

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF EASING PENALTIES ON MARIJUANA AND EXPANDING ITS USE

- » Each year, two-thirds of new marijuana users are under the age of 18. (SAMSHA, 2010; Hall and Degenhardt, 2009)
- » One in six of these adolescents will go on to develop marijuana use or dependence. (SAMSHA, 2010; Hall and Degenhardt, 2009)
- » Youth marijuana use in Illinois is higher than the national average.

YOUTH MARIJUANA USE				
Past 30 Days Use	IL 2008	IL 2010	IL 2012	National 2012
8 th Grade	7.8%	9.1%	8.5%	6.5%
10 th Grade	16.7%	18.3%	19.8%	17.0%
12 th Grade	21.8%	25.3%	26.8%	22.9%

Source: Illinois Youth Survey 2012 State Report and 2012 Monitoring the Future Survey

- » Easing marijuana penalties and expanding marijuana use sends LOUD messages to young people.

IT'S "COOL" TO USE MARIJUANA			
	IL 2008	IL 2010	IL 2012
8 th Grade	19.4%	25.7%	32.9%
10 th Grade	26.8%	32.2%	31.0%
12 th Grade	32.9%	45.0%	42.0%

Source: Illinois Youth Survey 2012 State Report

- » Marijuana can be addictive. In Illinois 15,759 marijuana users were admitted for treatment in 2010, of these 36.4% were 12-17 years of age, 18.2% were 18-20 years, and 18.8% were 21-25 years. *Source: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/IL10.htm>*
 - » Teens smoking pot see IQ decline. Teens that start smoking marijuana regularly (20 times a month) before age 18 and are dependent show an average IQ decline by 8 points by age 38. *Source: Persistent Cannabis User Show Neuropsychological Decline from Childhood to Midlife, Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health & Development*
 - » Marijuana compromises academic success by impairing learning, memory, abstract thinking and problem solving. Teens' brains are not fully developed until their early
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twenties. Marijuana use can lead to poor attendance, dropping out of school, delinquency and behavioral problems.

- » **Driving under the influence of marijuana is escalating, as are the devastating consequences. In the last decade marijuana-involved fatal crashes tripled. “Currently, one of nine drivers involved in fatal crashes would test positive for marijuana,” according to Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health.**

ILLINOIS YOUTHS DRIVING AFTER USING MARIJUANA OR OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS		
	IL 10th Grade	IL 12th Grade
2008	8.2%	18.5%
2010	8.5%	20.3%
2012	10.9%	21.2%

Source: Illinois Youth Survey 2012 State Report

- » **Starting in 2010, more high school seniors smoked marijuana than smoked cigarettes.**

Source: 2010 Monitoring the Future Survey

- » **Marijuana is much more potent today. Today, the THC content is typically between 12 to 15 percent but can reach as high as 30 percent with high-tech growing methods. The average THC content in the U.S. was: 1.37% in 1978, 3.59% in 1988, 4.43% in 1998 and 8.49% in 2008. Source: University of Mississippi Potency Project**

- » **Measurements you need to know.**

One “joint” contains approximately 0.4 grams of marijuana. Ten grams makes approximately 25 “joints.” Thirty grams makes approximately 75 “joints.” Five hundred grams makes approximately 1,250 “joints.”

One marijuana plant grown outdoors produces approximately 448 grams of marijuana, making approximately 1,120 “joints.” Five plants would make approximately 5,600 “joints.”

One marijuana grown indoors produces approximately 224 grams of marijuana, making approximately 560 “joints.” The plants grown indoors are smaller than those grown outdoors, but they produce a higher potency THC and can be harvested several times. Five plants would make approximately 2,800 “joints” per harvest.