

**ILCAAAP**

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol &amp; Addiction Problems

**July 1, 2014****Marijuana Action Alert****We need to start child-proofing pot**

A University of Colorado study blamed the proliferation of these drug-laced edibles, combined with relaxed marijuana laws, for a surge in emergency room visits by children who had accidentally ingested marijuana. **"Before the marijuana boom these kinds of edibles were not mass-produced and the amount of THC ingested was somewhat limited," said Dr. George Wang, lead study author. "But now we are seeing much higher strength marijuana."**

The article reviews some of marijuana's negative effects:

- Marijuana damages developing brains
- Marijuana is linked to mental health problems
- Marijuana sets up kids for failure

[Read the Chicago Tribune article](#)

**More Teens in Treatment Addicted to Marijuana**

Over 65% of adolescents ages 12-17 who were admitted to treatment had addiction involving marijuana. In total, about 9% of people who use marijuana will become addicted; research suggests that this number may be higher among teens who start using the drug early. Even teens who don't become addicted can be harmed as research shows that teen marijuana use can have significant effects on cognitive function and IQ, especially learning, memory, attention, and concentration.

Increasing the availability of marijuana, whether for medical or recreational purposes, potentially places our children at very serious risk. [Read more](#)

**Pot use declines worldwide, but not in the US**

More people are seeking treatment each year. This included a 56 percent increase in US

marijuana-related emergency room visits between 2006 and 2010, and a 14 percent increase in admission to drug-treatment programs over the same period.

According to the National Institutes of Health(NIH), about 9 percent of people who use marijuana become dependent on it - a number that increases to about one in six among those who start using it at a young age, and to 25 to 50 percent among daily users. **Read more**

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact the Governor by phone: 800-642-3112 or **Click here to e-mail the Governor** to ask him to VETO SB 2636 to keep marijuana out of the hands of children.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action.

**Donate**

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