At a time when Ohio is experiencing a mental health crisis and all-time drug overdose records, there is deep concern about efforts to legalize marijuana for commercial use. The below information is provided by states that have already ventured into the legalization of commercial marijuana – highlighting the impact on the workplace, public health, youth brain development, pregnancy, traffic safety, and the black market.

### Traffic Fatalities and Impaired Driving

138% increase in traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for marijuana after it was legalized for recreational use in Colorado in 2013.1

130 The average number of THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes rose from 56 to 130 annually after Washington’s legalization.2

### Pregnancy and Marijuana

Prenatal marijuana exposure (in any form) during pregnancy can result in:

- 2X higher risk of still birth6
- increased risk of adolescent children experiencing social and behavioral problems.5
- potential harm to development of brain and effects on cognition and behavior. increased risk for low birth weight and pre-term birth.6

### Workplace Impact

According to a study reported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse3, employees who tested positive for marijuana had:

- 55% more industrial accidents
- 75% greater absenteeism
- 85% more injuries

### Black Market Sales Increase in Colorado1

*post legalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>THC in Botanicals</th>
<th>THC in Edibles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'09-'12</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'13-'20</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Youth Impact9

- Increased risk of mental health issues.
- Potential for addiction.
- Impaired driving.

### Negative Effects of Youth Marijuana Use9

- Difficulty thinking and problem-solving.
- Problems with memory and learning.
- Reduced coordination.
- Difficulty maintaining attention.
- Problems with school and social life.

### Marijuana Today is not the Marijuana of the Past

**THC Concentration Timeline4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>THC Concentration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960-1990</td>
<td>THC &lt; 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1995</td>
<td>THC = 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-2015</td>
<td>THC &gt; 12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>THC = 17-28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*THC is the psychoactive component that causes addiction

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