

**Oppose: HB1400 - Cannabis**  
- Legalization, Taxation,  
and Regulation

Christine L. Miller, Ph.D.  
Author of "The Impact of Marijuana on Mental Health"  
in: Contemporary Health Issues on Marijuana, Oxford  
University Press, 2018.  
Science advisor for Smart Approaches to Marijuana  
[www.learnaboutsam.org](http://www.learnaboutsam.org) and Moms Strong  
[www.momsstrong.org](http://www.momsstrong.org)  
[cmiller@millerbio.com](mailto:cmiller@millerbio.com)  
443-520-0485

- **Youth users have increased by 25% in states with legalized marijuana** as compared to those without (Cerdeira et al., 2019)  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2755276>
- The impact of a 25% increase in youth users now reported for legalized states is even greater because **they are more likely to be using THC concentrates** (Borodovsky et al., 2017)  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5534375/pdf/nihms880035.pdf>
- The combined impact of more users and higher potency products is evident in **the 2.7-fold increase in marijuana-associated emergency hospital visits for adolescents** in Colorado since legalization, 71% of which are for psychiatric side-effects (Wang et al., 2018)  
[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(18\)30004-1/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(18)30004-1/fulltext)
- One of the most serious psychiatric side-effects of marijuana use is **psychosis**, which can evolve into chronic psychotic disorders like schizophrenia:  
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2017/health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids.aspx>  
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-op-0419-marijuana-psychosis-20190415-story.html>
- **The Surgeon General issued a warning** on the association between marijuana use and the development of psychosis, August 29, 2019

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>

- **The effect of marijuana use on academic performance and employment success is negative** (Beverly et al., 2019; Arria et al., 2015; Arria et al., 2013)  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6655417/pdf/nihms-1007176.pdf>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4586361/pdf/nihms700707.pdf>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3463732/pdf/nihms382703.pdf>
- **All of these negative mental impacts obviously extend to youth and young adult users in minority communities**
- **Social justice has not been realized with marijuana legalization**; blacks still arrested more often for marijuana-related offenses  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/legal-marijuana-made-big-promises-racial-equity-fell-short-n952376>  
<https://qz.com/1194143/even-after-legalization-black-americans-are-arrested-much-more-often-for-marijuana-offenses/>
- **Traffic fatalities have increased in the legalized states**, as compared to states without recreational marijuana, and the percent involving marijuana has gone up.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5508149/pdf/AJPH.2017.303848.pdf>  
[https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2018-SB13-283\\_Rpt.pdf](https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2018-SB13-283_Rpt.pdf)  
(Figure 16)
- **Black market crime has not disappeared** in states with legalized marijuana and has increased in some states  
<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/24/735510378/marijuana-is-legal-in-colorado-but-the-illegal-market-still-exists>

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/a3q5yb/californias-illegal-weed-industry-is-doing-better-than-ever](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a3q5yb/californias-illegal-weed-industry-is-doing-better-than-ever)

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-oregons-marijuana-black-market-is-thriving-despite-a-growing-glut-of-legal-weed-130000181.html>

- **The environmental impact of legal marijuana, predominantly grown in greenhouses, is significant.** The production of one pound of marijuana is associated with a CO2 emission of 4600 pounds because of the electricity required (Mills, 2012), <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.396.4759&rep=rep1&type=pdf> a carbon budget sufficient to cover thousands of meals for the needy ([http://css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/Carbon%20Footprint\\_CSS09-05\\_e2019.pdf](http://css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/Carbon%20Footprint_CSS09-05_e2019.pdf)). The most recent statistics for medical marijuana sold in Maryland was expected to have reached 34,500 pounds last year, <https://mjbizdaily.com/chart-marylands-2019-medical-cannabis-sales-on-pace-to-double-2018-sales/> almost exclusively grown in greenhouses, the equivalent of 159 million pounds of CO2 per year. If legalized to be produced here, the growth of recreational product would be expected to be at least double that of the medical product based on market statistics from Colorado, bringing the total (medical plus recreational) marijuana CO2 footprint to nearly 500 million pounds per year in Maryland. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/revenue/colorado-marijuana-sales-reports>  
In contrast, the illegal recreational marijuana currently imported from grows in more favorable climates, is predominantly grown outdoors and with a very low CO2 footprint.