



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert - March 25, 2022



### **Medical marijuana does not help with anxiety, depression, doubles the risk of addiction, study says**

**LOS ANGELES** - A recent study found that medical marijuana fails to improve symptoms of pain, anxiety, and depression and effectively doubles the risk of developing addictive symptoms and cannabis use disorder (CUD).

The study, published by researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital on March 18, also noted that up to one in five users of cannabis may develop CUD.

"There have been many claims about the benefits of medical marijuana for treating pain, insomnia, anxiety and depression, without sound scientific evidence to support them," said Professor Jodi Gilman in a news release. [Read](#)

### **WA pot shops robberies have turned deadly.**

On Sunday, March 20, at approximately 10 p.m., Tacoma police responded to an armed robbery at a pot shop in the 3200 block of Portland Avenue. When officers arrived, they found a male employee suffering from a gunshot wound. Life-saving measures failed, and the victim, who Tacoma police later said was only 29 years old, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Citywide, it was at least the 12th armed pot shot robbery this year, according to Tacoma police spokesperson Wendy Haddow.

Across the region, it was the third time in a week someone died as the result of a retail marijuana robbery gone wrong, according to the Seattle Times. [Read](#)

### **High from hemp: States wrestle with chemically made THC**

At the center of the issue is THC, marijuana's main intoxicating component. While marijuana and hemp are the same plant —

cannabis — the distinction between the two is a legal one, and comes down to the amount of THC in the plant, specifically the amount of a type of THC called delta-9. Hemp is defined in federal law by its low delta-9 THC content and is traditionally used for food, clothing and industrial applications. “Rope not dope” was long a motto for those who advocated the legalization of hemp.

But since Congress passed the 2018 Farm Bill, authorizing the growing of hemp nationwide, there’s been an unforeseen consequence: People exploiting what they see as a loophole in the law have taken that hemp, extracted a non-intoxicating compound called CBD, and chemically changed it — generally by the addition of solvents and heat — into various types of impairing THC. High-inducing cannabis compounds derived not from the heavily regulated and taxed legal marijuana industry, but from a chemical process involving little-regulated, cheaply grown hemp. [Read](#)

### ***For Immediate Action***

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