

# Recreational Marijuana: BAD FOR MICHIGAN

## WHAT HAPPENED IN OTHER STATES?

- 1 MICHIGAN CHILDREN – PREDICTION:** Increased use among youth and young adults leading to lowering IQ rates, more school suspensions and higher college dropout rates
- ✓ Since Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and the District of Columbia (Washington, DC) legalized marijuana, past-month use of the drug has continued to rise above the national average among youth aged 12-17 in all five jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>
  - ✓ The marijuana industry targets children with marijuana-infused gummies, cupcakes, lollipops, and sodas—edibles now comprise at least half of the Colorado market with the potency often 3 – 20 times the normal THC level found in the average marijuana cigarette.<sup>2</sup>
  - ✓ A New Zealand study showed that “people who started smoking marijuana heavily in their teens and had an ongoing cannabis use, lost an average of eight IQ points between ages 13 and 38.”<sup>3</sup>
  - ✓ In school year 2015/2016, 62% of all drug expulsions and suspensions in Colorado were for marijuana.<sup>10</sup>
  - ✓ Students who use marijuana very frequently (more than 25 days a month) during their college experience are twice as likely as minimal users (essentially not using) to discontinue college enrollment.<sup>4</sup>

- 2 MICHIGAN ROADS – PREDICTION:** Increased numbers of traffic accidents resulting in more fatalities and more serious injuries
- ✓ Both Colorado and California experienced 100% increases in marijuana related traffic fatalities after legalizing recreational and medical marijuana respectively.<sup>5</sup>
  - ✓ The percentage of traffic deaths related to marijuana doubled in Washington State the year retail marijuana sales were allowed.<sup>5</sup>
  - ✓ A Colorado Department of Transportation survey found that 69% of self-identified marijuana users admitted to driving after having consumed marijuana.<sup>9</sup>

- 3 MICHIGAN WORKPLACES – PREDICTION:** Increased costs for businesses caused by more workplace accidents, injuries, absenteeism, lawsuits and lower worker productivity
- ✓ A 2017 survey conducted in the states with legal recreational marijuana indicated 48% had gone to work while high.<sup>6</sup>
  - ✓ Quest Diagnostics, which analyzes the results of millions of workplace drug tests each year, recently reported that marijuana urine test results in Washington and Colorado are now double the national average.<sup>7</sup>
  - ✓ Marijuana users have 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries and a 75% increase in absenteeism compared to non-smokers.<sup>8</sup>

- 4 MICHIGAN HEALTHCARE – PREDICTION:** Increased hospital admissions and homelessness will strain community resources
- ✓ The yearly rate of marijuana-related hospitalizations in Colorado increased 148% after the legalization of recreational marijuana (2012 compared to 2016).<sup>9</sup>
  - ✓ Central Oregon hospitals saw a nearly 2,000% increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana poisoning with the Oregon Burn Center reporting Butane Hash Oil (BHO) explosions resulting in at least 30 burn victims between July 2015 and July 2016, costing about \$5,154,202 in total treatment costs.<sup>10</sup>
  - ✓ Among homeless inmates who are not Colorado natives, 41.3% moved there after recreational use was legalized in 2012.<sup>11</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> National Survey on Drug Use and Health [DSDUH], 2006-2017.

<sup>2</sup> Update: Symbol for Colorado Edibles Gets a Tweak, Stop Sign Nixed, *The Cannabist*, 2016. Web. 21 Oct 2016.

<sup>3</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Marihuana Research Series: What are Marihuana's Long Term Effects on the Brain?* (April 2015), <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marihuana/how-does-marihuana-use-affect-your-brain-body>.

<sup>4</sup> Amelia M. Arria, Kimberly M. Caldeira, Brittany A. Bugbee, Kathryn B. Vincent, *The Academic Opportunity Costs of Substance Abuse During College*, College Park, MD: Center on Young Adult Health and Development (2013).

<sup>5</sup> *Is Driving While High Dangerous? Fatal Car Accidents Involving Marijuana Triple Over 10 Years*, April 4, 2014, *International Business Times*, By Philip Ross.

<sup>6</sup> Michael Roberts, *Survey: 48 percent of Marijuana Users Have Gone to Work High*, *Westword*, January 29th, 2018

<sup>7</sup> Quest Diagnostics. (2016). Increases in illicit drugs, including cocaine, drive workforce drug positivity to highest rate in 12 years.

<sup>8</sup> J. N. Gied, *Structural Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Adolescent Brain*, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1021 at 77-85.

<sup>9</sup> *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact*, Volume 5, Update September 2018, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

<sup>10</sup> Kent, K. (2016, September 1), *Colorado hospitals see dramatic spike in pot-related illnesses*, *KTVZ News*. Retrieved February 3, 2018, from <http://www.ktvz.com/news/bend/c-o-hospitals-see-dramatic-spike-in-pot-related-illnesses/69167250>. See also Oregon State Police-Drug Enforcement Section. (2017,). *A baseline evaluation of cannabis enforcement priorities in Oregon*, Retrieved February 3, 2018, from <https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Oregon-State-Police-report-january-2017.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> *A Study of Homelessness in Seven Colorado Jails*, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, June 2016.