

Whereas, recreational marijuana was legalized on January 1, 2020;

Whereas, the evidence of harm regarding “high potency marijuana” use is overwhelming, it defies logic to think that legalization won’t increase the harm;

Whereas, THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the principal psychoactive component in marijuana; ⁱ

Whereas, the marijuana of the 60’s and 70’s contained around 2-3% THC while the THC levels today have increased more than tenfold, making it very high potency; ⁱⁱ

Whereas, marijuana concentrates contain 80% and more THC, making it very dangerous; ⁱⁱⁱ

Whereas, marijuana is the most commonly used federally illegal drug in the United States; ^{iv}

Whereas, 20,131 DUI arrests were reported to the Illinois Secretary of State in 2020; ^v

Whereas, approximately 30% of car fatalities involve an impaired driver from use of alcohol, marijuana, or another drug (Illinois does not distinguish DUI arrests between alcohol, marijuana or other drugs); ^{vi}

Whereas, according to State data and SARS Annual Report File as reported by NHTSA, in 2019 there were 1,009 Illinois car fatalities and in 2021 there were 1,337 car fatalities, the highest death toll since 2005; ^{vii}

Whereas, the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety found that in states that legalized marijuana the rate of car crashes with injuries increased by nearly 6%, while fatal crashes rose by 4%; ^{viii}

Whereas, in 2013, the year after Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for THC increased 138% while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 29%; ^{ix}

Whereas, a study by the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs found that “combined effect of [marijuana] legalization and retail sales was a 5.8% increase in injury crash rates and a 4.1% increase in fatal crash rates; ^x

Whereas, the CDC reports that 3 in 10 people who use marijuana have Marijuana Use Disorder; ^{xi}

Whereas, the risk of developing marijuana use disorder is greater in people who start using marijuana during youth or adolescence and who use marijuana more frequently; ^{xii}

Whereas, in 2019, about 1 in 8 adolescents aged 12 to 17 (13%) used marijuana in the past year, about 3.3 million people; ^{xiii}

Whereas, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry states that legalization may have significant unintended consequences for children and adolescents;

Whereas, “more potent cannabis and more frequent use are contributing to higher rates of psychosis, especially in young people;” ^{xiv}

Whereas, “Marijuana use causes violent behavior through increased aggressiveness, paranoia, and personality changes (more suspicious, aggressive, and angry),” according to the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; ^{xv}

Whereas, one psychotic episode following cannabis use was associated with a 47% chance of developing schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, a 2017 study in the American Journal of Psychiatry showed; ^{xvi}

Whereas, in 2018, Bryn Spejcher suffered a psychotic incident after getting high on high potency marijuana, stabbing her boyfriend 108 times; ^{xvii}

Whereas, at age 18, while using marijuana every day, Braxton Clark developed psychosis brought on by using cannabis according to his doctors; ^{xviii}

Whereas, Randy Bacchus posted hundreds of videos talking about his routine marijuana use and psychotic episodes, that doctors said were triggered by the marijuana, before taking his own life in July 2021; ^{xix}

Whereas, Eddie Ray Routh, found guilty of killing “American Sniper” Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield in 2013, regularly used high potency marijuana; ^{xx}

Whereas, on April 17, 2014, after eating a marijuana laced candy, Richard Kirk, a Colorado father of 3, threatened suicide and then shot his wife in the head while she talked to the 911 operator; ^{xxi}

Whereas, on March 11, 2014, African foreign exchange student, Levi Thamba Pongi, ate one pot laced cookie and jumped to his death from a 4-story balcony; ^{xxii}

Whereas, Tucson Massacre shooter Jared Loughner, who killed 6 and injured 14 at then-US Representative Gabrielle Gifford’s constituent meeting, was a habitual marijuana user; ^{xxiii}

Whereas, Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez was sentenced to 25 years for a shooting at the White House because, among other reasons, he was angry that marijuana was not legal; ^{xxiv}

Whereas, the Colorado theatre shooter, James Holmes, who killed 12 and injured dozens, was a regular marijuana user; ^{xxv}

Whereas, the sheriff’s office reported that the Clackamas Town Center shooter, Jacob Roberts, used marijuana just before killing 2 and seriously injuring 1 person, before killing himself; ^{xxvi}

Whereas, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the brothers that bombed the Boston Marathon, killing 4 and injuring over 250, were heavy marijuana users; ^{xxvii}

Whereas, on March 13, 2019, while high on marijuana, Anthony Comello shot and killed Frank Cali; ^{xxviii}

Whereas, a 13-year-old from Rustavi, Georgia, was stabbed to death by his uncle who was high on marijuana; ^{xxix}

Whereas, on February 1, 2018, Nicholas Cruz killed 17 students at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School while high on marijuana; ^{xxx}

Whereas, Devin Patrick Kelly killed 27 and injured 20 people who were attending the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, while high on marijuana; ^{xxxi}

Whereas, on May 22, 2017, suicide bomber Salaman Abedi killed 22 and injured over 100 at the Manchester Arena, United Kingdom, while high on marijuana; ^{xxxii}

Whereas, on May 18, 2017, while high on “spiced-up marijuana,” Richard Rojas drove a car into people, killing one teen and injuring 22 others; ^{xxxiii}

Whereas, on November 23, 2016, Arcan Cetin, an excessive marijuana user, carried out a mass shooting that killed 5 and injured many others at the Cascade Mall in Washington; ^{xxxiv}

Whereas, on July 26, 2016, Satoshi Uematsu was diagnosed with marijuana-induced psychosis after stabbing to death 19 people and injuring 26 others at a care facility in Sagamihara, Japan; ^{xxxv}

Whereas, after his unsuccessful attempt to quit marijuana use due to becoming paranoid and hearing voices, in June 17, 2015, Dylan Roof killed 9 people who were attending a prayer service in Charleston, South Carolina; ^{xxxvi}

Whereas, in 2015, Abdul Aziz, who had an engineering degree but failed to find work after failing a drug test for marijuana, killed 5 U.S. service members in a shooting rampage in Chattanooga, TN; ^{xxxvii}

Whereas, in 2015, Austin Essig jumped through a third-story glass window after ingesting a cannabis-infused edible; ^{xxxviii}

Whereas, the above-mentioned psychotic events are further evidence of a *New York Post* article appropriately titled “*The link between pot and mass shootings may be closer than we think;*” ^{xxxix}

Whereas, Dr. Deepali Gershan, an addiction psychiatrist at Compass Health Center in Northbrook, IL said that up to 20% of her caseload is patients whom she suspects psychotic episodes were triggered by marijuana use; ^{xl}

Whereas, “[T]hose who began marijuana use the earliest and continued throughout adulthood lose an average of eight IQ points, which is sufficient to alter academic success and job opportunities;” ^{xli}

Whereas, “[S]topping marijuana use did not fully restore neuropsychological functioning among adolescent-onset former persistent cannabis users;” ^{xlii}

Whereas, Moms Strong posts heartbreaking testimonials from those that have lost loved ones to marijuana psychosis and suicide; ^{xliii}

Whereas, a study of 281,000 adults ages 18-34 from the U.S. National Institutes of Health reported that cannabis is linked with suicidal thoughts, planning, and attempts among young adults; ^{xliiv}

Whereas, at the end of 2012, when Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, THC was present in the toxicology report of 86 suicides and in 2019, THC was present in 236 suicides; ^{xlv}

Whereas, in 2019, although toxicology is not available in every suicide, Colorado suicide toxicology results showed marijuana tied with alcohol as the most prevalent substance in completed suicides ages 10 to 19 at 51%; ^{xlvii}

Whereas, since recreational marijuana was legalized in Colorado, past month use for ages 12 and older increased 26% and is 61% higher than the national average; ^{xlviii}

Whereas, Colorado voters legalized recreational marijuana in late 2012. Since then, 66% of local jurisdictions have banned medical and recreational businesses; ^{xlviii}

Whereas, despite the plethora of legal dispensaries, gang-operated open-air drug markets and violence remain a problem in many Chicago neighborhoods; ^{xlix}

Whereas, the Illinois Department of Public Health states that marijuana use affects the parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning, attention, decision-making, coordination, emotions, and reaction time; ^l

Whereas, the Illinois Department of Health states that “cannabis is not a harmless drug” and “can lead to addiction;” ^{li}

Whereas, according to the NHTSA, “Drugged driving is a growing problem in Illinois;” ^{lii}

Whereas, according to Yale School of Medicine, “growing evidence points to potentially severe side effects of cannabis;” ^{liii}

Whereas, a 2017 American Journal of Psychiatry study found that the risk of developing bipolar or schizophrenic disorders was highest for cannabis users aged 16 to 25 and had a greater influence than alcohol, opioids, amphetamines and hallucinogens; ^{liv}

Whereas, some marijuana products are infused with up to 500 mg of THC; ^{lv}

Whereas, Vermont has set potency limits of 5 milligrams of THC per serving; ^{lvi}

Whereas, Connecticut has limited a serving of an edible containing THC to 5 milligrams; ^{lvii}

Whereas, upon citing the dramatic increase in vehicle crashes, increased THC levels and diagnosis of psychosis, the Illinois State Medical Society supports capping THC levels to 10%;^{lviii} therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Third General Assembly Of The State Of Illinois, that we urge the Illinois General Assembly to cap THC levels in marijuana by placing limits on the amount of THC contained in retail products, placing limits on the amount of cannabis a retailer can sell to an individual in a single transaction or over a period of time based on the amount of THC contained, and implementing a seed-to-sale tracking system, allowing regulatory agencies to view every gram of legal cannabis as it migrates through the supply chain, including monitoring of ingredients added to cannabis that are eventually sold in retail stores.

ⁱ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetrahydrocannabinol>

ⁱⁱ <https://420intel.com/articles/2023/10/12/cannabis-today-really-much-more-potent-50-years-ago>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/cannabis-marijuana-concentrates>

^{iv} Marijuana | CBHSQ Data. www.samhsa.gov/data/taxonomy/term/435. Accessed 31 Oct. 2022.

^v Illinois DUI Fact Book-Illinois Secretary of State

^{vi} https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/impaired_driving/impaired_drv_factsheet.html

^{vii} https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2023-05/IL_FY2022HSPAR-tag.pdf

^{viii} <https://www.iihs.org/news/detail/crash-rates-jump-in-wake-of-marijuana-legalization-new-studies-show>

^{ix} https://www.rmhidta.org/_files/ugd/4a67c3_b391ac360f974a8bbf868d2e3e25df3d.pdf p.2

^x Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, July 2022 Farmer, Charles M. / Monfort, Samuel S. / Woods, Amber N.

^{xi} <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/featured-topics/cannabis-use-disorder/index.html>

^{xii} Winters KC, Lee C-YS. Likelihood of developing an alcohol and cannabis use disorder during youth: association with recent use and age. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. 2008;92(1-3):239-247.

^{xiii} <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep21-06-01-001.pdf>

^{xiv} <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/marijuana-depression-psychosis-869490d1>

^{xv} <https://everybrainmatters.org/2022/08/08/a-vicious-high-the-link-between-marijuana-and-violence/>

^{xvi} <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/marijuana-depression-psychosis-869490d1>

^{xvii} <https://www.foxnews.com/us/california-woman-got-high-stabbed-boyfriend-108-times-not-go-prison-judge-rules>

^{xviii} <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/marijuana-depression-psychosis-869490d1>

^{xix} <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/marijuana-depression-psychosis-869490d1>

^{xx} <https://www.cnn.com/2015/02/11/us/eddie-ray-routh-profile-american-sniper/index.html>

^{xxi} <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/denver-man-who-said-marijuana-made-him-kill-his-wife-n744056>

^{xxii} <https://www.denverpost.com/2014/04/02/denver-coroner-man-fell-to-death-after-eating-marijuana-cookies/>

^{xxiii} <https://www.laweekly.com/marijuana-tucson-massacre-suspect-jared-loughner-was-habitual-pot-user/>

^{xxiv} <https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/03/31/man-who-shot-at-white-house-sentenced-to-25-years>

^{xxv} <https://www.laweekly.com/james-holmes-smoked-marijuana-took-vicodin-reports/>

^{xxvi} https://www.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty/2013/05/clackamas_town_center_shooting_83.html

^{xxvii} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxviii} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxix} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxx} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxi} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxii} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxiii} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxiv} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxv} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxvi} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/>

^{xxxvii} <https://gulfnews.com/world/americas/tennessee-shooter-struggled-with-clash-of-faith-drugs-1.1552800>

^{xxxviii} <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2015/04/21/fort-collins-police-link-marijuana-edibles-injured-jumper/26134371/>

^{xxxix} <https://nypost.com/2019/08/07/the-link-between-pot-and-mass-shootings-may-be-closer-than-we-think/>

^{xl} <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/marijuana-depression-psychosis-869490d1>

^{xli} <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/healing-addiction/202007/does-cannabis-decrease-iq>

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- ^{xliii} <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/healing-addiction/202007/does-cannabis-decrease-iq>
- ^{xliiii} <https://momsstrong.org/category/stories/>
- ^{xliiv} <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/23/health/weed-cannabis-suicide-risk-study-wellness/index.html>
- ^{xliiv} https://www.rmhidta.org/_files/ugd/4a67c3_b391ac360f974a8bbf868d2e3e25df3d.pdf p.30
- ^{xlivi} https://www.rmhidta.org/_files/ugd/4a67c3_b391ac360f974a8bbf868d2e3e25df3d.pdf
- ^{xlvii} https://www.rmhidta.org/_files/ugd/4a67c3_b391ac360f974a8bbf868d2e3e25df3d.pdf p.2
- ^{xlviii} https://www.rmhidta.org/_files/ugd/4a67c3_b391ac360f974a8bbf868d2e3e25df3d.pdf p.3
- Chicago HIDTA report <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57839de5c534a5d68f2bc36e/t/63c99598bde2e9651fa1461f/1674155417642/2022+MR.pdf>
- ⁱ <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/cannabis.html>
- ⁱⁱ <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/cannabis.html>
- ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2023-05/IL_FY2022HSPAR-tag.pdf
- ⁱⁱⁱⁱ <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/not-your-grandmothers-marijuana-rising-thc-concentrations-in-cannabis-can-pose-devastating-health-risks/>
- ^{liv} <https://www.foxbusiness.com/healthcare/dr-drew-warns-marijuana-studies-revealing-extremely-worrisome-data>
- ^{lv} Chicago HIDTA report <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57839de5c534a5d68f2bc36e/t/63c99598bde2e9651fa1461f/1674155417642/2022+MR.pdf>
- ^{lvi} <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/ACTS/ACT164/ACT164%20As%20Enacted.pdf>
- ^{lvii} <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/SUM/PDF/2023SUM00079-R02HB-06699-SUM.PDF>
- ^{lviii} <https://www.isms.org/ISMS.org/media/ISMSMediaLibrary/BoardActionReports/2022/Res04.pdf>