria-stock-cronos-group-stock-marijuana-stocks/>

(8) Economic and Social Costs of Legalized Marijuana, Centennial Institute November 18, 2018. <http://cdn-centennial.pressidium.com/centennial/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Economic-and-Social-Costs-of-Legalized-Marijuana-v1.3.pdf>