



WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT LEGALIZED RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA?

The Union County Drug Free Coalition is on a mission to empower youth and adults to lead healthy substance-free lives. Eight years of data from states that have legalized recreational marijuana have shown increases in youth use, drugged driving, industrial accidents, hiring shortages, marijuana addiction, and criminal activity.

Please consider the following:

- **Youth** who use marijuana before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop a marijuana use disorder. Legalizing sends the message to our youth that marijuana is not harmful, which has the potential to increase youth use.^{1,2}
- **Employees** who tested positive for marijuana had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, and 75% greater absenteeism compared to those who tested negative³.
- **Economic impact** from marijuana sales does not match the costs. In Colorado, for every \$1 of tax revenue, the state spends \$4.50 counteracting legalization's effects.⁴
- **Criminal activities**, such as illicit markets, have thrived in every "legal" state, such as Oregon, where illegal marijuana makes up more than 70% of the market⁵.
- **Increases in addiction** and other mental health disorders are associated with high potency THC products.⁶

Legalized recreational marijuana has made an impact in other communities, counties, and states across the country. To learn more about the Union County Drug Free Coalition or valuable prevention information, visit www.ucdrugfree.org.

¹ U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain. HHS.gov. <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>. Published 2022. Accessed January 20

² 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.

³ Zwerling C, Ryan J, Orav EJ. The efficacy of pre-employment drug screening for marijuana and cocaine in predicting employment outcome. *JAMA.* 1990;264(20):2639-2643.

⁴ Economic and Social Costs of Legalized Marijuana [Study]. (2018, November 15). In Centennial Institute. Retrieved February 1, 2019, from <http://www.ccu.edu/centennial/policy-briefs/marijuana-costs/>.

⁵ [HTTPS://WWW.RESEARCHGATE.NET/PUBLICATION/342369555_CHANGE_IN_TRAFFIC_FATALITY_RATES_IN_THE_FIRST_4](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342369555_CHANGE_IN_TRAFFIC_FATALITY_RATES_IN_THE_FIRST_4)

⁶ Troyer, B. (2021, February 15). Marijuana potency must be capped for a safe and healthy Colorado. Retrieved March 26, 2021, from <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/02/15/bob-troyer-marijuana-potency-must-be-capped-for-a-safeand-healthy-colorado/>