

## **CHILDREN AND INFANTS ARE DAMAGED BY MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

### **TODAY'S MARIJUANA IS VERY HIGH IN POTENCY**

Marijuana products today can be up to 99% THC the psychoactive chemical in marijuana. The amount of THC in marijuana has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. For a person who's new to marijuana use, this may mean exposure to higher THC levels with a greater chance of a harmful reaction including mental illness.

<https://herb.co/2017/03/29/thc-a-crystalline/>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

### **LEGALIZED MARIJUANA WILL CAUSE MORE MAYHEM ON OUR ROADWAYS**

According to a Colorado Springs Gazette editorial about legalization in Colorado there has been a doubling of drivers involved in fatal crashes testing positive for marijuana. [1] Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among those aged 16-25. [2] Weekend nighttime driving under the influence of marijuana among young drivers has increased by 48%. [3] About 13% of high school seniors said they drove after using marijuana while only 10 % drove after having five or more drinks.[4] Another study showed about 28,000 seniors each year admitted to being in at least one motor vehicle accident after using marijuana. [5]

[1] <http://gazette.com/editorial-the-sad-anniversary-of-big-commercial-pot-in-colorado/article/1614900>

[2] [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6448a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6448a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6448a1.htm?s_cid=mm6448a1_w)

[3] *Ibid.*

[4]

<https://archives.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2007/10/drug-impaired-driving-by-youth-remains-serious-problem>

[5] "Unsafe Driving by High School Seniors: National Trends from 1976 to 2001 in Tickets and Accidents After Use of Alcohol, Marijuana and Other Illegal Drugs." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. May 2003

### **MARIJUANA USE RESULTS IN PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE TO KIDS**

Marijuana use is tied to concurrent and lasting changes in adolescent cognitive functions, according to a study that tracked high school students for 4 years. Of particular concern was the finding that marijuana use was associated with lasting effects on a measure of inhibitory control, which is a risk factor for other addictive behaviors, and might explain why early onset marijuana use is a risk factor for other addictions.

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/neurology/generalneurology/75472>

### **MARIJUANA USE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER PREGNANCY CAN CAUSE SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS, LEARNING PROBLEMS, AND BIRTH DEFECTS**

Legalizing marijuana will cause more marijuana use among women of child bearing age. Prenatal marijuana use has been linked with:

1. Developmental and neurological disorders and learning deficits in children.

3. Premature birth, miscarriage, stillbirth.
4. An increased likelihood of a person using marijuana as a young adult.
5. The American Medical Association states that marijuana use may be linked with low birth weight, premature birth, behavioral and other problems in young children.
6. Birth defects and childhood cancer.
7. Reproductive toxicity affecting spermatogenesis which is the process of the formation of male gamete including meiosis and formation of sperm cells.

*Volkow ND, Compton WM, Wargo EM. The risks of marijuana use during pregnancy. JAMA. 2017;317(2):129-130.*

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/can-marijuana-use-during-pregnancy-harm-baby>

<https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Marijuana-Use-During-Pregnancy-and-Lactation>

<https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/pdf/marijuana-pregnancy-508.pdf>

### **MARIJUANA EXPOSURES AMONG CHILDREN INCREASE OVER 600%**

The rate of marijuana exposures among children under the age of six increased by 610% in the “medical” marijuana states according to a study published in Clinical Pediatrics. The data comes from the National Poison Data System. 75% percent of the children ingested edible marijuana products such as marijuana-infused candy. Clinical effects include drowsiness or lethargy, ataxia [failure of muscle coordination], agitation or irritability, confusion and coma, respiratory depression, and single or multiple seizures.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0009922815589912>

### **MARIJUANA RELATED SUICIDES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN COLORADO**

Marijuana is the Number 1 substance now found in suicides of young people in Colorado who are 15-19 years old. Go to the below Colorado website and click on the box that lists “methods, circumstances and toxicology” and then click on the age box for 15-19 years olds. The marijuana data will appear.

[https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/CoVDRS\\_12\\_1\\_17/Story1?:embed=y&:showAppBanner=false&:showShareOptions=true&:display\\_count=no&:showVizHome=no#4](https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/HSEBPublic/views/CoVDRS_12_1_17/Story1?:embed=y&:showAppBanner=false&:showShareOptions=true&:display_count=no&:showVizHome=no#4)

### **TODDLERS WITH LUNG INFLAMMATION**

In Colorado one in six infants and toddlers hospitalized for lung inflammation are testing positive for marijuana exposure. This has been a 100% increase since legalization (10% to 21%). Non-white kids are more likely to be exposed than white kids.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/04/160430100247.htm>

### **TEEN ER VISITS**

Marijuana related emergency room visits by Colorado teens is substantially on the rise. They see more kids with psychotic symptoms and other mental health problems and chronic vomiting due to marijuana

use.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-marijuana-kids/marijuana-related-er-visits-by-colorado-teens-on-the-rise-idUSKBN1HO38A>

## **LOW BIRTH WEIGHTS**

The Colorado School of Public Health reports that there is a 50% increase in low birth weights among women who use marijuana during pregnancy. Low birth weight sets the stage for future health problems including infection and time spent in neonatal intensive care.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/04/180423125052.htm>

## **YOUTH MARIJUANA VAPING HAS DRASTICALLY INCREASED.**

"The percentage of teenagers who said they had vaped marijuana once or more over the last year essentially doubled during the past two years as well, rising to 7 percent for eighth graders, 19.4 percent for 10th graders and 20.8 percent for 12th graders."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2757960>

## **THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY EXPOSES UNBORN CHILDREN TO MARIJUANA.**

Nearly 70 percent of licensed Colorado dispensaries recommended that pregnant woman use marijuana.

<https://www.denverhealth.org/-/media/denver-health-marijuana--pregnancy-study.pdf?la=en&hash=7CF1182B6937B9E4267378A1E5F04D8ED221DC6C>

## **MORE AMERICAN YOUTH ARE USING MARIJUANA**

The Surgeon General advisory sadly states approximately 9.2 million youth aged 12 to 25 reported marijuana use in the past month and 29% more young adults aged 18-25 started using marijuana. In addition, high school students' perception of the harm from regular marijuana use has been steadily declining over the last decade.

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>

## **ACCIDENTAL INGESTION OF MARIJUANA**

Accidental ingestion of marijuana, especially of those products containing high levels of THC, has serious, detrimental effects on children. There is a direct relationship between an increase in availability of edible marijuana products (foods such as gummies, candies, brownies, cookies) and accidental ingestion and overdose by children and/or adolescents. Accidental ingestion of cannabis is a well-documented legitimate public health concern as legalization of recreational and/or medical marijuana and the potency of the product evolves.

*Richards, J. R., MD, Smith, N. E., MS, & Moulin, A. K., MD. (2017). Unintentional Cannabis Ingestion in Children: A Systematic Review. The Journal of Pediatrics, 190, 142-152. Retrieved February 26, 2019, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022347617309393#abs0025>.*

*Barrus, D. G., Capogrossi, K. L., Cates, S. C., Gourdet, C. K., Peiper, N. C., Novak, S. P., Lefever, T. W., Wiley, J. L. (2016). Tasty THC: Promises and Challenges of Cannabis Edibles. Methods report (RTI Press), 2016, 10.3768/rtipress.2016.op.0035.1611.*

### **AS MORE ADULTS USE MARIJUANA, SO WILL THEIR KIDS**

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) released a study on November 22, 2019 stating parental marijuana use was associated with increased risk of marijuana and tobacco use and opioid misuse by both adolescent and young adult offspring and of alcohol use by adolescent offspring.

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2755867?utm\\_source=For\\_The\\_Media&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ftm\\_links&utm\\_term=112019](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2755867?utm_source=For_The_Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm_links&utm_term=112019)

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