

5 FACTS

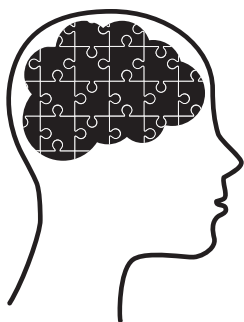
ABOUT MARIJUANA YOU SHOULD
KNOW BEFORE LEGALIZATION
JANUARY 1, 2022.
THE 5TH ONE WILL SURPRISE YOU!

FACT 1: MONTANA YOUTH ARE AT HIGH RISK



Montana is 5th in the nation for youth marijuana use. Our state is also 3rd in the nation for youth being diagnosed with an addiction. **Marijuana is the most used drug for youth seeking treatment.**

FACT 2: MARIJUANA IS NOT HARMLESS, AND CAN NEGATIVELY AFFECT HEALTH

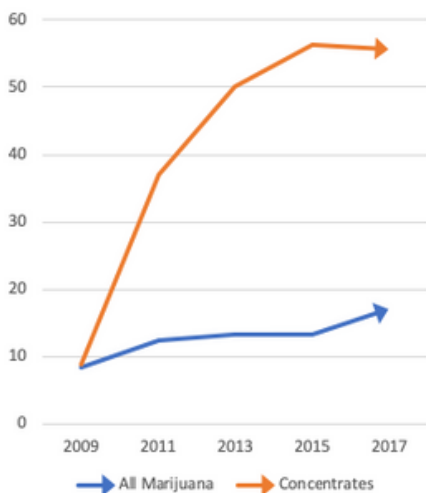


A common myth is that marijuana is harmless. However, this is not true, especially for young people. Marijuana use can damage the developing brain and is tied to reduced IQ and school failure. It can also increase their risk of anxiety, depression, and suicide.

One in five people who begin using marijuana early will develop an addiction to marijuana (or a cannabis use disorder). The stronger the marijuana is, the more addicting and damaging it can be.

FACT 3: MARIJUANA IS MUCH STRONGER THAN IT USED TO BE

Potency of Marijuana in U.S.



Today's marijuana is much stronger than what it was twenty years ago. In 2000, THC* potency tended to be around 5%. Now, most marijuana has 17% THC. Some marijuana concentrates (such as dab, wax, or shatter) can have a potency of **up to 99% THC.**

After legalization, our neighbors in Colorado and Washington have seen their youth using stronger, more potent, marijuana products. Use of marijuana concentrates has more than tripled in Washington and now makes up 35% of sales. In Colorado, dabbing more than doubled between 2017-2019, from 20% to 52% of high school youth who currently use marijuana.

*Note: THC, or Tetrahydrocannabinol, is the main ingredient in cannabis that creates the sensation of being high.

FACT 4: MISSOULA YOUTH USE MORE MARIJUANA THAN THEIR PEERS




Missoula youth are more likely to have used marijuana (25%) in the past 30 days than their peers statewide (20%). They are also less likely to think using marijuana is risky or wrong. Nearly 40% of those Missoula high school students who use, use almost EVERY DAY.

While the majority of Missoula youth do NOT USE (75%), there is still cause for concern.

FACT 5: WHAT WE DO AS A COMMUNITY CAN HELP

As a community, we can shape what marijuana legalization means for our youth. The following are strategies backed by research to protect youth from early marijuana use.

1. Do not allow products attractive to youth in shape, packaging, or marketing
2. Prohibit the use of flavors and flavor names known to attract youth
3. Raising prices via taxes is an effective strategy to prevent youth from starting to use
4. Require that marijuana dispensaries are located away from where children are (i.e., schools, daycares, parks, and youth centers)
5. Limit the number of marijuana dispensaries in one place
6. Prohibit smoking and vaping indoors, in workplaces, housing and in public outdoor spaces
7. Dedicate a portion of marijuana tax revenue to public health, public safety, and substance use prevention



A 3% excise tax on recreational marijuana is on the Missoula County ballot this November

CITIES WITH THE MOST DISPENSARIES

1. MISSOULA, MT
2. MEDFORD, OR
3. PUEBLO, CO

- Venlife.com, 2020

The public health recommendation for a city Missoula's size is 5 dispensaries. We currently have 45.

REFERENCES

Arnold, J., & Sade, R. (2020). Regulating Marijuana Use in the United States: Moving Past the Gateway Hypothesis of Drug Use. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 48(2), 275-278.

Carlini, B. et al (2020). Cannabis Concentration and Health Risks: A report for the Washington State Prevention Research Subcommittee (PRSC). University of Washington, Washington State University, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute.

Chandra, S., Radwan, M. M., Majumdar, C. G., Church, J. C., Freeman, T. P., & ElSohly, M. A. (2019). New trends in cannabis potency in USA and Europe during the last decade (2008-2017). *European archives of psychiatry and clinical neuroscience*, 269(1), 5-15.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (2021). Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2020. Retrieved from: www.marijuanahealthinfo.colorado.gov.

Gagnon, S. M. (2020). Evolution of State Cannabis Policies: Where Prevention Fits In. Webinar for New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center.

Hammond, C.J., Chaney, A., Hendrickson, B., & Sharma, P. (2020). Cannabis use among U.S. adolescents in the era of marijuana legalization: a review of changing use patterns, comorbidity, and health correlates. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 32:3, 221-234.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (2020). Montana prevention needs assessment. Retrieved from <https://www.bach-harrison.com/montanawebtool/Reports.aspx>.

Montana Office of Public Instruction (2021). Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Retrieved from <https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Data-Reporting/Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey>.

Pacula, R. L., Kilmer, B., Wagenaar, A. C., Chaloupka, F. J., & Caulkins, J. P. (2014). Developing public health regulations for marijuana: lessons from alcohol and tobacco. *American journal of public health*, 104(6), 1021-1028.

Shover, C.L., & Humphreys, K. (2019). Six policy lessons relevant to cannabis legalization. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 45(6), 698-706.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2019). 2017-2018 National Survey On Drug Use And Health National Maps Of Prevalence Estimates, By State. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2017-2018-nsduh-national-maps-prevalence-estimates-state>.

The Healthy Missoula Youth coalition consists of prevention professionals from numerous organizations and agencies throughout Western Montana, including:

CONTACT US

Leah Fitch-Brody, Chair
lfitch-brody@missoulacounty.us

