

From: Stephanie Winters <swinters@vtmd.org>

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Subject: Why Marijuana Shouldn't be Legalized OR Decriminalized to 2 Plants

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Why Marijuana Shouldn't be Legalized

Part 2

As the perception of the harm caused by marijuana decreases, use increases[1]. Legalizing marijuana, either in a home-grown or retail setting, sends the message to Vermont's youth that marijuana is "ok," potentially increasing use among this particularly vulnerable population.

Two plants grow A LOT of marijuana, with estimates ranging from .75 up to 2.5 pounds per plant, depending on growing conditions. Portions of these robust yields will almost certainly find their way to the black market, exacerbating an already concerning situation.

Having even more marijuana present in homes will likely only increase youths' access to it. According to the 2015 Vermont Youth Risk Assessment Survey[2], 40 percent of Vermont high School students say they get alcohol from "someone giving it to them," and 12 percent from "taking it."