

Cannabis

(Adopted January 2019)

The New Hampshire Public Health Association recognizes that legalization of cannabis by states is a relatively new phenomenon. As a result, there is limited research on the public health impact of legalization. Until the benefits and harms of legalization and resultant commercialization of cannabis and cannabis products are more fully understood, the New Hampshire Public Health Association opposes legalization and commercialization. New Hampshire Public Health Association will provide testimony to legislators on the science-backed evidence that is available regarding the pros and cons of various cannabis public policy approaches and the overall health impact of cannabis throughout the human life course.

Whereas New Hampshire has decriminalized marijuana, and legalized therapeutic use of cannabis, the New Hampshire Public Health Association supports continued attention to decriminalization and therapeutic use public policy to address social justice as it is a determinant of health, clinical issues, and other public health impacts:

- Expunging past criminal records for possession that is currently legal;
- Ensuring fair and equal law enforcement across population groups;
- Using clinical evidence to determine acceptable clinical indications for legal therapeutic use of cannabis in New Hampshire;
- Reducing the expense of therapeutic cannabis;
- Considering location and number of outlets to ensure access without overburdening vulnerable communities or adversely affecting public safety;
- Addressing place of use to ensure compliance with Clean Indoor Air Act.

Resources

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA – an Institute of NIH) - Marijuana Drug Facts

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana#ref>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention-Marijuana and Public Health Fast Facts <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets.htm>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention-Marijuana Use and Teens <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/teens.htm>

2017 Colorado Marijuana Market Size and Demand Study

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/MED%202017%20Market%20Study%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

New Futures - <http://www.new-futures.org/2017NFEconomicReport>

Smart Colorado - <http://smartcolorado.org/the-reality-of-todays-marijuana-products/>

Monitoring the Future - Overview Key Findings of Adolescent Drug Use

<http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2017.pdf>

American Society of Addiction Medicine – Public Policy Statement on Marijuana, Cannabinoids and Legalization
<https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/public-policy-statements/marijuana-cannabinoids-and-legalization-9-21-2015.pdf>

American Academy of Family Physicians
<https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/marijuana.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics – The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/135/3/584>

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
https://www.aacap.org/aacap/policy_statements/2014/aacap_marijuana_legalization_policy.aspx

National Association of School Nurses – Marijuana and Children Position Statement
<https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-marijuana>

Government of Canada – Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/laws-regulations/task-force-cannabis-legalization-regulation.html>