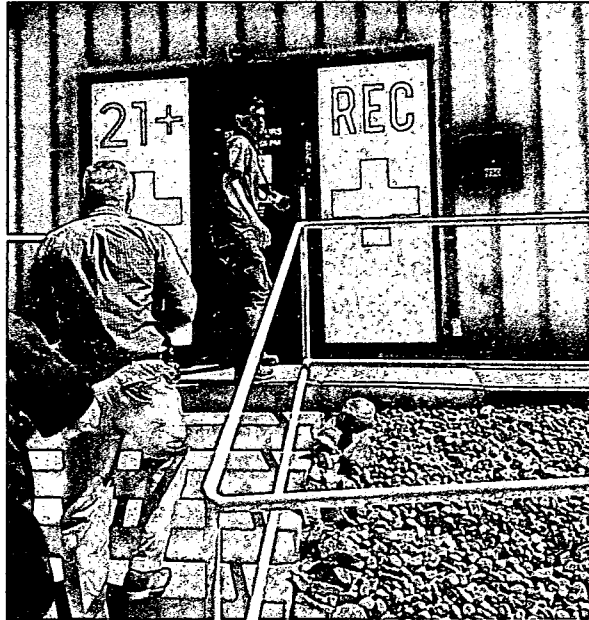


Colorado Officials Tell Out-of-State Delegation It's Impossible to Regulate Legal Pot



The Marijuana Policy Initiative, a national citizens' group that opposes commercializing marijuana, published a must-read account for any state considering recreational marijuana legalization. Written by Coloradan Jo McGuire, an expert in safe and drug-free workplace policies, the account details a tour of the Colorado marijuana industry with state officials who try to regulate it. Ms. McGuire accompanied the delegation on the tour.

Two officers of the state's Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) began the tour with a presentation, repeatedly stressing how impossible it is to regulate legal pot. Although MED has 98 employees, only about 25 percent can do on-site inspections of the state's 3,000 marijuana facilities. They rely on spot-checks and respond to complaints, the majority of which they say come from marijuana facilities trying to close down competitors.

Top violations are:

- Using pesticides banned in the US
- Not using the proper inventory tracking system
- Waste disposal violations
- Circumventing the required video-monitoring system.

At a visit to a growing facility in downtown Denver, which produces 600,000 plants at a time, the delegation noticed plants labeled “REC” and “MED.” Asked what the difference between recreational marijuana plants and medical marijuana plants was, the grower replied, “ The tags and the tax rates.”


A visit to a facility that plays by the rules brought forth this warning from its owner, “If you go to any other place, don’t touch anything, don’t go near any equipment, and be careful of anything that could contaminate you. This business is filthy, dirty, scummy, underhanded and full of cheaters, liars, and the majority of this industry is shady as hell. Just be careful.”

Read full account on *The Marijuana Policy Initiative* website [here](#).



Study: Marijuana Use Increases Risk of Metabolic Syndrome

A team of researchers from Georgia State University’s School of Public Health finds that every year of marijuana use increases by five percent the risk of developing high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high concentrations of fat in the blood, and diabetes, a cluster of symptoms known as metabolic syndrome.



The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety recommends that rather than an arbitrary legal limit for THC, police officers be trained to recognize marijuana-impaired drivers and use a drug test only for backup.

California is doing just that. It has passed many laws this year in preparation for implementing legal recreational marijuana January 1, 2018. The state has been pilot-testing a roadside swab test that produces more accurate results than the traditional saliva test. It is investing \$3 million to train every state highway patrol officer in drug-recognition techniques and the use of its new technology to quickly and accurately detect THC levels.

Despite contradictory studies, most experts agree that the number of drivers testing positive for THC has increased significantly in states that have made marijuana more available by legalizing it.

Canada is preparing for nationwide legalization in the near future with a public health campaign that includes the poster pictured above that asks: "If it doesn't make sense here, why does it make sense when you drive?"

Read *Healthline* summary of marijuana and driving studies [here](#). [Note: *Healthline's* article contains an error in the section subtitled "Mixed Marijuana Research," 5th paragraph, which reads, "In driving simulator experiments, marijuana increased drivers' reaction times." Marijuana *decreases* drivers' reaction times, as subsequent paragraphs confirm.]

Read about California's approach to marijuana-impaired driving [here](#). Read about Canada's Pot and Driving Campaign [here](#).



San Francisco Parents Protest Proposed Marijuana Dispensary in Their Neighborhood

Parents in San Francisco's Sunset neighborhood do not want a proposed medical marijuana dispensary in their community. They say a daycare center and a pre-school are near the proposed site and worry about the bad smell marijuana makes and a potential increase in crime. They launched a protest in front of city hall to make their feelings known.

A spokesperson for the proposed dispensary says they have never had a police incident at their other dispensary in the Castro and that polling data show a majority of Sunset residents voted to approve legalization last year. The article does not make clear whether the data were actual votes, exit polls, or pre-election telephone polls.

Read *Kron4* story [here](#).

Correction

In last week's issue of *The Marijuana Report*, the story titled "Pay to Play: Congressional Cannabis Caucus and Colleagues—More Tracking the Money" lost

Researchers gathered data on 3,051 adults age 20 and older from the 2011-2012 National Health and Nutrition Survey who used marijuana even once in their lifetimes or regularly, defined as at least once a month for a year.

“Each year of marijuana use showed increased odds of having metabolic syndrome,” say the researchers. “This may constitute an important pathway between marijuana use and cardiovascular disease in later life.”

Read *Georgia State University News Release* [here](#). Read full text of study [here](#).

EdiPure
SOUR GUMMI BEARS



Two Pre-School Children Hospitalized After Eating Marijuana-Laced Gummy Bears

A Pasco County, Florida woman faces child abuse charges after leaving two packages of pot gummy bears, similar to those pictured above, within reach of a 3-year-old and a 5-year-old. The children found the gummy bears and ate them.

The younger child began to feel sick and was fading in and out of consciousness. She was rushed to the hospital where the 5-year-old fell ill. Both were flown to All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg for more intensive treatment.

The woman lived in their house and was aware that children lived there also.



Does Marijuana Increase the Risk of Auto Crashes?

Two contradictory studies of marijuana and driving were published last month, intensifying the debate about whether using the drug and driving increases risks for crashes, injuries, and fatalities, and if so by how much.

This article does a nice job of examining several studies and seeking comments from scientists at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), renowned for its work in drunk driving research.

Because THC, the psychoactive cannabinoid in marijuana chiefly responsible for the “high,” stays in the user’s system for several days, the debate rages on about exactly when impairment ends. There is not yet a universal roadside test to determine marijuana impairment as there is for alcohol nor a scientifically determined blood level that denotes marijuana impairment, again as there is for alcohol.

a zero. The correct amount for the Marijuana Policy Project's contribution to Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D-NV) is \$1,000.

The Marijuana Report is a weekly e-newsletter published by National Families in Action in partnership with SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana). Visit our website, The Marijuana Report.Org, to learn more about the marijuana story unfolding across the nation..

About National Families in Action (NFIA)

NFIA consists of families, scientists, business leaders, physicians, addiction specialists, policymakers, and others committed to protecting children from addictive drugs. Our vision is:

- Healthy, drug-free kids
- Nurturing, addiction-free families
- Scientifically accurate information and education
- A nation free of Big Marijuana
- Smart, safe, FDA-approved medicines developed from the cannabis plant (and other plants)
- Expanded access to medicines in FDA clinical trials for children with epilepsy

About SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana)

SAM is a nonpartisan alliance of lawmakers, scientists and other concerned citizens who want to move beyond simplistic discussions of "incarceration versus legalization" when discussing marijuana use and instead focus on practical changes in marijuana policy that neither demonizes users nor legalizes the drug. SAM supports a treatment, health-first marijuana policy. SAM has four main goals:

- To inform public policy with the science of today's marijuana.
- To reduce the unintended consequences of current marijuana policies, such as lifelong stigma due to arrest.
- To prevent the establishment of "Big Marijuana" - and a 21st-Century tobacco industry that would market marijuana to children.
- To promote research of marijuana's medical properties and produce, non-smoked, non-psychoactive pharmacy-attainable medications.

SAM SAM SAM