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.

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

3. employment
   Increased absences, lower productivity.

4. intimate partner violence
   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.”

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.”

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.”

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.

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.