

Examples of the Harmful Effects of Marijuana Legalization

- 1 in 6 marijuana users who start young will become addicted to marijuana.
- Recreational marijuana commercialization is associated with a 67% to 77% increase in calls to poison control centers for marijuana exposures relative to pre-legalization. The increase associated with commercialization was higher among minors than adults.
- The existing science, mostly conducted on lower potency marijuana than what is being widely used today, already clearly indicates that marijuana is addictive, harmful to the developing brain, can cause significant mental and physical health issues, impairs driving ability and causes increased fatal car accidents.
- The American Automobile Association (AAA) found that 18% of drivers in Washington state tested positive for THC after a fatal crash between 2013 and 2017, compared to just 8.8% from 2008 to 2012. Additionally, 14.8 million drivers report driving within 1 hour after using marijuana in the last 30 days.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with a 110% increase in fatal crashes.
- People who used marijuana heavily in their teens and continued through adulthood saw a permanent 8-point drop in IQ.
- Studies show that teenagers who use marijuana weekly or daily have a 159% greater risk of recurrent psychotic-like experiences.
- Chronic marijuana use reduces dopamine release in the brain, causing depression, poor memory, inattention and impaired learning performance.
- A Dutch study found that students who used marijuana had worse grades than those who did not. Students who did not use marijuana were 5.4% more likely to pass a class. This effect was 3.5 times larger for courses requiring math or quantitative thinking.
 - College students with high levels (17 days/month) of marijuana use were twice as likely as those with minimal use (less than 1 day/month) to have an enrollment gap while in college (e.g., drop out or not graduate on time).
- A Norwegian study found that use of marijuana is associated with a reduction in work commitment among adults.
- Marijuana use increases workplace injuries, accidents, disciplinary problems and absenteeism.
- Marijuana is the most common substance present in suicides among adolescents aged 10-19.
 - Research also shows that marijuana policy changes affect youth use and consumption rates. Past-month marijuana use among 12-17-year-olds is 54.5% higher in states where marijuana is “legal” than for youth aged 12-17 in “non-legal” states.