

The Impact of **MARIJUANA** on Maine

Using marijuana may seem like an individual decision—but the impact of each person’s use has a ripple effect that moves throughout our communities and our state. These effects can cause negative currents in the lives of Mainers.

1



vehicle safety



Twice as many collisions caused.



family



2

Parents under the influence are slower to react to their children’s needs.

3



employment



Increased absences, lower productivity.

intimate partner violence

4

Regular marijuana use by teens and young adults raises their risk of intimate partner violence.



5



environment



Our natural resources contaminated.

1 Impact on motor vehicle safety: “Drivers who consume cannabis within three hours of driving are nearly twice as likely to cause a vehicle collision as those who are not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.”

Source: Asbridge, M & Hayden, JA (2012) Acute cannabis consumption and motor vehicle collision risk: systematic review of observational studies and meta-analysis. *British Medical Journal*, 344:e536

2 Impact on family: Marijuana use impacts the family environment in many ways. For parents who use marijuana, their ability to parent may be impacted by “difficulty picking up on their babies’ cues because marijuana dulls response time and alters perceptions.” “When parents repeatedly miss their babies’ cues, the babies eventually stop providing them which results in disengaged parents with disengaged babies.”

Source: *Protecting Children in Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders: Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2009.

Some parents may choose to grow marijuana in their home or live in a marijuana growing operation which has negative impacts on children’s health. These hazards include: mold exposure, possible electric shock, exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide, explosion risks, booby traps and weapons, potential eye damage from ultraviolet lights, and exposure to dangerous chemicals used in the growing process.

Source: “Capital Health, Edmonton Area; Public Health Division, Environmental Public Health Services Fact Sheet.”

3 Impact on employment: Several studies have linked workers’ marijuana use with: “increased absences, tardiness, accidents, workers’ compensation claims, and job turnover.”

Source: *NIDA Research Report Series: Marijuana Abuse (rev. July 2012)*.

4 Impact on intimate partner violence: Studies show that regular use of marijuana by teens and young adults increases their risks of becoming victims or offenders of intimate partner violence.

Source: Reingle, J. et al. (2012) *The Relationship Between Marijuana Use and Intimate Partner Violence in a Nationally Representative Longitudinal Sample*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 27(8): 1562-1578.

5 Impact on environment: Illegal marijuana growers use chemicals, high amounts of energy and make changes to land structure leaving lasting damage to our surroundings. They also use poisons to keep animals from destroying their crops and equipment. The poison not only affects small animals that eat it but also larger animals that prey on them. Wildlife studies show that endangered animals are also being exposed and killed by these poisons.

Source: Gabriel MW, Woods LW, Poppenga R, Sweitzer RA, Thompson C, et al. (2012) *Anticoagulant Rodenticides on our Public and Community Lands: Spatial Distribution of Exposure and Poisoning of a Rare Forest Carnivore*. *PLoS ONE* 7(7): e40163

