



August 2, 2017

Marijuana Alert



Some lawmakers want to Legalize marijuana in Illinois (HB 2353 and SB 316)

Some lawmakers say legalizing recreational marijuana should be on the horizon for Illinois. But they admit there are still details to work out. [Read more](#)

Why do states want to legalize marijuana?

The single most important motivator is an issue that many states have faced frequently in the past: **They need more money.**

Many of the same states that legalized gambling are the same ones continuing to struggle today. Increasing tax revenue helps -- but only if spending increases less. [Read more](#)

Issues from states that have legalized marijuana.

Manufacturing can't find drug-free workers

Legalizing recreational marijuana is linked to increased crashes

When college students lost access to legal pot, their grades improved

But what the Maastricht study can do is provide highly credible evidence that **marijuana legalization will lead to decreased academic success** - perhaps **particularly so for struggling students** - and that is a concern that both proponents and opponents of legalization should keep in mind. [Read more](#)

High potency marijuana and harms children

In the 1980's THC potency was 2.4 percent, but it has increased. **In Colorado**, Herbal Alternatives New Broadsterdam has a supply of **high-potency concentrates, labeled from 60 percent to 77 percent THC**.

"Using the high THC marijuana of today . . . **can lead to permanent damage to the brain** and implications for the rest of your life."

"We've seen a significant increase in ER visits among people who have used these potent marijuana products, **sudden onset psychosis**, seeing things that aren't there, hearing things that aren't there, feeling like people are following you, agitation," said Dr. Christian Thurstone, an adolescent psychiatrist who runs Denver Health's STEP program to treat teen addicts.

"We know **especially potent products can actually cause anxiety**.

"We know there is an **association between marijuana use, depression, suicide**. . . So it looks like the youth who use these potent products are falling into a deeper hole ... more severe addiction, looks like we are seeing more psychosis and related to that." He said it is especially **concerning for a child's developing brain**.

... "We are **seeing marijuana taken out of elementary schools, middle schools and high schools all over the state**," Reimer said. "**The dabbing and high-end waxes are prevalent in schools. They vape in the classrooms, they're dabbing in the bathrooms. They blackout, their heart races like crazy**, they come to and they are extremely baked. ... Lots of kids rushed to the hospital." [Read more](#)

Pattern of Marijuana Use During Adolescence May Impact Adulthood

The researchers analyzed frequency of cannabis use from ages 14 to 19 to determine the relationship between use during adolescence and psychosocial outcomes. In an unexpected finding, **boys who started occasionally using cannabis around 15 or 16 years old and had a dramatic increase in use by the time they were 19 had the greatest dysfunction in brain reward circuitry, the highest rates of depression and the lowest educational achievements**. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Contact your State [Representative](#) and [Senator](#). Share your concerns about marijuana and ask them to OPPOSE the legalization of marijuana in Illinois.
2. Share this information with your faith community.
3. Forward to 10 others.

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