



MINNESOTA PREVENTION ALLIANCE

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## RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

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### ***Non-medical marijuana is addictive and costly to society:***

- “For every dollar gained in tax revenue, Coloradans spent approximately **\$4.50** to mitigate the effects of legalization” (1).
- “**9 percent** of people who use marijuana will become dependent on it, rising to about 17 percent in those who start using in their teens” (2).
- “Majority of admissions (approximately **3 out of 4**) to substance abuse treatment among youth under age 18 were for marijuana as the primary substance of abuse” (3).
- “The **potency** of illicit cannabis plant material has consistently **risen** over time since 1995 from approximately 4% in 1995 to approximately **12%** in 2014” (4).
- “In Seattle, Washington, the **average THC potency** level far exceeds the national average at **21.24%** for marijuana flowers and **72.76%** for marijuana concentrates” (5).  
[Delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana]

### **References**

- (1) Economic and Social Costs of Legalized Marijuana. (November 2018) Centennial Institute: Lakewood, CO. Retrieved from <http://www.ccu.edu/centennial/policy-briefs/marijuana-costs/>
- (2) National Institute on Drug Abuse. (June 2018) Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-addictive>
- (3) Substance Use in Minnesota. Retrieved from <http://www.sumn.org/data/topic/>
- (4) ElSohly, M., Mehmedic, Z., Foster, S., Gon, C., Chandra, S., & Church, J. (2016) Changes in Cannabis Potency over the Last Two Decades (1995-2014) – Analysis of Current Data in the United States. *Journal of Psychiatric Neuroscience and Therapeutics*, 79(7): 613-619. Retrieved from [https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223\(16\)00045-7/fulltext](https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223(16)00045-7/fulltext)
- (5) Lessons learned from Marijuana Legalization in Four U.S. States and D.C. (March 2018) Smart Approaches to Marijuana. Alexandria, VA. Retrieved from <https://learnaboutsam.org/>



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### ***Status of marijuana in the U.S. and Minnesota:***

- **8 states** opposed recreational marijuana measures in 2018: North Dakota, Illinois, New Jersey, Delaware, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, & Rhode Island (1).
- *Recreational marijuana* is legal in **10 states**, *medical marijuana* is legal in **33 states**.
- Minnesota has **decriminalized** small amounts of marijuana **since 1976**.
- Minnesota has a **medical marijuana** program with **10,000+ patients** enrolled (2).
- Minnesota has an **Industrial Hemp Pilot Program** so hemp can be grown for industrial purposes (raw materials and foods) (3).

### **References**

(1) Public Health's Biggest Victories over Big Pot in 2018. (December 2018). Smart Approaches to Marijuana: Alexandria, VA. Retrieved from <https://learnaboutsam.org/public-healths-biggest-victories-over-big-pot-in-2018/>

(2) Retrieved from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/cannabis/about/stats.html>

(3) Retrieved from <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/hemp>