



# RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS **BAD NEWS**

**Don't let these National Headlines become Ohio's Headlines**

Old folks used to say, “Son, if three people tell you you’re drunk, **SIT DOWN.**” The thought was that when we are clearly under the influence, we need to rely upon the wisdom of those around us who might benefit from personal experience and an unimpaired perspective. As I sit in marijuana hearings at the Ohio Statehouse and listen to legislators discuss Recreational Marijuana policy without even mentioning the hard lessons learned from other states, I have to ask the question, “Who is influencing these people to blindly advocate for such potentially harmful legislation?” An analysis by Attorney General Yost’s Scientific Committee on Opioid Prevention and Education found the death rate in Ohio from opioid overdose in the second quarter of 2020 to be **“THE HIGHEST RATE IN 10 YEARS.”** And yet the General Assembly will soon find themselves considering multiple marijuana



commercialization bills: two bills advocating for recreational marijuana- a non-FDA approved, Schedule 1 Narcotic; and one bill advocating for the expansion of current “medical marijuana” legislation intended to help pave the way for the other two. While we cannot foretell the future of what the exact outcomes of legalization would look like for Ohio, we can and should look at the highly profitable recent history of damage that the Marijuana industry has inflicted upon states like Colorado and California.

The truth is that recreational marijuana legislation has no more to do with helping people with addiction or chronic pain, than the Big Pharma campaign that caused our current Opioid crisis. The purpose of this document is to remove the mystery surrounding the commercialization of marijuana. It is our hope, that this sobering glimpse into the Headlines generated from the failed marijuana policies of other states, will encourage pro-marijuana legislators to **STOP ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS.**

Sincerely,

David Mahan, Policy Director

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## BUSINESS & WORKPLACE SAFETY

**CNN US** Crime + Justice Energy + Environment Extreme Weather Space + Science

**As more Americans fail drug tests, employers turn to refugees**

Story by Dan Libberman and CNN Video by Matt Garrison, CNN  
Updated 4:40 PM EDT, Wed March 25, 2021



In Colorado, where marijuana is legal, some businesses have told Fay, "they see employees smoking pot on their lunch break and then going back to work." One oil and trucking company in Colorado did random drug screening at one of their locations last year and found 80 percent of their employees failed, Fay said. (Colorado's Supreme Court has ruled that companies may fire employees who smoke pot, even if legally.)

### Crash rates jump in the wake of Marijuana Legalization, new studies show June 17, 2021



**IHS**  
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

The New York Times

### Hiring Hurdle: Finding Workers Who Can Pass a Drug Test

By Jackie Calmes  
May 17, 2016



**NEW YORK POST**

**New York employers can't test workers for weed, Albany says**

By Jesse O'Neill  
October 19, 2021 | 10:39pm | Updated

**WHSV 3**  
FOX  
working hard for you

### AAA in opposition of marijuana legalization, expects increase in traffic fatalities



By Cayley Urenko  
Published: Feb. 4, 2021 at 5:36 PM UTC

**INSURANCE JOURNAL**

**First States to Legalize Marijuana See Rise in Car Insurance Claims, Research Shows**

January 7, 2019

The Gazette News Sports Opinion Life A&E Obits Classifieds Real Estate Photo/Video About

### Drug use a problem for employers

The Gazette Op/Ed Mar 24, 2015 View Comments



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# Don't let these **National Headlines** become Ohio's Headlines MARIJUANA & THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC



**A**  
*The Atlantic*

## The Misplaced Optimism in Legal Pot

A new study throws cold water on hopes that more liberal cannabis policies could stem the opioid epidemic.

By Olga Khazan • June 10, 2019

Nearly five years ago, a team of researchers performing a study on medical cannabis came to a startling conclusion: The 13 states that had legalized medical marijuana had a 25 percent lower rate of opioid mortality than those that hadn't.

The study wasn't designed to find an explanation for the trend, but the authors speculated that, perhaps, some chronic-pain patients who otherwise would have gotten hooked on prescription painkillers were instead choosing medical cannabis.

The paper, which I covered at the time, launched hopes that medical marijuana could help fight the opioid epidemic. If more people used the less addictive and less harmful pot instead of opioids, the thinking went, deaths might abate.

But a new paper, published today in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, throws cold water on that dream. A new set of researchers replicated part of the 2014 study's findings: That is, from 1999 to 2010, it's true that the introduction of medical-marijuana laws was associated with a decline in opioid-overdose deaths. But when the researchers included states that introduced laws between 2010 and 2017, the direction of the relationship reversed.

**Instead of a reduction in opioid overdoses, medical marijuana was associated with a 23 percent increase in overdose deaths.**

**NBC NEWS** June 10, 2019, 7:27 PM EDT  
By Erika Edwards

## Medical marijuana does not lower opioid overdose death rates, study finds

Some thought people with opioid addiction would turn to medical marijuana instead. It seems they were wrong.

**JAMA**  
**Internal Medicine**

September 2018

## Opioid Death Rate Acceleration in Jurisdictions Legalizing Marijuana Use

Archie Bleyer, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Brian Barnes, CSWA, MAC, CADC III<sup>3,4</sup>



**Hazelden Betty Ford**  
Foundation

## Emerging Drug Trends Report

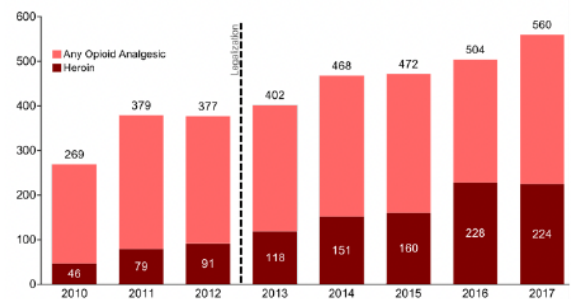
July 2019 | Shedding new light on America's No. 1 public health problem

Clearing Away the Confusion:  
Marijuana is not a Public Health Solution  
to the Addiction Crisis



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

## OPIOID OVERDOSE FATALITIES HAVE INCREASED IN COLORADO SINCE LEGALIZATION.~



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2018



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# Don't let these **National Headlines** become Ohio's Headlines **RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA & CHILDREN**

## COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS WARNS THAT CANNABIS IS 'GRAVEST THREAT TO YOUNG IRISH PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH TODAY'



College of Psychiatrists of Ireland  
Wisdom • Learning • Compassion

British Columbia · GO PUBLIC

## Copycat pot edibles that look like candy are poisoning kids, doctors say

Webbsites 'flagrantly' selling edibles that violate federal rules, lawyer says  
Rosa Marchitelli · CBC News · Posted: Jan 25, 2021 1:00 AM PT | Last Updated: January 25, 2021



CNN health Life, But Better Fitness Food Sleep Mindfulness Relationships · LIVE TV Edition

HAPPENING NOW  
White House press secretary Jen Psaki and national security adviser Jake Sullivan hold a briefing

## Children are at increased risk of accidental poisoning from marijuana edibles, study finds

By Sandee LaMotte, CNN  
Updated 4:00 PM ET, Mon May 24, 2021

NBC NEWS High potency weed linked to psychotic episodes, mysterious vomiting illness in young users

## High potency weed linked to psychotic episodes, mysterious vomiting illness in young users

"It felt like Edward Scissorhands was trying to grab my intestines and pull them out," a Colorado man told NBC News.

kxan WATCH LIVE NEWS COVID-19 WEATHER & TRAFFIC INVESTIGATIONS

## 6-year-old overdoses on THC gummy; mom says companies are 'targeting' kids

'It was one of the scariest moments of my life'



by: Michael Scheidt/BRPROUD, Nexstar Media Wire  
Posted: Jun 14, 2021 / 06:40 PM CDT / Updated: Jun 14, 2021 / 06:40 PM CDT

## Marijuana worse for teen brains than alcohol, study finds

Cannabis causes lasting cognitive impairment in adolescents, according to Canadian researchers.

NBC NEWS Oct. 3, 2018, 7:32 PM EDT  
By Shamard Charles, M.D.

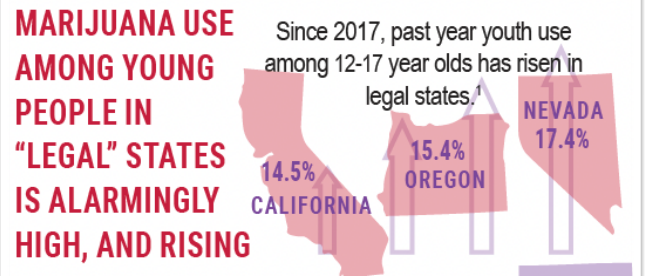
The study, published Wednesday in the American Journal of Psychiatry, followed over 3,800 adolescents from 31 Montreal-area schools over four years. ... "Cannabis causes cognitive impairment and delayed cognitive development in adolescents," Patricia Conrod, the lead author and professor of psychiatry at the University of Montreal, told NBC News. "This study focuses on the neuropsychological effects of cannabis. We think it's important because it is linked to how someone functions in life."

TIME BY ALICE PARK APRIL 18, 2018 11:00 AM EDT

## How Smoking Pot May Hurt the Teenage Brain

In a study published in *JAMA Psychiatry*, J. Cobb Scott, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and his colleagues analyzed 69 studies involving younger cannabis users. They found that compared to non-users, those who used marijuana frequently were more likely to have slightly lower scores on tests of memory, learning new information and higher level thinking involving problem solving and processing information.

SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana



In Colorado, past month marijuana use among those aged 15 or younger has increased 14.8% since 2017.



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# Don't let **Denver's Headlines** become Ohio's Headlines

Year legalized: 2012



## THE DENVER POST

News ▾ Sports ▾ Business ▾ Things To Do ▾ Outdoors ▾ Opinion ▾ Classifieds ▾

By **SAM TABACHNIK** | [stabachnik@denverpost.com](mailto:stabachnik@denverpost.com) | The Denver Post

July 20, 2021 at 6:00 a.m.

### Biennial report on Cannabis spotlights public safety, health, driving and youth consumption

#### Key findings of the Biennial Report:

##### “Social Justice”

Black Coloradans are still twice as likely to get busted for pot

##### Health

The number of calls to poison control mentioning marijuana exposure has jumped to 276 in 2019 from 41 calls in 2006

##### Public Safety

Plant seizures on public lands — one indicator of the illicit weed market — have fluctuated wildly since 2012. That year, authorities seized 46,662 pot plants. In 2017, that number rocketed to 80,826, but has since dropped back to a low of 1,502 in 2018.

DUI summonses issued by the Colorado State Patrol in which marijuana was recorded increased by 120% between 2014 and 2020 (684 to 1,504)

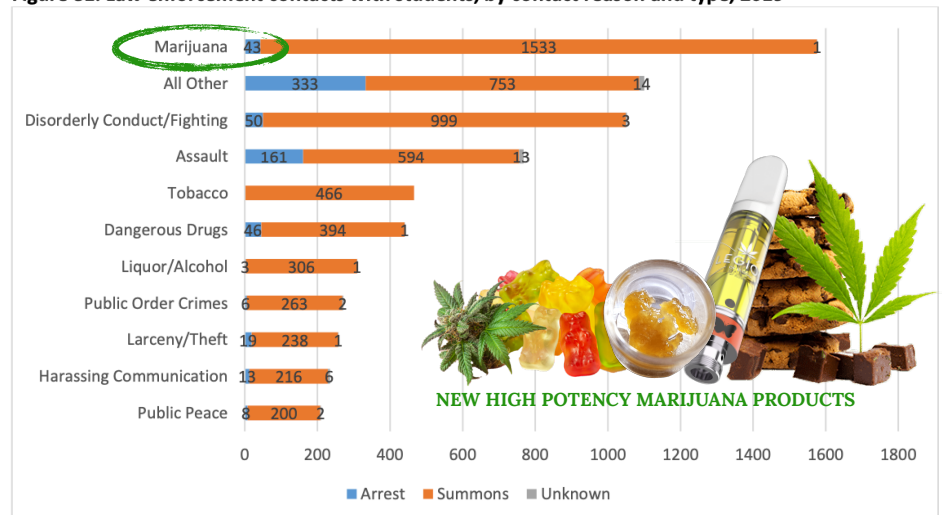


Denver's pot businesses mostly in low-income, minority neighborhoods

#### Children & Schools

Nearly three-quarters (73.5%) of youth ages 10 to 17 in treatment for substance use reported marijuana as their primary substance of use. Marijuana infractions accounted for 30% of all school expulsions and 34% of all law enforcement referrals in Colorado public schools, 2019-2020 school discipline data shows

Figure 81. Law enforcement contacts with students, by contact reason and type, 2019



NEW HIGH POTENCY MARIJUANA PRODUCTS

Source: Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (2020). Law Enforcement Contacts with Students, Academic Year 2018-19. See <https://ors.colorado.gov/ors-studentcontacts-1819>



# Don't let these **National Headlines** become Ohio's Headlines

## TAX REVENUES & THE BLACK MARKET

For every dollar gained in tax revenue, Coloradans spent approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization.

CENTENNIAL INSTITUTE

MARKETS BUSINESS INVESTING TECH POLITICS CNBC TV WATCHLIST CRAMER PRO #

POLITICS

### California proposes slashing pot taxes to help regulated industry compete with black market

PUBLISHED MON, JAN 28 2019-7:18 PM EST | UPDATED TUE, JAN 29 2019-9:18 AM EST

Jeff Daniels @JEFFDANIELSCA

SHARE f t in e

**PBS NEWSHOUR**

## How Colorado's marijuana legalization strengthened the drug's black market

Jul 15, 2019 6:30 PM EST

"We thought the Black Market would disappear, but it contracted and then **EXPANDED**... that's not what you would expect"

**John Hickenlooper**  
Former Governor of Colorado

ILLINOIS POLICY OUR STORY / YOUR STORY / POLICY RESEARCH / TAKE ACTION

### MARIJUANA TAX SUSPENDED TO CUT SAN FRANCISCO CRIME SURGE

Dylan Sharkey  
Writer

/ JOBS + GROWTH  
DECEMBER 7, 2021

High taxes on marijuana are believed to help illegal dealers and violence thrive, so San Francisco is holding off on new city pot taxes to help legal dispensaries compete. Illinois and Chicago, where taxes top 40%, may want to pay attention.

USA Today

### Mexican drug cartels move in on California's shadow marijuana industry



MarketWatch Latest Watchlist Markets Investing Personal Finance

### New York's 13% cannabis tax may be too high, since state has 'one of the most sophisticated' black markets in U.S., expert says

Last Updated: April 3, 2021 at 9:13 a.m. ET  
First Published: March 31, 2021 at 2:46 p.m. ET

It is common for Recreational Marijuana advocates to sell legislators on the promise of huge tax revenues and declining Black Market activity. But as you can see from these headlines, the illegal Marijuana trade and the crime that ensues actually **INCREASES**, while the sales and excise taxes **DECREASE** to help the Legal Dope Dealers compete with the Illegal Dope Dealers.



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# Don't let **California's Headlines** become Ohio's Headlines

Year legalized: 2016

## RUTGERS

Center of Alcohol &  
Substance Use Studies

“There’s nothing wrong with this promise – a black market designed to facilitate the sale of an illegal substance should dissipate as that substance becomes legalized. This destruction of the illegal marijuana market makes logical sense – so much so that **it became one of the primary arguments used by pro-legalization politicians to promote the drug**. So now, years after the first legalization of recreational cannabis in 2012, the illegal markets should be fading into obscurity.

**But many attentive residents of legalized states know that this promise hasn’t panned out.** Take California for example: first in the nation to legalize the medical use of the drug in 1996, the state would go on to legalize recreational use in 2016. Police reports suggest that arrests for pot crimes have *increased* following the drug’s legalization. Among such reports are a series of police records secured by the Los Angeles Times in early 2019 – compared to the rates of cannabis smuggling from before legalization was implemented, the documents suggest that **arrests have risen as much as 166%** since 1996”.

<https://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu/cannabis-black-market-thrives-despite-legalization/>

Los Angeles Daily News

October 5, 2021

### LA County Sheriff’s Department gets \$5 million to shut down illegal grow operations, dispensaries



Los Angeles Daily News

December 1, 2021

### LA County Sheriff: Department will shrink by 200-300 deputies due to budget cuts



## Los Angeles Times

### Editorial: Californians overwhelmingly supported legalizing marijuana. Why is it still a mess?

December 26, 2021

“**The black market is as big as ever, with roughly 75% of marijuana sales in the state coming from unlicensed sellers.** Illegal pot farms are still degrading sensitive environmental habitat. Untested and unregulated cannabis products, including edibles and oils, still flood the market. And **the pledge to help communities disadvantaged by the War on Drugs is still a work in progress.** California, which was one of the first states to end prohibition, has become an example of how **not to legalize marijuana.**”



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