

Marijuana

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What is Marijuana?

- ▶ The main psychoactive (mind-altering) chemical in marijuana, responsible for most of the intoxicating effects sought by recreational users, is delta-9-tetrahydro-cannabinol (THC).
- ▶ The chemical is found in resin produced by the leaves and buds primarily of the female cannabis plant.
- ▶ The plant also contains more than 500 other chemicals, including over 100 compounds that are chemically related to THC, called cannabinoids.²

How is it used?

▶ smoked

- ▶ Joints, hand-rolled cigarettes
- ▶ Pipes or water pipes (including bongos and hookas)
- ▶ Blunts (marijuana cigars) made by slicing open cigars and replacing some or all of the tobacco with marijuana.

▶ edibles

- ▶ tea (more common when used for medical purposes)
- ▶ Brownies, cookies, candies, lollipops, etc.

▶ hash oil/wax/dab

- ▶ Highly concentrated can be used as is or in many other forms including topically

How does it impact the brain/mind?

- ▶ THC and other cannabinoid chemicals in marijuana are similar to cannabinoid chemicals that naturally occur in the body. They are neurotransmitters that are sent between neurons.
- ▶ They affect brain areas that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, movement, coordination, and sensory and time perception.
- ▶ Because of this similarity, THC is able to attach to molecules called *cannabinoid receptors* on neurons in these brain areas and activate them, disrupting various mental and physical functions and causing the effects described earlier.

Physiological effects of marijuana use

- ▶ Rapid heart rate
- ▶ Increased blood pressure
- ▶ Increased respirations
- ▶ Red eyes
- ▶ Dry mouth
- ▶ Increase appetite “the munchies”
- ▶ Slowed reaction time

Psychological effects of marijuana use

- ▶ Euphoria
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Paranoia
- ▶ Distorted sense of time
- ▶ Magical or random thinking
- ▶ Short -term memory loss
- ▶ Depression

Is marijuana addictive?

- ▶ Recent data suggest that 30 percent of marijuana users may have some degree of marijuana use disorder. People who begin using marijuana before the age of 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely to develop a marijuana use disorder than adults.
- ▶ Marijuana use disorders are often associated with dependence—Marijuana dependence occurs when the brain adapts to large amounts of the drug by reducing production of and sensitivity to its own endocannabinoid neurotransmitters.
- ▶ Studies suggest that 9 percent of people who use marijuana will become dependent on it, rising to about 17 percent in those who start using young (in their teens).
- ▶ In 2014, 4.176 million people in the U.S. abused or were dependent on marijuana; 138,000 voluntarily sought treatment for their marijuana use.

Hasin DS, Saha TD, Kerridge BT, et al. Prevalence of Marijuana Use Disorders in the United States Between 2001-2002 and 2012-2013. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015;72(12):1235-1242. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2015.1858.

Winters KC, Lee C-YS. Likelihood of developing an alcohol and cannabis use disorder during youth: association with recent use and age. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2008;92(1-3):239-247. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2007.08.005.

Recreational Marijuana Use Facts

- ▶ Who is the population most at risk?- adolescents
- ▶ Why? The brain has not developed fully. The brain does not develop until about 25/26 yrs. old. Development is stifled with consumption of substance
- ▶ According to the Bureau of Substance Abuse (BSAS) data from 2014 (latest statistics) 4% of the population of Stoneham were under 18yrs old that were admitted for substance abuse treatment. About 40% were 18-25yrs old. With this total population most were male, unemployed, about half had prior needle use history.
- ▶ YHRBS data show reports of marijuana use and alcohol was much higher compared to the Middlesex League. “It can increase the risk for accidents and injuries, including impaired driving, and is associated with poorer school performance, reduced life satisfaction, and use of other drugs.”

How can recreation marijuana use effect the community?

- ▶ Impaired driving and increase in accidents
- ▶ Increase in \$ for law enforcement, fire department, school department

Why? Teenage consumption use at a rapid pace can cause heart palpitations, increase blood pressure. THC causes a rapid heart beat.

Additionally- recreational Marijuana sold on the streets has had other substances in it such as fentanyl

There would have to have an increase in law enforcement, school regulations and also fire department responses

Not your father's Marijuana

- ▶ Marijuana THC potency has increase dramatically over the years. Potency now is at 14.5% in 2012 compared to 4% in 1980's
- ▶ Some current now contains 30% THC
- ▶ New marijuana self made ingestible items have occurred such as- lollipops, wax, THC cones
- ▶ These have a huge increase in potency that can impair a person's ability to drive, react, think clearly, social interaction etc.



National Institute of Drug Abuse Stats 2011

- ▶ Marijuana is the most commonly identified illegal drug in fatal accidents- 14% of drivers in their blood stream tested positive for Marijuana
- ▶ High doses can cause psychosis and has show causation with schizophrenia with teen use
- ▶ 45% of teens have use marijuana before graduation
- ▶ Heavy smoke drops about 8 points in IQ with teens
- ▶ In 2011, 455,000 emergency department visits were related to Marijuana and about 13% were between ages 12-17 yrs. old
- ▶ Young people who use Marijuana is associated with a greater risk of using other drugs
- ▶ K2 or spice- shredded plant that have been sprayed with THC report large E.R visits

Stoneham's Facts- YRBS and Bureau of Substance Abuse

- ▶ School data- Reports of Marijuana use and alcohol was much higher compared to the Middlesex League. “It can increase the risk for accidents and injuries, including impaired driving, and is associated with poorer school performance, reduced life satisfaction, and use of other drugs.”
- ▶ With respect to marijuana, 40.8% of Stoneham high school students reported that they had ever used marijuana and 23.9% reported that they were current users of marijuana (one or more times in the last month). These were both higher than reported rates among all Middlesex League region high school students (35.1%, and 22.7%, respectively).
- ▶ According to the Bureau of Substance Abuse (BSAS) data from 2014 4% of the population of Stoneham were under 18yrs old that were admitted for substance abuse treatment. About 40% were 18-25yrs old. With this total population most were male, unemployed, about half had prior needle use history.

What is legal (in MA)?

- ▶ Outside the home, adults 21 or over can possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana.
- ▶ Inside the home, adults 21 or over may possess up to 10 ounces of marijuana. A single individual may cultivate up to 6 marijuana plants for personal use, and up to 12 plants per household are allowed if more than one adult lives on the premises.
- ▶ It's OK for one adult to give away up to an ounce of ounce to another adult, but not for money.

What isn't legal?

- ▶ Recreational marijuana cannot be sold in any form in Massachusetts without a retail license. A Cannabis Control Commission, yet to be named, will be responsible for issuing retail licenses.
- ▶ Marijuana cannot be possessed, purchased, grown or used by anyone under age 21 (unless they have a valid medical marijuana permit), and it's against the law to give away marijuana to someone under 21.
- ▶ Using pot is illegal in any public place. You can't, for example, walk down the street smoking a joint the way you would a cigarette. It's also illegal to use marijuana in any place where tobacco is banned.
- ▶ Possession of any amount of marijuana remains illegal on school grounds.
- ▶ Laws against operating cars and other vehicles under the influence of marijuana are unchanged.

What isn't legal? (cont'd)

- ▶ Open containers or partially consumed packages of marijuana cannot be kept in a motor vehicle, except in the trunk or a locked glove compartment.
- ▶ Pot growing at home must be done discreetly and securely. Marijuana plants cannot be plainly visible from the street or any public area and must be cultivated someplace where there is a security device.
- ▶ Tenants cannot grow pot in their residences or smoke it if their landlord has a rule against it. Rental agreements, however, cannot prohibit tenants from consuming marijuana "by means other than smoking."
- ▶ Since marijuana is still barred under federal law, it can't be brought across state lines, sent by U.S. mail or used on federal property.

Key points...

THE REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIJUANA ACT

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to control the production and distribution of marijuana under a system that licenses, regulates and taxes the businesses involved in a manner similar to alcohol and to make marijuana legal for adults 21 years of age or older. Its intent is to remove the production and distribution of marijuana from the illicit market and to prevent the sale of marijuana to persons under 21 years of age by providing for a regulated and taxed distribution system. To the fullest extent possible, its terms are to be interpreted in accordance with the purpose and intent set forth in this section.

- ▶ Cannabis Control Commission; members; chairman; secretary

There shall be a commission known as the cannabis control commission to have general supervision and sole regulatory authority over the conduct of the business of marijuana establishments as defined in chapter 94G of the General Laws.

- ▶ Cannabis Advisory Board

There shall be a cannabis advisory board to study and make recommendations regulation of marijuana and marijuana products.

Key points and updates...

On July 19, 2017, the state House of Representatives and state Senate passed a bill, H. 3818, designed to rewrite parts of Question 4. The bill was designed to reconcile differences between legislators in the House and Senate.[5] On July 28, 2017, Gov. Charlie Baker (R) signed the legislation.

- ▶ H. 3818 increased the excise tax on marijuana sales from 3.75 percent to 10.75 percent. Counting the state's 6.25 percent sales tax in 2017, the bill made the total state tax on marijuana sales 17 percent. The bill also increased the percentage that municipalities are allowed to tax marijuana sales at from 2 percent to 3 percent.
- ▶ The bill included two different local control options—one for the 260 municipalities where a majority of voters approved Question 4 and one for the 91 municipalities where a majority of voters rejected Question 4. For the municipalities that approved the measure, a referendum would be required to ban marijuana stores. For the municipalities that rejected the measure, the town board or city council would be permitted to ban marijuana stores.
- ▶ H. 3818 also increased the number of members on the Cannabis Control Commission from three to five.

What about Colorado?

- Colorado has gone through the same process Massachusetts has with marijuana and has provided much useful data as a result.
- Colorado categorizes its history with marijuana into three eras:
 - the early medical marijuana era (2000 - 2008),
 - the medical marijuana commercialization era (2009 - current) and
 - the recreational marijuana era (2013 - current).
- Colorado has recently published a report with data collected from their whole process.
 - This 180 document prepared by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Investigative Support Center, Strategic Intelligence Unit highlights negative consequences to individuals, communities, and the state as a result of the legalization of marijuana.

<https://www.sheriffs.org/sites/default/files/2016%20FINAL%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>



Half Gram



Gram



Eighth Ounce



Ounce



Quarter Ounce



Half Ounce



Half Gram



Gram

Note: Size dependent on flower density
For more info: leaffly.com/knowledge-center

Surrounding Communities

- ▶ Woburn - Current zoning language in front of City Council to ban recreational distribution
- ▶ North Reading - Banned
- ▶ Winchester - Proposed ban
- ▶ Reading - Proposed ban
- ▶ Burlington - Proposed ban

To wrap up- Summary

- ▶ Any form of a mind alerting substance with use is not a healthy coping skill
- ▶ Social acceptance and cultural norms set the standard for Stoneham's children to be healthy
- ▶ Why settle for less- with the mass consumption of substances today we should not accept it to be “okay” as a society to “get high”
- ▶ And lastly trusting the pharmaceutical company in the first place made our epidemic happen- settle for a positive healthy life.