



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert - Sept. 30, 2021



### **State Partners With Legal Aid Network To Expunge Cannabis-Related Records**

Illinois has allocated \$1.6 million toward hiring 20 organizations to get the word out and assist with legal aid counsel. Since New Leaf Illinois launched in November 2020, about 1,100 people have registered with the network. [Read](#)

### **Smartphone sensor has potential to detect cannabis intoxication**

According to the [study](#), published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence, which evaluated the feasibility of using smartphone sensor data to identify episodes of cannabis intoxication in the natural environment, a combination of time features (tracking the time of day and day of week) and smartphone sensor data had a 90 percent rate of accuracy.

Cannabis intoxication has been associated with slowed response time, affecting performance at work or school or impairing driving behavior leading to injuries or fatalities. Existing detection measures, such as blood, urine or saliva tests, have limitations as indicators of cannabis intoxication and cannabis-related impairment in daily life. [Read](#)

### **Marijuana jobs going to former retail, restaurant workers**

An estimated 321,000 people now work in the legal cannabis industry in the U.S. That's more than the number of dentists, paramedics or electrical engineers.

. . . Hourly pay at dispensaries . . . runs from \$12 to \$15, in line with most retail and warehouse jobs.

That surge in cannabis hiring has put pressure on traditional employers – particularly in the 18 states and the District where

recreational marijuana use is legal – to ease drug testing requirements. Amazon, the nation’s second-largest private employer, said in June that it would stop screening employees for cannabis use and would support federal legislation to legalize marijuana. A number of other employers, including retailers, restaurants and city governments have also dropped such requirements in an effort to attract workers. [Read](#)

## **Legalization of marijuana is bringing weed into the workplace**

Nearly half of U.S. adults said in 2021 that they have tried it, up from about 34% in 1999, according to a long-running Gallup poll. With the widening legalization of pot in the U.S.—19 states and [Washington, D.C.](#), have legalized it for recreational use and more than a dozen others have cleared it for medical purposes—workplaces and co-workers are adjusting to greater openness about the drug, grappling with issues from referencing cannabis in job interviews to deciding whether it is ever acceptable to get stoned with a client. [Read](#)

### *For Immediate Action*

1. [Register for the FREE webinar](#), “The Dangerous Truth About Today’s Marijuana” on October 12 from 11:00 to Noon. **If you can’t attend live, please register anyway, and you’ll receive the recording.**
2. **Share** this Alert with your faith community ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward** to 10 others.

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