

# The Cost of Legalizing Marijuana

# Prevention Action Alliance

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.

## Pregnancy and Marijuana

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

**2X** higher risk of still birth<sup>6</sup>

**↑** increased risk of adolescent children experiencing social and behavioral problems.<sup>5</sup>



potential harm to development of brain and effects on cognition and behavior. increased risk for low birth weight and pre-term birth.<sup>6</sup>

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

**130 ↑**

The average number of THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes rose from 56 to 130 annually after Washington's legalization.<sup>2</sup>

## Workplace Impact

According to a study reported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse<sup>3</sup>, employees who tested positive for marijuana had:

**55%**

more industrial accidents



**75%**

greater absenteeism



**85%**

more injuries



**95%**

THC products like oil, dab, and edibles can get up to 95% concentration of THC<sup>4</sup>

## Black Market Sales Increase in Colorado<sup>1</sup>



## Youth Impact<sup>9</sup>



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

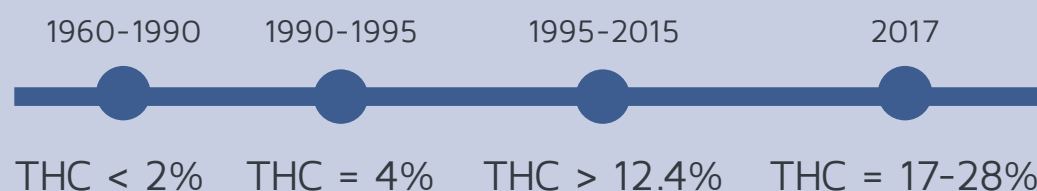
## Negative Effects of Youth Marijuana Use<sup>9</sup>



- 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 Timeline<sup>4</sup>



\*THC is the psychoactive component that causes addiction

1. The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact - <https://bit.ly/3Q67yAa>  
 2. AAA Researches Marijuana in Fatal Crashes after Legalization - <https://bit.ly/3rWH5gw>  
 3. How does marijuana use affect school, work, and social life? - <https://bit.ly/3FnIzDD>  
 4. The Problem with the Current High Potency THC Marijuana from the Perspective of an Addiction Psychiatrist - <https://bit.ly/45IQk1z>

5. Prenatal cannabis exposure associated with mental disorders in children that persist into early adolescence - <https://bit.ly/4931EJ8>  
 6. Marijuana and the Risks to Pregnancy & Breastfeeding - <https://bit.ly/3Foaf5>  
 7. How youth marijuana, alcohol use impacts life - <https://bit.ly/3ZZaNHh>  
 8. Cannabis (Marijuana) DrugFacts - <https://bit.ly/3tIJQ5S>  
 9. Marijuana and Public Health - <https://bit.ly/3SbBfCV>