Marijuana, Addiction, and Recovery

Garth Van Meter
Vice President of Government Affairs, SAM
Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Marijuana Messaging
3. Current Patterns of Young Adult Use
4. The Marijuana Industry
5. Hope for the Future - Conclusions
Why I Care About Legalization
What is SAM?

- A 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization funded by volunteers & private organizations

- Our mission:
  - Educate citizens on the science of marijuana
  - Promote health-first, smart policies and attitudes that decrease marijuana use and its consequences
SAM promotes an evidence-based approach to marijuana policy that prioritizes public health

- **Non-partisan but high-profile**: founded by former Democratic Congressman Patrick Kennedy and leading Republican pundit David Frum

- **Scientific advisory board** of more than 12 leading researchers, professors, and public health/legal experts

- **Hundreds of thousands of press mentions**, including major media outlets such as:

  ![Logos of The New York Times, NBC News, BBC, and Fox News]

Several state and national affiliates
Two Organizations, One Mission

**SAM Action**

501 C-4

- SAM Action is dedicated to promoting healthy marijuana policies that do not legalize drugs
- Active at all levels of national, state, and local policy-making
- Invests dollars in and starts organizations to promote smart marijuana policies

**SAM**

501 C-3

- SAM’s mission is to educate citizens on the science of marijuana and to promote health-first, smart policies and attitudes that decrease marijuana use and its consequences
- Brings light to and conducts research into marijuana’s negative effects
Groups SAM has collaborated with

- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- National Business Group on Health
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Other leading public health authorities
- Over 30 state affiliates, including:
  - Treatment centers
  - Recovery groups
  - Prevention organizations
  - Law enforcement
  - Leading medical authorities
  - Volunteer citizens
  - Business groups
SAM Activities

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION:
QUICK FACTS

HEALTH RISKS

According to virtually every scientific review, including a 2016 World Health Organization report and a 2017 National Academy of Sciences study, marijuana is addictive and harmful—despite rhetoric from the marijuana industry.

The chances of becoming dependent on marijuana can be up to 50% for some users, and regular use is indisputably dangerous to the adolescent brain, in some cases linked to permanent reductions in IQ.

Unlike cigarettes, marijuana also intoxicates, sometimes with tragic results. The percentage of traffic deaths related to marijuana more than doubled in Washington State the year retail marijuana sales were allowed, and Colorado has seen similar increases in pot-related accidents.

LESSONS LEARNED
AFTER 4 YEARS
OF MARIJUANA
LEGALIZATION

Source: AAA Foundation (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Marijuana Positive for Marijuana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cronos CEO: $1.8 billion from Big Tobacco is just a beginning for cannabis industry

Published: Dec 10, 2018 7:48 a.m. ET

Altria can help Cronos standardize its approach to marijuana, CEO says after announcing investment

Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)'s legalization opponent Kevin Sabet may be right: like it or not Big Tobacco is invading cannabis.
And This…

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

Home » Health » MMJ

Former Big Pharma OxyContin CEO Now Selling Medical Cannabis

Published 2 years ago on November 29, 2016
By Maureen Meehan
We are living in 1918...
Repeating History?
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Safer than alcohol?

• Is alcohol legal because its safe?

• Marijuana’s effects last longer

• Abusers report far more problems at home, work, and school

• People rarely substitute pot for booze—they mix them instead

• Lots of people drink; very few use marijuana—despite what you see on TV
A word from Volkow et al in the NEJM:

“Repeated marijuana use during adolescence may result in long-lasting changes in brain function that can jeopardize educational, professional, and social achievements.

“However, the effects of a drug (legal or illegal) on individual health are determined not only by its pharmacologic properties but also by its availability and social acceptability.

“In this respect, legal drugs (alcohol and tobacco) offer a sobering perspective, accounting for the greatest burden of disease associated with drugs not because they are more dangerous than illegal drugs but because their legal status allows for more widespread exposure.”
Marijuana is not “just a plant” anymore – derivatives contain up to 98% THC
Marijuana has become significantly more potent since the 1960s

Average THC and CBD levels in the United States

THC: Psychoactive Ingredient

CBD: NON-Psychoactive Ingredient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>THC</th>
<th>CBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Mehmedic et al., 2010
Millions of Americans Reporting Marijuana Use, by Number of Days of Use Reported in the Past Month

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, courtesy of Jonathan Caulkins, PhD
The top 10% of the population make up 75% of the alcohol industry’s U.S. sales.

Avg. 10 drinks a day
# of MJ users

Amount Consumed

Source: Colorado Department of Revenue: Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado
JAMA Psychiatry journal: Marijuana use and addiction has skyrocketed since 2001

Source: JAMA Psychiatry. Oct 2015; Prevalence of Marijuana Use Disorders in the United States. Between 2001-2002 and 2012-2013, Deborah S. Hasin, PhD; Tuah D. Saha, PhD; Bradley T. Kerridge, PhD; Ris. B. Goldstein, PhD, MPH; S. Patricia Chou, PhD; Haitao Zhang, PhD; Anjum Jung, PhD; Roger P. Pickering, MS; W. June Ruan, MA; Sharon M. Smith, PhD; Boji Huang, MD, PhD; Bridget F. Grant, PhD, PhD
Cannabinoid Receptors Are Located Throughout the Brain and Regulate a Host of Brain Activity

- Brain Development
- Memory & Cognition
- Motivational Systems & Reward
- Appetite
- Immunological Function
- Reproduction
- Movement Coordination
- Pain Regulation & Analgesia

Source: NIDA
3. Discussion

In patient’s life, suicidal ideation presented in two different occasions, only immediately after acute cannabis intoxication. This strongly suggests the causal relationship between intoxication and suicidal ideation.

There is a convincing relationship between suicidal behavior and cannabis use, the latter awakening depressive experiences [3]. Rates of cannabis abuse are elevated among those being treated for depression [4, 5] and among those making a suicidal attempt [6]. In a sample of Italian students, the use of cannabis was associated with suicide risk [7]. In a population of French adolescents, cannabis use appeared to be an independent predictor of suicidal ideation after controlling the depressive symptoms [8]. In a cohort study of young Norwegians, cannabis by itself seemed not to lead to depression but was associated with later suicidal thoughts and attempts [9].
September 12, 2017

Cannabis Use May Be Causally Related to Depression and Suicidal Ideation

Peter Roy-Byrne, MD reviewing Agrawal A et al. Lancet Psychiatry 2017 Sep

In an analysis of twins discordant for frequent cannabis use, common predisposing factors did not fully explain these associations.

Epidemiologic studies have found associations between cannabis use and both depression and suicidality (thoughts or behaviors) but have not determined whether the associations are causal or attributable to confounding factors or common genetic vulnerabilities. To control for common genetic and family environmental factors, researchers examined the associations in 13,986 Australian twins (6181 monozygotic and 7805 dizygotic twins) drawn from three registry studies between 1992 and 2009. Within twin pairs discordant for cannabis use, persistence of the association in the cannabis-using twin would suggest that use is causally related to depression and suicidality.

In the entire sample, early cannabis use and frequent use were associated with major depression and suicidal ideation and attempt. Analyses of twin pairs who were discordant for early versus later or no use did not yield consistent findings. However, within monozygotic twin pairs discordant for frequent versus limited or no use, frequent use was associated with depression (odds ratios: compared with no or limited use, 1.68; compared with lighter use, 1.98) and suicidal ideation (ORs, 2.35 and 2.47, respectively).

COMMENT

This study suggests a causal relationship between frequent cannabis use and both major depression and suicidal ideation. This relationship may be mediated both via effects of the cannabinoid system on mood and via environmental factors related to cannabis use itself (e.g., increased trauma exposure, diminished life opportunities, other associated drug use). The analysis is limited by the possibility that not all confounders were accounted for and by arbitrary thresholds used to define early use and frequency of use. The results provide a counterpoint of caution against the increasing promotion of cannabis use as a therapeutic tool for various medical conditions.
Causal links between cannabis, schizophrenia: New evidence

Date: December 19, 2016

Source: University of Bristol

Summary: People who have a greater risk of developing schizophrenia are more likely to try cannabis, according to new research, which also found a causal link between trying the drug and an increased risk of the condition.
These can often present as a “psychotic episode” – which is a relatively sudden worsening of psychotic symptoms over a short time-frame, frequently resulting in hospitalisation.

The heaviest users of cannabis are around four times as likely to develop schizophrenia (a psychotic disorder that affects a person’s ability to think, feel and behave clearly) than non-users. Even the “average cannabis user” (for which the definition varies from study to study) is around twice as likely as a non-user to develop a psychotic disorder.

Furthermore, these studies found a causal link between tetrahydrocannabinol (THC - the plant chemical which elicits the “stoned” experience) and psychosis. This means the link is not coincidental, and one has actually caused the other.
Cannabis and Psychosis: Getting Harder to Argue Against Causation

— Case-control study adds to mounting evidence, though "bidirectional" relationship can't be ruled out

by Kristen Monaco, Staff Writer, MedPage Today
March 19, 2019

People who used cannabis every day were at higher risk of developing a first psychotic episode versus people who never used cannabis, in a case-control study conducted in Europe and Brazil.

Compared with non-users, daily cannabis users had more than a three-fold higher odds for incident psychosis (adjusted odds ratio 3.2, 95% CI 2.2-4.1), reported Marta Di Forti, PhD, of the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Neuroscience at King's College London, and colleagues.
Why talk POT

During an opiate epidemic?
The Marijuana Industry Sees a Business Opportunity

States that legalized marijuana had 25% fewer opioid-related deaths.


States with ice cream eaters had 25% more drowning deaths.
JAMA Study

• Unpublished data (*Tell Your Children*, Alex Berenson, 2019) found that this correlation disappears after 2010.

• *Journal of Opioid Management* (2017) tried to replicate, found that Med MJ laws associated with 22% increase in age-adjusted opioid mortality

• Feb 2018 *Addiction* editorial: marijuana-stops-opiate connection “very weak.”
Conclusions

• No evidence that cannabis use improved patient outcomes;
• Those who used cannabis had greater pain and lower self-efficacy in managing pain
• No evidence that cannabis use reduced pain interference or exerted an opioid-sparing effect
“Our findings disconfirm the hypothesis that a population-level negative correlation between medical marijuana use and prescription drug harms occurs because medical marijuana users are less likely to use prescription drugs, either medically or nonmedically. Medical marijuana users should be a target population in efforts to combat nonmedical prescription drug use.”
Marijuana use goes hand-in-hand with increased prescription opioid abuse

Chance of subsequent opioid abuse for marijuana users compared to control group

The opioid crisis appears to be worsening where marijuana has been legalized.

At the start of the 2010-2016 period, the annual age-adjusted opioid death rate in legalizing and nonlegalizing jurisdictions was the same, with overlapping 95% CIs between 8.0 and 8.5 deaths per 100,000 people. Whereas the nonlegalizing states subsequently had no increase in their opioid death rate until 2014, the monthly rate in the legalizing jurisdictions increased steadily during 2010 through 2013 at 4.5% per year ($P<.001$), while 5 states and the District of Columbia legalized medicinal marijuana, and 2 states legalized recreational use. Thereafter, the legalizing jurisdictions' death rate distinctly accelerated, first to 16.4% per year ($P<.001$) until October 2015 and then to 33.5% per year ($P<.001$) as 12 more states approved medicinal marijuana and 2 more states and the District of Columbia approved recreational use. In the nonlegalizing states, the opioid death rate increased during 2014 through 2016 but more slowly (16.4% per year) than in the legalizing jurisdictions. In 2016, the mean (95% CI) age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 people was 18.2 (18.0-18.4) and 13.2 (13.0-13.4) in the legalizing and nonlegalizing jurisdictions, respectively. As of December 2016, the rate in the legalizing states and the District of Columbia was 52% higher than, and continuing to diverge from, the rate in nonlegalizing states. Areas under the joinpoint regression curves suggest that 20.34 (72%) of 28.19 additional deaths per 100,000 people during January 2010 through December 2016 occurred where marijuana was legalized.

The opioid crisis appears to be worsening where marijuana has been legalized, despite fewer opioid prescriptions, and as such, constitutes evidence for the gateway hypothesis and against the marijuana protection hypothesis. In any event, before other states rush to legalize marijuana and risk worsening the opioid crisis, the marijuana-opioid interaction should be more definitively researched.
MARIJUANA USE CAN DECREASE PAIN THRESHOLDS, REQUIRING MORE MEDICATION.

PATIENT SAFETY IN SURGERY, 2018

Researchers found that patients reporting marijuana use actually experienced more pain on average when admitted to the hospital following a traumatic injury than those that did not. Compared to non-users, they required more opioid medication to cope with the pain and consistently rated their pain higher during the duration of their stay.

MARIJUANA IS OFTEN USED WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY, 2016

Regular use of marijuana is linked with increased risk of developing cannabis use disorder, higher rates of mental illness and higher rates of co-substance abuse with alcohol, among other drugs.


EXPOSURE
Smoking cannabis during pregnancy is linked to lower birth weight in the offspring.
The relationship between smoking cannabis during pregnancy and other pregnancy and childhood outcomes is unclear.

PROBLEM CANNABIS USE
Greater frequency of cannabis use increases the likelihood of developing problem cannabis use.
Initiating cannabis use at a younger age increases the likelihood of developing problem cannabis use.

CANNABIS USE AND ABUSE OF OTHER SUBSTANCES
Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk for developing substance dependence (other than cannabis use disorder).

MENTAL HEALTH
Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychoses; the higher the use the greater the risk.

In individuals with schizophrenia and other psychoses, a history of cannabis use may be linked to better performance on learning and memory tasks.
Cannabis use does not appear to increase the likelihood of developing depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

For individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorders, near daily cannabis use may be linked to greater symptoms of bipolar disorder than non-users.
Heavy cannabis users are more likely to report thoughts of suicide than non-users.
Regular cannabis use is likely to increase the risk for developing social anxiety disorder.

TO READ THE FULL REPORT AND VIEW RELATED RESOURCES, PLEASE VISIT

NATIONALACADEMIES.ORG/ CANNABISHEALEFTHEFFECTS
Guess which drug has gone up in CO?

OPIOID DEATHS HAVE INCREASED, NOT DECREASED, SINCE COLORADO LEGALIZED MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE IN 2000

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
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Youth Use

Youth marijuana use continues to rise in states that have legalized.

Past Month Use Among 12-17 Year-Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Legalized States</th>
<th>Non-Legalized States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent change represented as the calculated delta between years [(New-Old)/Old]
NSDUH State Estimates, 2016-17

Past Year Use Among 12-17 Year-Olds

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent change represented as the calculated delta between years [(New-Old)/Old]
NSDUH State Estimates, 2016-17

1 in 5 Youth & 1 in 10 Young Adults who started using marijuana more than 3 years ago have been diagnosed with cannabis use disorder in the past 12 months.

Han et al., 2018
(Data from NSDUH 2015-2017)
Youth Use

**Regulated markets only increase exposure and promote the normalization of youth marijuana use.**

**Marijuana use among 12-17 year-olds is rising**

- Past month alcohol use among 12-17 year-olds is up 13% since 2016 (NDSUH State Estimates, 2016-17)

**Oregon**

- 37.2% & 49.5% reported exposure to online marijuana advertising in the past 30 days

12-20 year-olds were asked how they obtained their marijuana:

- 52% got it for free
- 32% bought it from a friend
- 7% bought it from a stranger

**Average past month marijuana use among youth 12-17 years old**

- **Colorado**
  - Pre-Legalization: 7.5%  
  - Post-Legalization: 7.1%

- **National**
  - Pre-Legalization: 7.5%  
  - Post-Legalization: 7.1%
The Vape and Marijuana Industries Are Inextricably Linked

2007
James Monsees & Adam Bowen secure funding from angel investors, including Nicholas Pritzker and officially launch their company.

2010
Newly established Ploom releases their first product based on Monsees & Bowen’s original e-cig design using flavored, loose-leaf tobacco pods and a battery-operated heating coil.

2012
Using the same heating technology, the company releases the first loose-leaf vaporizer. While not yet explicitly marketed as a marijuana vaporizer, this was its primary draw.

2015
Japan Tobacco acquires Ploom’s Model Two and the associated intellectual property with the device and flavored pods.

2015
In conjunction with the JTI deal, Monsees & Bowen buy back their stake in the company and relaunch as Pax Labs.

2015
Pax Labs releases their new e-cig, Juul, shortly after announcing $46.7 million in Series C funding from investors.

2016
In the fall of 2016, Pax Labs unveils the Pax Era; an electronic marijuana vaporizer that uses similar proprietary technology of pre-filled THC pods.

2017
Juul splits off from Pax Labs and becomes its own entity.

In the spring of 2018, the FDA launched an investigation into predatory marketing to underage children.
PAX is now explicitly a THC vaporizer company
Silicon Valley start-up, Juul, used savvy social media marketing strategies to promote a trendy image associated with their products. They are currently under investigation by the FDA.
Similar branding, including celebrity endorsements, is used to promote their marijuana-vaporizing product - Pax.
The pod technology used by Pax Labs provides a highly-addictive means of consumption.

Juul pods contain **3x the legal limit** of nicotine in the EU and their sales are currently banned.

Some Pax Era pods can be as potent as 80% THC. Amsterdam considered a proposal to classify THC potency higher than 15% as a hard drug.
Other THC vaporizer companies advertise on social media with cartoon characters targeted at ComicCon.
Marijuana use trajectories: relationship to “discontinuous” enrollment

Chronic/Heavy marijuana users were 2.0 times as likely as “minimal users” to have discontinuous enrollment...even after controlling for demographics, personality, and high school GPA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marijuana Trajectory Group Membership</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>60.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrequent</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreasing</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic/Heavy</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These college students lost access to legal pot — and started getting better grades

By Keith Humphreys  July 25, 2017

A new study provides credible evidence that marijuana legalization will lead to decreased academic success. (Elaine Thompson/AP)
In 2017, the year for which the study was done, 38 percent of full-time college students reported using marijuana at least once in the previous year, and 21 percent reported using it in the prior 30 days, up from 30 percent and 17 percent, respectively in 2006. Both percentages peaked in 2016, the highest found since 1987, and remained steady in 2017.
Increases in Marijuana Use from 2002 to 2013: U.S. National Estimates

Hasin et al., 2015
Cannabis Use Disorder among College Students

Used at least once
Abuse: 14.5%
Dependence: 10.1%

Used 5+ times/year
Abuse: 22.6%
Dependence: 15.8%

Used 6+ times/month
Abuse: 28.6%
Dependence: 38.6%

Vermont/Hudziak model

WE: a neuroscience-inspired, behavior change program

UVM WE WAS CREATED BY UVM LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PROFESSOR & CHIEF OF CHILD PSYCHIATRY, DR. JIM HUDZIAK, IN ORDER TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT TO INCENTIVIZE COLLEGE STUDENTS TO BUILD HEALTHY BRAINS & HEALTHY BODIES.
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The Industry Today

1. **Kid-friendly**: comes in shapes & colors attractive to children, like candy and soda

2. **95%**
   - Potent: often made w/ concentrates of up to 95% pure THC (joints are ~ 15% THC)

3. **$$$$**
   - Aggressive marketing: free samples, billboard advertising, and other Big Tobacco tactics

4. **Contaminants**: In 2015, CO recalled 100s of thousands of edibles containing banned pesticides

5. **Fighting regulation**: The pot industry has lobbied hard against regulation (e.g., warning labels, dosing rules, and bans on ads targeting kids)

Source: Marijuana Business Journal; other media. Icons: Marianna Nardella; Anton Gajosik; Petra Prgomet; Joey Golaw; Creative Stall; Luis Prado; Aha-Soft
99% THC is already for sale

THC is the active ingredient in marijuana; it is what gets someone "high" and it is extremely powerful and harmful in large doses.
Product Innovation in Delivery Systems

THC is not only smoked in joints, but now available in electronic form and in forms that look like needles. THC can be eaten, vaporized, and used in many ways – designed to attract new users who do not like to smoke.
More people are using non-smoked marijuana

[Detailed chart showing product category sales trends for 2016 and 2017, with categories including flowers, prerolls, edibles, drops, topicals, concentrates, and vaporizers.]

Younger users are the highest users of concentrates – powerful and pure THC oil

CONCENTRATES
Concentrates are highly potent extracts made from cannabis flower that come in many varieties. If flower is like wine, then concentrates would be the fine scotch—potent, with intense flavor and aroma. The highly refined nature of concentrates makes them a favorite among people who are looking for purity, maximum taste, and instant effect.

What percentage of customers ordered them in 2017?

- **GEN Z**
  - 1996–Later
  - 34%

- **MILLENIAL**
  - 1985–1995
  - 19%

- **GEN X**
  - 1965–1984
  - 16%

- **BABY BOOMERS**
  - 1946–1964
  - 15%

What about edibles/drinkables?

- Delay in effect encourages **additional consumption** (the first time)
- Additional consumption may result in an expensive visit to the ER
- THC metabolizes into 11-hydroxy THC in the stomach
- CBD metabolizes into THC in the stomach
- Much more **psychoactive**, much more dangerous mental health impacts
Sales to Minors Continues in “Legal” States

News Release
Oregon Liquor Control Commission
9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222-7355
1-800-452-6522

For more information:
Mark Pettinger, Marijuana Program Spokesperson, (503) 872-5115
www.marijuana.oregon.gov

January 10, 2018

Licensees Across Oregon Fail to Stop Sales to Minors
OLCC Marijuana Retailer Minor Decoy Checks Continue
Legalization Means Increased Availability to Children

A 9-Year-Old Accidentally Shared Her Grandpa's Marijuana Gummies With Her Fifth-Grade Class

A 9-Year-Old Accidentally Shared Her Grandpa's Marijuana Gummies With Her Fifth-Grade Class

Edible marijuana at Hollywood school sends 14-year-old girl to hospital

Hollywood police officer investigates 'Weedos' marijuana incident

By Ian Margol - Reporter, Andrea Torres - Digital Reporter/Producer

Posted: 10:28 PM, April 23, 2018
Updated: 6:32 AM, April 24, 2018

One arrested, gummy bears sicken Chula Vista students

BY: Jessica Chen, Mark Saunders
POSTED: 2:53 PM, Apr 27, 2017
UPDATED: 12:05 AM, Apr 28, 2017
Normalization Means Easy Access

So, maximum serving of THC chocolate edibles are being offered right by the front door at @timbuk2 in Denver. What other drugs are you all offering at your locations? Terrible public safety hazard, easily accessible to my 2 year old daughter and any other kids! Shame on you guys.
States are failing to regulate pesticide use

5 Investigates put the purity of medical marijuana to the test, working on samples bought off the shelves. Investigative reporter Kathy Curran never has been sold, but uncovered gaping holes in the state regulating marijuana safe and contaminant-free.

https://www.wcvb.com/article/5-investigates-what-s-in-your-weed/19581415
States are failing to regulate pesticide use

Pesticides and Pot: What's California Smoking?

An NBC4 I-Team investigation found evidence suggesting that pesticides could be present in a lot of marijuana legally sold in California

By Joel Grover and Matthew Glasser
Published at 10:57 PM PST on Feb 22, 2017 | Updated at 1:37 PM PST on Nov 8, 2017

Steep Hill Labs found 41 out of 44 samples, 93 percent, tested positive for pesticides, at levels high enough that those products would’ve been banned for sale in some other states that currently regulate the use of pesticides in marijuana products.

"It appears pesticides are very widely used" on California's marijuana crops, said Dr. Don Land, a UC Davis chemistry professor who is Steep Hill’s chief scientist. "It was surprising that so many (samples) had so much contamination."
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Does the Public Support Marijuana Legalization?

Record-High Support for Legalizing Marijuana

by Justin McCarthy

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Americans continue saying its use should be made legal
- The divide between Congress and the American public over pot couldn’t be more pronounced.

Sean Williams (TMFUltraLong)
Jan 14, 2018 at 11:41AM
How You Ask the Question Is Key

• Most polls pose a binary question: legalization or criminalization

• The public equates decrim and legalization

• But there is a difference

• When you introduce additional options, the polling changes significantly
Only 33% support recreational legalization

2019 Public Opinion Survey of United States Registered Voters, Attitudes on Marijuana Policy

This poll, conducted by Emerson College, found that only 33% support the legalization of recreational use while 39% supported its use for medical purposes only, 18% support decriminalization (like a traffic ticket) and 11% wanted to see its use remain illegal.
The false dichotomy: “Legalization OR incarceration?”

People are not in prison for pot; legalization is about making people rich, not social justice.
Three separate issues that often get conflated

1. Penalizing drug users/”decriminalization”
2. Medicinal use of compounds derived from marijuana
3. Legalization of marijuana for “non-medical” use
2018 Reflection

Of 8 attempts, one state commercialized recreational marijuana; we stopped all others

Federal lobbying very successful to stop banking, other amendments

Major press coverage

Very strong local pushback

We now calling out politicians taking pot $ - new website database out as of January, 2019
In States That Have Legalized:

- **Edibles and high THC concentrates** should be outlawed or severely restricted.
- The Marijuana Industry should not serve on rule-making bodies to determine regulations.
- **Pot advertising and promotions** should be prohibited.
- A science-based public **awareness campaign** should be implemented across multiple media.
- **Drugged driving prevention should be a priority**, with tough laws imposed on those who drive stoned.
In States That Have Not Legalized:

• Use alternatives to incarceration (drug courts, boot camps, other pre-trial diversion programs).

• Pot use should be discouraged, and people caught repeatedly with marijuana should be directed to early interventions and/or treatment.

• A science-based public awareness campaign should be implemented across multiple media.

• Drugged driving prevention should be a priority, with tough laws imposed on those who drive stoned.
SAM Toolkit and One-Pagers

https://learnaboutsam.org/toolkit/

Featured One-Pager:
Will marijuana solve the opioid epidemic?

SAM One-Pager on Marijuana Effects on the Environment
Download Here

SAM One-Pager: Illegal Diversion of Marijuana: A Growing Problem
Download Here

SAM One-Pager on Marijuana Legalization Quick Facts
Download Here
Resources

Drugabuse.gov
LearnaboutSAM.org
MarijuanaReport.org
Get Involved!

Sign up for **alerts** and **news**, also **donate** to the cause at learnaboutsam.org

Grassroots organizing

Connect with us via email at info@learnaboutsam.org

&

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“We were gaining momentum. But now that's flipped and we're more on the defensive.” – Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), one of the biggest marijuana supporters in Congress.
SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco
Minorities are still disproportionately targeted for arrests in Colorado since legalization.

In 2017, African American arrests remained unchanged since 2012 – the year Colorado legalized recreational marijuana.

Hispanic and Asian arrests have since gone up within the same period.

*Colorado Dept. Public Safety, 2018*