

Recreational Marijuana -

Impact on Public Health & Safety

- 1. Marijuana causes physical harm to recreational users, children, pregnant women, and people subjected to secondhand exposure.**
- 2. Government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs increase crime and jeopardize public safety.**
- 3. Black market drug trafficking organizations thrive and expand where government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs exist.**
- 4. Government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs will cost States more in health care response, administrative oversight, and legal enforcement than they will ever return through taxation.**

1. Marijuana causes physical harm to recreational users, children, pregnant women, and people subjected to secondhand exposures.

- a. (2-4-25) Largest Study Yet on Cannabis And Brain Function Finds a Worrying Link. New study shows heavy use of the Marijuana [recent and chronic] can cause problems for working memory. Working memory is one of the executive functions – mental skills essential to functioning normally in day-to-day life. Unlike short-term memory – recalling a phone number for example – it helps us hold information while we actively use it to perform tasks. This is important for reasoning, decision-making, and controlling our behavior.ⁱ [Link](#), [Study](#)
- b. (11-24) Systematic study review finds recreational marijuana legalization increases the odds of past-month marijuana use by 13% among youth and 22% among young adults.ⁱⁱ [Link](#)
- c. (10-25-24) As Marijuana Use Grows, So do the Harms.ⁱⁱⁱ [Link](#)
- d. (9-5-24) Long-Term Cannabis Use Linked to Sleep and Memory Issues.^{iv} [Link](#)
- e. (8-29-24) “Marijuana is Too Strong Now.”^v [Link](#)
- f. (2-3-25) Man arrested for death of friend who claimed he could dodge bullets after smoking marijuana.^{vi} [Link](#)
- g. (6-16-24) Teens who use cannabis are 11 times more likely to develop a psychotic disorder.^{vii} [Link](#)
- h. (10-4-24) North Dakota Sees 336% Increase in Marijuana-Related Emergency Department Visits After Legalizing Medical Marijuana.^{viii} [Link](#)
- i. Between 2018, when Oklahoma voted to legalize medical marijuana, and 2022, the number of marijuana exposures reported to the Oklahoma Poison Center increased by 1969% among 0–5-year-olds, by 600% among 6–19-year-olds, and by 223% among those 20 or older. Of note, these are likely underestimates because many exposures likely go unreported.^{ix} [Link](#)
- j. In the state of Colorado, the number one drug found in completed suicides ages 10 to 18 is marijuana.^x [Link](#)
- k. The likelihood of suicidal thoughts and attempts increased on the days when an adolescent used marijuana.^{xi} [Link](#)

- l.** (2-28-24) Using Marijuana in any form is linked to a 42% increased risk of stroke and a 25% higher chance of heart attack.^{xii} [Link](#), [Link](#)
- m.** (1-6-2024) Medical Cannabis may double the risk of AFib.^{xiii} [Link](#), [Study](#)
- n.** (11-2-2022) Marijuana smokers are a third more likely to develop potentially deadly heart conditions.^{xiv} [Link](#)
- o.** (11-21-2022): Airway inflammation and emphysema are more common in marijuana smokers than cigarette smokers.^{xv} [Link](#)
- p.** E-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) is a new phenomenon that occurs as a result of vaping. Most cases occur due to products that contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which comes from cannabis. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Trusted Source](#), by early 2020, there had been around 2,800 cases of EVALI, with 68 of those resulting in death.^{xvi} [Link](#)
- q.** Across all levels of cigarette use, cigarette dependence was significantly more common among individuals with daily cannabis use compared with those with non-daily or no cannabis use.^{xvii} [Link](#)
- r.** (10-3-2020) The potency of cannabis sold on America's streets has jumped from 4 percent to more than 15 percent in recent years, raising the risks of addiction and psychiatric disorders.^{xviii} [Report](#) [Link](#)
- s.** Up to one in five users of cannabis may develop Cannabis Use Disorder.^{xix} [Link](#), [Study](#)
- t.** (7-25-2022) The risk of developing a psychotic disorder can be up to five times higher for regular high-strength cannabis users compared to those who never use it.^{xx} [Link](#) [Study](#)
- u.** The prevalence of cannabis use in patients with psychosis is very high, with as many as 36% of patients with first-episode psychosis and 21% of those with established schizophrenia meeting diagnostic criteria for a cannabis use disorder. Moreover, in people with psychosis, cannabis use can have a major effect on the course of the disorder: it is associated with more severe symptoms, an increased risk of relapse and violence, longer hospital admissions, and a lower quality of life. These effects appear to be dose-dependent, with worse outcomes in frequent users and users of

- high-potency strains. recent study from Denmark found that almost half of the harm associated with cannabis use across the entire population was observed in patients with schizophrenia.^{xxi} [Link](#)
- v.** Epidemiological studies suggest that early and heavy cannabis use increases the risk of developing psychosis³⁻⁵ and that heavier use is correlated with higher risk of schizophrenia.^{xxii} [Link](#)
 - w.** Patients with psychosis who stop using cannabis have better outcomes than those who continue to use the drug.^{xxiii} [Link](#)
 - x.** (8-30-2022) People who use high potency cannabis are more likely to experience addiction than those using low potency products. People using high potency cannabis are more likely to experience a psychotic disorder, such as schizophrenia.^{xxiv} [Link](#)
 - y.** (1-20-2022) "In summary, much of the available evidence supports the criteria of strength, consistency, biological gradient, and temporality for cannabis causing psychosis. Furthermore, supporting specificity, while many substances are known to induce psychosis, the risk for conversion to schizophrenia is greatest with cannabis-induced psychosis."^{xxv} [Link](#)
 - z.** Evidence of an association between cannabis use disorder and schizophrenia exists. The finding is most striking in young men ages 21-30 but is also seen in women of the same age.^{xxvi} [Link](#)
 - aa.** (5-2-2023) Teenagers who use cannabis only recreationally are two to four times more likely to develop psychiatric disorders, including depression and suicidality, than teenagers who don't use cannabis at all.^{xxvii} [Link](#)
 - bb.** (1-22-25) Widely Available THC Products Like Delta-8 Can Cause Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Problems^{xxviii} [Link](#)
 - cc.** (3-12-2024) Teen Delt-8 usage is rising. Nearly 31% of the high school seniors reported having used marijuana in the past year, and more than 1 in 10 reported having used delta-8 THC.^{xxix} [Link](#)
 - dd.** (8-22-2022) Marijuana and hallucinogen use in the past year reported by young adults 19 to 30 years old increased significantly in 2021 compared to five and 10 years ago, reaching historic highs in this age group since 1988.^{xxx} [Link](#)

ee. According to the American Addiction Centers, unfortunately for teenagers, marijuana use can have much more long-term effects. The teenage brain is not yet fully mature, with neurodevelopment continuing until at least the early or mid-20s. During adolescence the brain is particularly sensitive to drug exposure, and marijuana use impacts how connections are formed within the brain.³ Other effects on the developing brain include interference with neurotransmitters and abnormal brain shape and structure volume.⁶ Studies have shown that the use of marijuana is associated with reduced cognitive function in teens.⁷ One study found that teens who regularly use marijuana lose an average of 5.8 IQ points by the time they reach adulthood.⁸ A recent study found that marijuana has a more negative impact on a teenager's cognitive development than alcohol. ^{xxxix} [Link](#)

ff. (3-8-2022) Long-term cannabis users show cognitive deficits and smaller hippocampal volume in midlife. [Link](#)

gg. (6-29-22) Marijuana users are more likely to be hospitalized than those who do not use marijuana. according to a study published by the BMJ Open Respiratory Research. People who used cannabis visited emergency rooms or were hospitalized 22% more often than those who did not use cannabis, according to a recent study published in the BMJ Open Respiratory Research. "Our research demonstrates that cannabis use in the general population is associated with heightened risk of clinically serious negative outcomes, specifically, needing to present to the ED or be admitted to hospital," said lead author Dr. Nicholas Vozoris, a lung specialist at St. Michael's and an associate scientist at the hospital's Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute. [Link](#)

hh. (2020) U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain. ^{xxxix} [Link](#)

ii. (10-30-2023) State Medical Society (Pennsylvania, NY, NJ, Delaware, Ohio,) Position – do not legalize recreational marijuana. ^{xxxix}

jj. (10-10-2018) Marijuana may damage semen quality and affect male fertility. ^{xxxix} [Link](#)

kk. (5-2023) Cannabis warning to young women: Smoking THC in your teens may slash your egg count in half. ^{xxxv} [Link](#)

ll. (12-12-2023) Pregnant women who use marijuana or breathe in second-hand smoke are up to 1.5-times more likely to have pregnancy complications. ^{xxxvi} [Link](#)

- mm.** (11-29-2022) Women in states where cannabis is legal are five times more likely to smoke the drug while pregnant than women in states where it is not - raising risk of birth defects, and premature and still births. ^{xxxvii} [Link](#)
- nn.** (9-12-2022) Marijuana use in pregnant women has been linked to low birth weight, which puts the baby at risk of having a harder time eating, gaining weight, and staving off infection. Cannabis use also increases the odds that a baby will be stillborn. 2013 research conducted by the federal National Institutes of Health found a 2.3 per cent increased risk of stillbirth among women who used cannabis while pregnant. Women who use marijuana while pregnant also raise the risk that their baby will experience memory and cognitive problems as they grow up. ^{xxxviii} [Link](#)
- oo.** (5-3-2023) “Physicians should clearly explain to their patients that medical marijuana is not approved by the FDA and that it is not a standardized or purified product that has obtained scientific approval or availability in pharmacies through prescriptions. Many physicians would not consider prescribing crude cannabis or FDA-unapproved cannabinoids medicinally for the treatment of insomnia, traumatic stress, pain, or addiction...the currently available clinical evidence does not support the use of cannabis, cannabidiol, or any other cannabinoids medicinally for treatment of most conditions.” ^{xxxix} [Link](#)

2. Government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs increase crime and jeopardize public safety.

- a.** (2-4-25) “Even where weed is legal, product safety isn't guaranteed” - Dispensary cannabis found to have excessive levels of yeasts, mold, coliform and toxic pesticides. "I consider Colorado weed today to be on par with New York street weed in 2008. In fact I think the cartels probably cared more about their consumers than a lot of people here," said Singer. "I've got the data to back it." ^{xl} [Link](#)
- b.** (2-4-25) Regulators issue advisory on contaminated marijuana sold at stores and treatment centers in Attleboro, elsewhere. ^{xli} [Link](#), [Link](#)
- c.** (1-24-25) According to data from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the illicit market for marijuana has been expanding. In fiscal year 2024, CBP seized 174,991 pounds of marijuana, up from 149,582 in FY 2023 and 154,797 in FY 2022. The number of individual seizure events—as opposed to total weight—has also been increasing. In FY 2024, there were 24,072 seizure events for marijuana. In comparison, there were 18,595 in FY 2023 and 15,020 in FY 2022. This indicates that the increase in seized marijuana, by weight, is due to more than one large bust. ^{xlii} [Link](#)
- d.** (11- 2024) Recreational marijuana legalization increases the odds of past-month marijuana use by 13% among youth and 22% among young adults. ^{xliii} [Link](#)
- e.** (7-19-24) “After crash that killed 6 teens, NTSB chief says people underestimate marijuana’s impact on drivers. “ ^{xliv} [Link](#)
- f.** (2-3-25) Man arrested for death of friend who claimed he could dodge bullets after smoking marijuana. ^{xlv} [Link](#)
- g.** California Woman Who Stabbed Boyfriend 108 Times Sentenced to Probation and Community Service due to “Cannabis Induced Psychosis” ^{xlvi} [Link](#)
- h.** Marijuana dispensaries sell to thousands of minors every year. ^{xlvii} [Link](#)
- i.** 9 out of the top 10 U.S. states by annual marijuana use among youth (ages 12-17) have legalized the drug for recreational use. ^{xlviii} [Link](#)

- j. “A 2019 study conducted in Denver found that the prevalence of both recreational and medical marijuana dispensaries in Denver neighborhoods is significantly and positively associated with increased crime (Hughes et al., 2019). A 2021 study linked recreational marijuana legalization in Oregon to increased property crime and violent crime, although further research is needed (Wu et al., 2021). A 2022 study in Oregon “found that counties in [Oregon] have experienced increases in simple assault rate following legalization, relative to rates in the 19 non-legalized states” (Wu & Willits, 2022). Researchers found that Denver neighborhoods adjacent to marijuana businesses saw 84.8 more property crimes each year than those without a marijuana shop nearby (Freisthler et al., 2017).”^{xlix} [Link](#)
- k. “The number of court filings charged with the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act that were linked to a marijuana charge increased 643% from 2013 to 2017 (Colorado Department of Public Safety, 2021). Further, crimes against society, such as drug violations, have increased 44% since 2014 (Denver Police Department).”^l [Link](#)
- l. “Colorado’s crime rate in 2016 increased 11 times faster than the 30 largest cities in the nation since legalization (Mitchell, 2017). In 2018, data from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation demonstrated a 14.2% increase in property crime since 2013—157,360 to 179,650—and a 36.5% increase in violent crime since 2013—18,475 to 25,212 (Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, 2019a, p. 52).”^{li} [Link](#)
- m. “Though arrests for marijuana offenses had declined in the years prior to legalization in Colorado, they are increasing again. In 2013, arrests for marijuana sales offenses were at a low of 337, having decreased 52.1% since 2008. From 2013 to 2018, arrests for marijuana sales offenses increased 29.4%. Additionally, prior to legalization, from 2008 to 2013, arrests for all drug sales offenses declined 54.9%. In the years following legalization, arrests for drug sales offenses have increased 11% (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2018).”^{lii} [Link](#)
- n. “Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013, traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 138% while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 29%. • Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled from 55 in 2013 to 131 people killed in 2020. • Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana increased from 11% in 2013 to 20% in 2020.”^{liii} [Link](#)
- o. Cannabis related DUI injuries more than double in British Columbia since legalization.^{liv} [Link](#), [Study](#)

- p.** From 2016 to 2020, polydrug detection among all DUI case filings more than doubled going from 8% to 17%. The most prevalent combination of substances in toxicology reports was alcohol and marijuana. ^{lv} [Link](#)
- q.** Crash involvement rates were higher for those who had multiple drugs detected including alcohol. Forty percent of convicted drivers who tested positive for alcohol, Delta-9 THC, and an additional substance and those who tested positive for alcohol and a non-marijuana containing drug were involved in crashes. ^{lvi} [Link](#)
- r.** Marijuana users are driving impaired more often, under a false sense of safety from an hour and half to 3 hours after using. ^{lvii} [Link](#), [Study](#)
- s.** “A survey conducted by AAA found that only 65% of drivers perceived driving within an hour of using marijuana as extremely dangerous or very dangerous, compared with 94% who felt that driving under the influence of alcohol above the legal limit was extremely or very dangerous (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2022). The answers from younger drivers were even more alarming. Of respondents between the ages of 19 and 24, only 63.1% believed that driving under the influence of marijuana was extremely or very dangerous, but 100% of respondents in that age group said that driving while over the legal limit for alcohol is extremely or very dangerous (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2022). This disconnect is concerning. The overall downward trend in perception of risk has coincided with an increased percentage of marijuana-impaired drivers on the road.” ^{lviii} [Link](#)
- t.** The percentage of fatalities involving both cannabis and alcohol doubled from 2000 to 2018. ^{lix} [Link](#)

3. Black market drug trades thrive and expand where government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs exist.

- a. (1-24-25) According to data from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the illicit market for marijuana has been expanding. In fiscal year 2024, CBP seized 174,991 pounds of marijuana, up from 149,582 in FY 2023 and 154,797 in FY 2022. The number of individual seizure events—as opposed to total weight—has also been increasing. In FY 2024, there were 24,072 seizure events for marijuana. In comparison, there were 18,595 in FY 2023 and 15,020 in FY 2022. This indicates that the increase in seized marijuana, by weight, is due to more than one large bust.^{lx} [Link](#)
- b. (1-18-25) Maine Admits Licensing Transnational Criminal Organizations to Grow Marijuana.^{lxi} [Link](#)
- c. Snider, A. (2024, June 7). Law enforcement uncovers three more illegal marijuana growing operations in central Maine. *Maine Public*. <https://www.mainepublic.org/courts-and-crime/2024-06-06/law-enforcement-uncovers-another-illegal-marijuana-growing-operation-in-central-maine>.
- d. Tusinski, D. (2025, May 8) Lawmakers want to combat illegal Chinese weed grows. *Portland Press Herald*. <https://www.pressherald.com/2025/05/08/lawmakers-want-to-combat-illegal-chinese-weed-grows-joining-maines-medical-market>
- e. Tusinski, D. (2024, Nov. 2) ‘Gray market weed’: Illegal grow house operators and their tainted product take refuge in Maine’s legal market. *Kennebec Journal*. <https://www.centralmaine.com/2024/10/31/gray-market-weed-illegal-grow-house-operators-and-their-tainted-product-take-refuge-in-maines-legal-market>
- f. (3-12-2024) Even after intensive law enforcement crack downs, rogue NYC pot stores immediately re-opened. While NYC has 35 lawfully licensed MJ stores, there are approximately 2,000. rouge black market Marijuana Shops now operating in NYC storefronts.^{lxii} [Link](#)
- g. “In California, according to recent reports, the black market outsells the “legal” marijuana market at a rate of three to one. These illicit sellers have brazenly opened shops in cities across the state, hiding in plain sight and giving way to a perpetual game of “whack-a-mole,” as one law enforcement officer described it.”^{lxiii} [Link](#)
- h. “A report from NBC found that 70–80% of marijuana sold in state-legal dispensaries in California was produced and grown illegally (NBC News, 2022).^{lxiv} [Link](#)

- i. The potency of cannabis sold on America's streets has jumped from 4 percent to more than 15 percent in recent year.^{lxv} [Link](#)
- j. “The unfettered black market will always be able to undercut the “legal” market. Despite their widespread legality, cigarettes are still one of the most trafficked commodities (Kilmer, B., et al., 2010; USA Today (Mar. 17, 2014; Zinsmeister, J., 2015; Center for Public Integrity, 2009).”^{lxvi} [Link](#)
- k. In states where recreational marijuana is legal; “The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA alone seized 875% more marijuana in FY22 in their region than was seized at the U.S. southern border during the same time period (Oregon Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, 2022b). In 2020, the Central Valley California HIDTA, one of the 4 HIDTA regions in California, seized 662,063 kilograms of illicit marijuana (Central Valley California High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, 2021). In 2020, Colorado law enforcement seized 5,028 kilograms (5 metric tons) of bulk marijuana. Officials recorded 21 different states to which marijuana was destined (Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, 2021).”^{lxvii} [Link](#)
- l. “Cartel presence in California has only expanded since legalization. In California, authorities suspect—based on phone records and wire transfer activity, as well as figurines commonly associated with cartels, such as those depicting Jesus Malverde—that illegal marijuana activity is tied to the Sinaloa and La Familia Michoacana cartels (Magdaleno, 2018). In 2021, the Oregon Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking task force identified 136 DTOs with foreign and domestic connections (Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, 2022a).”^{lxviii} [Link](#)
- m. “A 2019 Oregon audit found that black market marijuana fetches prices several times higher than “legal” marijuana. As the U.S. Attorney in Oregon reported in 2018, the state has “an identifiable and formidable marijuana overproduction and diversion problem” (Flaccus, 2018).”^{lxix} [Link](#)
- n. “The proliferation of high-potency THC extracts has made smuggling logistically easier. The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA seized 91 clandestine labs in 2021; 90 of the labs were producing BHO/ honey oil, a marijuana extract (Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, 2022a).”^{lxx} [Link](#)
- o. “All legal states have failed to curtail the illicit market, but no state has fared as poorly as California. A bombshell Los Angeles Times series published in September 2022 found the illegal marijuana market in California is much worse than the government wants to

acknowledge. The LA Times calculated that the illegal grows outnumber legal grows by as much as 10:1”^{lxxi} [Link](#)

- p.** “In “legal” states, illegal grow operations have easily blended their production facilities with “legal” ones and have taken advantage of rural cover to hide from law enforcement. In Washington, Okanogan County Chief Criminal Deputy Steve Brown told NPR reporters that prior to legalization, operations of the kind he continues to uncover were “hidden up in the hills.” Now, he finds some just off roads and within sight of neighbors. Other investigations have uncovered illegal operations run by people who were licensed in other “legal” states (Kaste, 2018). “^{lxxii} [Link](#)
- q.** “The Drug Enforcement Administration concluded in their 2020 National Drug Threat Assessment: “Domestic production and trafficking of marijuana will likely increase as more states adopt or change current marijuana laws to establish medical or recreational marijuana markets, allowing criminals to exploit state legality” (Drug Enforcement Administration, 2020).”^{lxxiii} [Link](#)
- r.** Colorado Growing Youth Drug Use: Since Legalization MJ usage among young people has skyrocketed to 76 percent above the national average in 2020.^{lxxiv} [Link](#)
- s.** Marijuana use among children in California increased after the state legalized the drug in 2016. Adolescent use had been steadily decreasing before legalization. There was an 18 percent increase in the likelihood of lifetime use and a 23 percent increase in past-30-day use.^{lxxv} [Link](#)
- t.** Colorado Quest Diagnostics reports Marijuana positive workplace tests are up 30% from the national average in 2020.^{lxxvi} [Link](#)
- u.** (12-19-2023) “It’s been 10 years since the first states legalized recreational marijuana. Over the past decade, the legit weed trade has exploded into a massive industry as personal pot use has rapidly spread to more parts of the country. The marijuana black market has continued to thrive to the point where legitimate growers and sellers are struggling to stay afloat in areas of the country awash in illegal weed. In California, for example, the illegal weed market is “indisputably many times larger than the licensed community,” according to an analysis from the Los Angeles Times. That same report found that unlicensed farms outnumbered legal operations by as much as 10 to 1 in the state’s biggest cultivation areas. Other states that have legalized recreational pot use, including Oregon and Colorado, have faced similar challenges. New York has grappled with a booming “gray market” of unlicensed weed sellers that emerged as the state worked to set up its new system for legal retailers.”^{lxxvii} [Link](#)

- v.** (6-21-22) “A Colorado couple at the center of *the state’s largest-ever black market marijuana ring* has reached a plea agreement with federal authorities, court records show.”” Dozens of people were arrested, with authorities seizing more than 80,000 marijuana plants and nearly \$2.2 million along with gold bars, jewelry and sports cars.” ^{lxxviii}
[Link](#)
- w.** (11-23-2022) Four Chinese nationals executed at Oklahoma Pot farm. ^{lxxix} [Link](#)
- x.** California cannabis shops are closing as pot sales slump. ^{lxxx} [Link](#)
- y.** (4-2020) Risks presented by continued marijuana use is are not only to the patients themselves, but also to those with whom they interact, both their loved ones and their wider community. Using marijuana not only worsens patients’ physical health, making them more susceptible to infection from Covid-19, but marijuana intoxication further distorts their judgment and undermines their responsible behavior, weakening their self-protection and the protection of those close to them. ^{lxxxi} [Link](#)

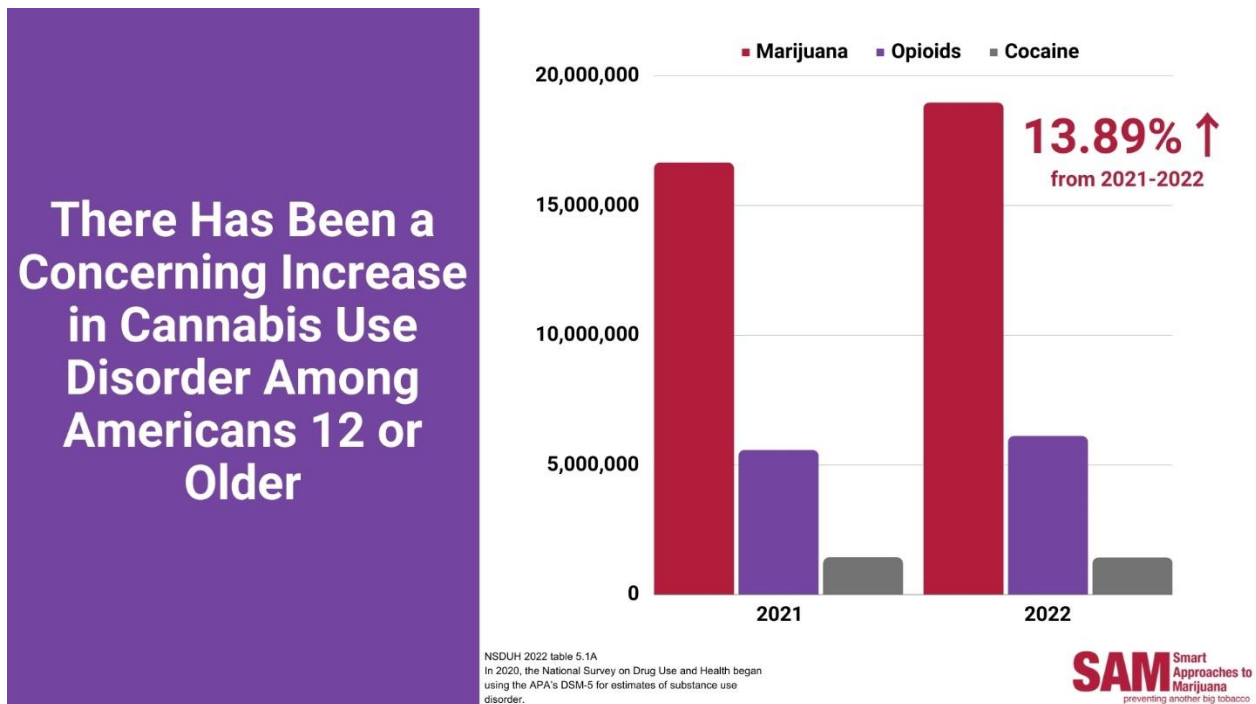
4. Government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs will cost States more in health care response, administrative oversight, and legal enforcement than they will ever return through taxation.

- a. McMahon, Suzanne and Ahrens, Katherine (2022) "Trends in Cannabis-Related and Opioid-Related Hospitalization Rates in Maine, 2010-2020," *Journal of Maine Medical Center*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 2 , Article 2. Available at:
<https://knowledgeconnection.mainehealth.org/jmmc/vol4/iss2/2>
<https://doi.org/10.46804/2641-2225.1119>.
- b. Kamel I, Mahmoud A, Twayana A. et al. Myocardial infarction and cardiovascular risks associated with cannabis use: A multicenter retrospective study. *JACC Adv*. Published online March 18, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacadv.2025.101698>
- c. (November 2024) Recreational marijuana legalization increases the odds of past-month marijuana use by 13% among youth and 22% among young adults.^{lxxxii} [Link](#)
- d. (2-29-24) California cannabis shops are closing as pot sales slump.^{lxxxiii} [Link](#)
- e. “Despite having some of the highest marijuana taxes in the country, California has still not seen a boom in tax revenue. California’s projected marijuana tax revenue by July 2019 was nearly half of what was originally expected when the state permitted retail sales in 2018 (Blood, 2019; Fuller, 2019). The FY21-22 marijuana tax revenue was only 0.49% of the state’s entire budget (California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, 2022).”^{lxxxiv} [Link](#)
- f. “In 2022, California cut several marijuana-related taxes in hopes of saving “failing” marijuana businesses (Yee, 2022).”^{lxxxv} [Link](#)
- g. “In Alaska, marijuana tax revenue represented 0.29% of the state budget, in Oregon 0.30%, and in Colorado, it represented nine tenths of one percent of Colorado’s 2022 statewide budget 39 (Smart Approaches to Marijuana, 2022).”^{lxxxvi} [Link](#)
- h. “A study from Colorado Christian University found that every \$1 in tax revenue resulted in approximately \$4.50 in costs, ranging from additional healthcare costs to more students dropping out of high school (Centennial Institute, 2018).”^{lxxxvii} [Link](#)
- i. Between 2018, when Oklahoma voted to legalize medical marijuana, and 2022, the number of marijuana exposures reported to the Oklahoma Poison Center increased by 1969% among 0–5-year-olds, by 600% among 6–19-year-olds, and by 223% among

those 20 or older. Of note, these are likely underestimates because many exposures likely go unreported. ^{lxxxviii} [Link](#)

- j. (6-29-22) Marijuana users are more likely to be hospitalized than those who do not use marijuana. People who used cannabis visited emergency rooms or were hospitalized 22% more often than those who did not use cannabis, "Our research demonstrates that cannabis use in the general population is associated with heightened risk of clinically serious negative outcomes, specifically, needing to present to the ED or be admitted to hospital," said lead author Dr. Nicholas Vozoris, a lung specialist at St. Michael's and an associate scientist at the hospital's Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute. ^{lxxxix} [Link](#), [Study](#)
- k. Higher concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol or THC – the part of the marijuana plant that makes you high – are causing more addiction. Use of higher potency cannabis, relative to lower potency cannabis, is associated with increased risk of psychosis and Cannabis Use Disorder. ^{xc} [Link](#)

l. Cannabis Use Disorder Up by 13.89% Since 2021



- m. Colorado has jumped to first in the nation for highest percentage of adults who need drug treatment but are not getting it. ^{xcii} [Link](#)

- n.** Colorado Marijuana use by at risk populations – Marijuana is the most common drug found in toxicology of those who died by suicide. ^{xcii} [Link](#)
- o.** Colorado Marijuana commercial legalization is linked to an increase in perinatal maternal MJ consumption (found in breast milk for extended time frame) ^{xciii} [Link](#)
- p.** Colorado Poison Control calls have quadrupled. ER visits for MJ involvement and MJ related hospitalizations are all up. ^{xciv} [Link](#)
- q.** Data from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction show a 76% increase in people entering treatment for cannabis addiction in the past decade. ^{xcv} [Link](#)
- r.** Between 2000 and 2020, reports to poison centers for child and teen marijuana use increased by 245%. ^{xcvi} [Link](#)
- s.** 9 out of the top 10 U.S. states by annual marijuana use among youth (ages 12-17) have legalized the drug for recreational use. ^{xcvii} [Link](#)
- t.** (3-18-2022) Medical marijuana fails to improve symptoms of pain, anxiety and depression and effectively doubles the risk of developing addictive symptoms and cannabis use disorder (CUD). The study, published by researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital on March 18, 2022, also noted that up to one in five users of cannabis may develop CUD. ^{xcviii} [Link](#), [Study](#)
- u.** (1-20-2022) "In summary, much of the available evidence supports the criteria of strength, consistency, biological gradient, and temporality for cannabis causing psychosis. Furthermore, supporting specificity, while many substances are known to induce psychosis, the risk for conversion to schizophrenia is greatest with cannabis-induced psychosis." ^{xcix} [Link](#)
- v.** (12-4-2023) Cannabis use does not reduce long-term heroin use.^c [Link](#)
- w.** (1-15-2024) Cannabis is not effective for opioid addiction. ^{ci} [Link](#)
- x.** (11-21-2022): Airway inflammation and emphysema are more common in marijuana smokers than cigarette smokers. ^{cii} [Link](#)
- y.** E-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) is a new phenomenon that occurs as a result of vaping. Most cases occur due to products that

contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which comes from cannabis. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Trusted Source](#), by early 2020, there had been around 2,800 cases of EVALI, with 68 of those resulting in death.^{ciii} [Link](#)

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- bb.** (3-22-2023) Cannabis warning to young women: Smoking THC in your teens may slash your egg count in half. ^{cvi} [Link](#)
- cc.** (12-12-2023) Pregnant women who use marijuana or breathe in second-hand smoke are up to 1.5-times more likely to have pregnancy complications. ^{cvi} [Link](#)
- dd.** (11-29-2022) Women in states where cannabis is legal are five times more likely to smoke the drug while pregnant than women in states where it is not - raising risk of birth defects, and premature and still births. ^{cvi} [Link](#)
- ee.** (9-12-2022) Marijuana use in pregnant women has been linked to low birth weight, which puts the baby at risk of having a harder time eating, gaining weight, and staving off infection. Cannabis use also increases the odds that a baby will be stillborn. 2013 research conducted by the federal National Institutes of Health found a 2.3 per cent increased risk of stillbirth among women who used cannabis while pregnant. Women who use marijuana while pregnant also raise the risk that their baby will experience memory and cognitive problems as they grow up. ^{cix} [Link](#)
- ff.** (2-28-24) Marijuana smokers are a third more likely to develop potentially deadly heart conditions. ^{cx} [Link](#)
- gg.** Evidence of an association between cannabis use disorder and schizophrenia exists. The finding is most striking in young men ages 21-30, but is also seen in women of the same age. ^{cxi} [Link](#)
- hh.** (5-2-2023) Teenagers who use cannabis only recreationally are two to four times more likely to develop psychiatric disorders, including depression and suicidality, than teenagers who don't use cannabis at all. ^{cxii} [Link](#)
- ii.** (7-2021) Those who perceived marijuana as low risk were 6 times more likely to have used the drug in the past year compared with those who perceived it to be high risk. People who perceived marijuana to be available were 5 times more likely to have used

it in the past year than those who perceived it to be unavailable. When marijuana is perceived as both low risk AND available, people were 22 times more likely to have used the drug in the past year than those perceiving the drug as high-risk and unavailable. ^{cxiii} [Link](#) [Link](#)

- jj.** “A 2022 comprehensive study from Clemson University determined that data “strongly suggest that RCL [recreational cannabis legalization] adoption may cause an increase in aggregate rates of homelessness” (Sanderson, 2022). Statistics from individual state data appear to support this claim. In Colorado, for example, the homelessness rate appears to have increased with the expansion of recreational marijuana. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported a 13% increase in Colorado’s homeless population from 2015 and 2016, while the national average decreased 3% (Burke & Acuna, 2017). Business owners and officials in Durango, Colorado, have testified that the resort town “suddenly became a haven for recreational pot users, drawing in transients, panhandlers, and a large number of homeless drug addicts” (Kolb, 2017).” ^{cxiv} [Link](#)
- kk.** “Not only do these illegal grows rely on trafficked workers for labor, they also ignore environmental regulations, including pesticide limits and water restrictions.” ^{cxv} [Link](#)
- ll.** “The Oregon Liquor Control Commission wrote in a 2018 report that, “due to the legally required rapid implementation of the recreational program, OLCC has not been able to implement robust compliance monitoring and enforcement controls and processes for the recreational marijuana program” (Oregon Liquor Control Commission, 2018).” ^{cxvi} [Link](#)
- mm.** Law enforcement costs will exponentially increase with the legalization of recreational marijuana, as regulatory enforcement arms will be overwhelmed, the illegal market will expand, tangential criminal activity will require more officers and resources to enforce existing laws, and we will need hundreds of new Drug Recognition Experts to mitigate the horrendous costs of increased drugged driving on our highways.
- nn.** Given the current body of available research and evidence, lawsuits similar to the successful suits waged against big tobacco, lodged by counsel for marijuana users who suffer injury as a result of legalization of recreational marijuana are inevitable. Costs of defending government sanctioned recreational marijuana programs will be substantial and adverse judgements would be debilitating.

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ⁱ 1-28-25 Brain Function Outcomes of Recent and Lifetime Cannabis Use

Joshua L. Gowin, PhD^{1,2}; Jarrod M. Ellingson, PhD²; Hollis C. Karoly, PhD³; et alPeter Manza, PhD⁴; J. Megan Ross, PhD²; Matthew E. Sloan, MD^{5,6,7,8,9,10,11}; Jody L. Tanabe, MD¹; Nora D. Volkow, MD^{4,12}

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1113November 2024 - Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis: Medical and Recreational Cannabis

Legalization and Cannabis Use Among Youth in the United StatesAditya K.S. Pawar, MDa apawar3@jh.edu ·

Elizabeth S. Firmin, BAB · Timothy E. Wilens, MD · Christopher J. Hammond, MD, PhDc

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