Marijuana is harmful to children and adolescents …

The negative consequences of marijuana use include:

- **A deleterious impact on brain development**, both in structure and function.\(^i\)

- Poorer working memory, visual scanning, and cognitive flexibility\(^{ii}\), and decreased concentration, attention span, problem solving, motor control, coordination, judgment, reaction time, and tracking ability\(^{iii}\), all of which greatly interfere with learning and contribute to unintentional deaths and injuries\(^{iv}\).

- **Reduced odds of high school completion and degree attainment**, increased use of other illicit drugs and instances of suicide attempts\(^{v}\).

- **Decreased IQ of eight points** from adolescence to adulthood among heavy users of marijuana who started in adolescence\(^{vi}\). This drop is comparable to the decrease experienced by children who have high exposure to lead.

- Research has shown that the younger an adolescent begins using drugs, including marijuana, the more likely it is that drug dependence or addiction will develop in adulthood\(^{vii}\).

And legalizing it will only make things worse …

- As perceived risk goes down, marijuana use goes up\(^{viii}\), suggesting that legalizing it would send the message that it is a safe and “ok” thing to do.

- In the first year of legalization in Colorado, the number of 12- to 17-year olds using marijuana within the past month increased by eight percent\(^{ix}\), while the number of probationers the same age testing for marijuana increased by 20 percent\(^{x}\).

- In the first year of legalization in Colorado, college age Coloradans (ages 18-25) using marijuana in the past month increased by 11 percent to nearly 30 percent\(^{xi}\).

---

\(^{i}\) *Pediatrics*. The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update, Technical Report, March 2015

\(^{ii}\) Medina KL, Hanson KL, Schweinsburg AD, Cohen-Zion M, Nagel BJ, Tapert SF


\(^{iv}\) Pediatrics. The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update, March 2015


\(^{vi}\) Meier et al., PNAS, 2012


\(^{viii}\) University of Michigan, 2013 Monitoring Future Study

\(^{ix}\) SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2012 and 2013

\(^{x}\) State of Colorado Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services

\(^{xi}\) SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006–2013