



December 21, 2016

Marijuana Alert

Illinois Medical Cannabis and Marijuana studies



Update on Illinois Medical Marijuana

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has approved applications for approximately 13,200 qualifying patients (**including 100 persons under the age of 18**), since it began accepting applications for the Medical Cannabis on September 2, 2014.

The Illinois Department of Professional Regulation has amended a complaint against a doctor who operates a clinic in Marion and advertises it is sympathetic to patients seeking access to medical marijuana. [Read more](#)

Marijuana Use and Teens - Monitoring the Future

Six percent of 12th graders reported daily use of marijuana-that's about 1 in 16 high school seniors. In the survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, the perception of risk associated with smoking marijuana regularly continues to decline. Only 31.1 percent of 12th graders reporting that regular marijuana use is harmful compared to 58.3 percent in 2000.

The survey also showed there continues to be a **higher rate of marijuana use among 12th graders in states with medical marijuana laws compared to states without them**. This year, daily marijuana use exceeded cigarette use among 10th and 12th graders. [Read more](#)

Marijuana for morning sickness can harm unborn child

Dr. Volkow and associates from NIDA in Bethesda, Maryland cite studies that show a greater risk of anemia and lower birth weights, and a higher risk of neonatal intensive care unit admission for infants, when women use marijuana during pregnancy, writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association. **These children are also more likely to have developmental problems later on.**

Despite these risks, **marijuana use by pregnant women appears to be rising**. According to a related report, the proportion of pregnant women who reported using marijuana during the past month rose from 2.37 percent in 2002 to 3.85 percent in 2014.

NIDA is not alone in recommending against marijuana use during pregnancy. "The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists suggests that physicians refrain

from prescribing or suggesting the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes during preconception, pregnancy, and lactation," Dr. Brown said. [Read more](#)

Regular cannabis use could damage eyesight, study suggests

Regularly smoking cannabis may damage users' eyesight by triggering an abnormality in the retina, a new study has found.

"Any deleterious effect on the visual system would also have implications for driving, work and other activities and thus warrants further study," wrote two doctors from Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Send a Christmas card to your [State Senator](#) and State [Representative](#). Tell them you oppose the legalization of marijuana and let them know of your concerns.
2. If you live in a district with a newly elected Legislator, send them a note of congratulations and let them know you OPPOSE the legalization of marijuana. Share your concerns and ask them to oppose marijuana legislation.
3. Forward to 10 others.

Thank you for contacting Legislators and the Governor and for working with ILCAAAP to oppose the legalization of marijuana to prevent drug use and addiction.

Merry Christmas

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