



Regulating Marijuana Works

Under our current system of marijuana prohibition, marijuana is uncontrolled and sold by criminal enterprises in the underground market. Marijuana prohibition is the worst possible policy when it comes to keeping marijuana out of the hands of teens, and like alcohol prohibition, it forces consumers – and profits – into an underground market. Amendment 64 would replace our current policy of prohibition with a system in which marijuana is regulated like alcohol and sold by licensed businesses in a tightly controlled market. In doing so, it would:

Further Reduce Teen Marijuana Use

Marijuana use by Colorado high school students has decreased significantly since the state began strictly regulating the production and sale of marijuana for medical purposes, according to a June 2012 report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. This bucks the national trend of increasing teen marijuana use over the past several years, suggesting that even the partial regulation of marijuana could decrease its availability and use among teens. Amendment 64 would regulate marijuana sales across the board for all adults 21 and older, further reducing teen use.

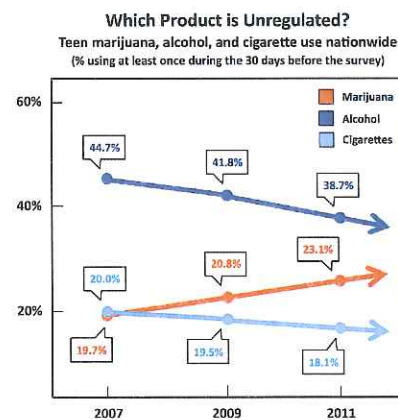
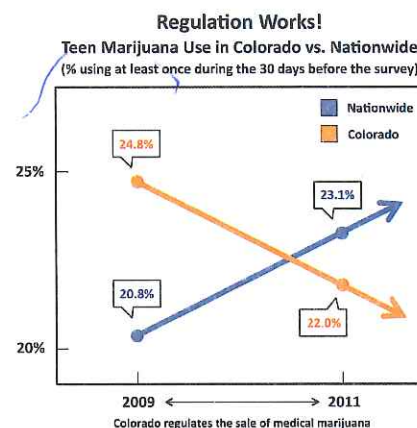
Investigation into the impact of medical marijuana laws on teen use has arrived at a similar conclusion. In a June 2012 press release from the University of Colorado Denver, researchers reported there is “no statistical evidence that legalization increases the probability of [teen] use,” and noted, “[T]he data often showed a negative relationship between legalization and [teen] marijuana use.”

Minimize Teens' Access to Marijuana

Marijuana prohibition, in which unregulated sales take place in an underground market, is the worst possible policy when it comes to keeping marijuana out of the hands of teens. In fact, there is substantial evidence that it is actually increasing its accessibility to young people. By forcing marijuana into an underground market, we are guaranteeing that sales will be entirely uncontrolled and that the individuals selling it will not ask for ID. Under Amendment 64, marijuana sales will be conducted in a regulated market in which checks for proof of age are mandatory and strictly enforced.

Despite marijuana’s illegal status, high school students across the nation consistently report they can buy marijuana easier than they can buy alcohol or tobacco. Strictly regulating these legal products and restricting sales to minors have lent to significant decreases in use and availability among teens. In other words, regulation is working; prohibition is not.

A June 2012 report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control found that, since Colorado began regulating medical marijuana, there has been a significant decline in students reporting that they have been “offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property.” These statistics suggest that not only does the increased regulation of marijuana reduce use among teens; it may actually reduce teens' access to illegal drugs.



Reduce Exposure to More Dangerous Drugs

By keeping marijuana illegal, we are forcing those who seek it into an underground market where it is sold exclusively by individuals who are willing to break the law. Naturally, some of these individuals will have other illegal products available, including drugs that are far more harmful than marijuana. Amendment 64 would regulate marijuana and restrict its sale to licensed stores, as we currently do with alcohol. In doing so, it will dramatically reduce consumers' exposure to harder drugs and their temptation to experiment with them.

Regulating marijuana will also ensure that consumers know what they are getting when they purchase marijuana. Illegal marijuana dealers are not subject to quality standards, and they are not testing or labeling their products. In a system such as that proposed by Amendment 64, marijuana producers and retailers will need to adhere to strict rules and regulations similar to those governing the production and sale of alcohol.

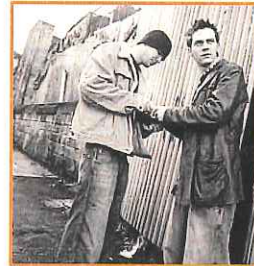
Take Sales Out of the Hands of Criminals

Marijuana prohibition has relegated the sale of marijuana to criminal enterprises, exposing many consumers to potentially dangerous people. And since marijuana is illegal, these individuals are unable to rely on law enforcement officials to step in when business-related disputes and incidents occur. All too often, this results in violence that affects not just marijuana dealers and consumers, but the broader communities surrounding them.

Marijuana is also a significant source of income for individuals and groups involved in other criminal activities. For example, much of the violence escalating on the Mexican border revolves around the actions of Mexican drug cartels fighting over profits from marijuana sales. In fact, former U.S. Drug Czar John Walters told the Associated Press in 2008, that marijuana is the biggest source of income for these ruthless narcoterrorist organizations. Whether they are large-scale drug cartels or small-town street gangs, the vast supply and demand surrounding marijuana will ensure they have a constant stream of profits to subsidize other illegal activities. Regulating marijuana like alcohol would eliminate this income source and, in turn, eliminate the violence and turf battles associated with the illegal marijuana market.

The illegal marijuana market also puts money in criminals' pockets and takes it out of taxpayers'. Illegal marijuana dealers do not collect taxes on their sales, and they do not pay taxes on their income. Under Amendment 64, all sales of marijuana will be subject to state and local sales tax. The General Assembly must also enact an excise tax of up to 15 percent on wholesale sales of non-medical marijuana, the first \$40 million of which will be directed to the state's public school construction fund each year.

In Which Market is Someone More Likely to Come Across Harder Drugs?



Unregulated



Regulated

Which Activities Should Benefit From the Sale of Marijuana?



Illegal



Legal

Find out more about Amendment 64 and join the campaign at:

www.RegulateMarijuana.org