

MARIJUANA FACTS FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITY



Most Missourians stay away from marijuana:

- Most Missouri adults and youth stay away from marijuana. Over 91% of Missouri youth in grades 6-12 report no use of marijuana in the last 30 days and over 94% of Missourians over 18 report no current use.¹

Legalization of marijuana in other states has led to increased negative consequences:

- Following legalization of recreation marijuana use in Colorado current users increased from 18.7% to 27.3% for the 18 to 25 year-old group.²
- Since “medical marijuana” was legalized in California, the Los Angeles Police have reported a 52% rise in burglaries and a 57% increase in assaults. Police in Denver, Colorado report a 75% rise in burglaries since legalization.³

Marijuana use is strongly associated with impaired driver crashes:

- Marijuana is the most common illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims.⁴

Marijuana use affects futures:

- Heavy marijuana abusers self-report that their use had negative effects on their cognitive abilities, career status, social life, and physical and mental health.⁵
- A National Institute on Drug Abuse study found that youth who start marijuana use by age 13 usually do not go to college, while those abstaining from marijuana use, on average, complete almost three years of college. In addition, those who begin using marijuana by age 13 are more likely to report lower income and lower levels of schooling by age 29.
- Marijuana use is linked with dropping out of school, unemployment, and social welfare dependence.⁶

Users can become addicted to marijuana:

- According to the National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services (SAMHSA), each year, more teens enter treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana dependence than for all other illicit drugs combined.
- Over 8800 Missourians entering publicly supported drug treatment in 2012 reported marijuana as their primary addiction.⁷

As young people’s perceived risk of marijuana decreases with public discussion over legalization, youth marijuana use increases:

- Marijuana use is associated with increased depression, suicidal ideation, use of other substances and risky behavior among adolescents.⁸
- Youth who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than five times as likely to abuse drugs as adults.⁹
- Marijuana use effects are much more detrimental and long-lasting among youth, disrupting the brain function critical to motivation, memory, learning, judgment, and behavior control.¹⁰

¹ 2012 Missouri Student Survey and Missouri National Outcomes Survey, 2007, Missouri Department of Mental Health

² Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the Legalization of Marijuana, 2013

³ Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the Legalization of Marijuana, 2013

⁴ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

⁵ Attributes of Long-Term Heavy Cannabis Users, 2003

⁶ Cannabis Use and Later Life Outcomes, 2008

⁷ 2013 Missouri Status Report on Missouri’s Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems, MO Department of Mental Health

⁸ American Psychiatric Association, 2013

⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, NSDUH 2011

¹⁰ National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2010