



The Marijuana Report

Marijuana News Based on Science, Not Spin 1.27.2021

EFFECTS



Association of cannabis use with self-harm and mortality risk among youth with mood disorders

Cynthia A. Contanella and colleagues at Ohio State University, the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and West Virginia University examined Ohio Medicaid claims data of 204,780 youth (ages 10-24) with a diagnosis of mood disorders between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2017. They were followed for up to 365 days from the diagnostic claim until the end of enrollment, the self-harm event, or death.

The researchers found that cannabis use disorder was documented for 10.3% (21,040) of these youth. They conclude that "Cannabis use disorder is a common comorbidity and risk marker for self-harm, all-cause mortality, and death by unintentional overdose and homicide among youth with mood disorders. These findings should be considered as states contemplate legalizing medical and recreational marijuana, both of which are associated with increased cannabis use disorder."

Read *JAMA Pediatrics* abstract [here](#).



Intoxication by a synthetic cannabinoid (JWH-018) causes cognitive and psychomotor impairment in recreational cannabis users

Eef Lien Theunissen of Maastricht University in The Netherlands and colleagues at Goethe University of Frankfurt and the University of Freiburg, both in Germany, studied the effects of JWH-018 on humans.

They find that a relatively low dose of JWH-018 results in acute psychomotor and cognitive effects in users.

Read *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* abstract [here](#).



A conversation about delta-8-THC with National Families in Action's Science Advisory Board

We received ads from Vida Optima (US) and Copper Mountain Hemp Traders (GA) wanting to sell us delta-8-THC gummies, candies, and vape cartridges. Puzzled, we wrote our Science Advisory Board asking, "Is delta-8-THC real? Is it psychoactive? Is it legal?" Here's what they said:

Ryan Vandrey, PhD

Delta-8-THC products are becoming increasingly available and are sold in both retail stores and online. There is some confusion about the effects and legality of these products. Current evidence suggests that delta-8-THC is psychoactive and can produce effects that are very similar to delta-9-THC.

The legality of delta-8-THC is questionable due to competing language in different regulations. The Farm Bill explicitly states that anything derived from hemp, except delta-9-THC, is legal. The cannabis industry has latched onto this as justification that delta-8-THC products derived from hemp are legal.

The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) does not explicitly mention delta-8-THC, but federal drug law has an "analogue" rule that essentially states that structural analogues of illicit drugs are also illegal. Delta-8-THC is an analogue of delta-9-THC. So, in essence there are contradictory federal rules regarding the legality of hemp-derived delta-8-THC.

Independent of how legality is interpreted, consumers should be aware that these products have the potential to produce strong drug effects, cause impairment, and have potential for abuse similar to products containing delta-9-THC.

Marilyn Huestis, PhD

I agree with everything Ryan said. DEA considers delta-8-THC as an analog (which it is), and it is not legal, but the language in the Farm Bill is very problematic.

Mahmoud ElSohly, PhD

Just to remind everyone that the DEA final rule confirms what the Farm Bill says as far as hemp derived compounds other than THC but adds “unless controlled elsewhere in the CSA.” Well, delta-8-THC is controlled, Schedule I, just like delta-9-THC. So, delta-8-THC is as illegal as delta-9-THC. No question.

Marilyn Huestis

Thanks, Mahmoud, but the public doesn't know this as well as you do and is being suckered into the false advertising being distributed!

To learn more about delta-9 THC from our advisory board scientists, listen to the podcasts they recorded for us [here](#).

CBD



FDA withdraws pending CBD enforcement proposal

The Food and Drug Administration withdrew its proposal to regulate over-the-counter sales of CBD. It had sent the proposal to the White House Office of Management and Budget last July, but withdrew it after the Biden Administration sent a memo to all federal agencies asking them to withdraw all pending rules, a pro forma practice of new, incoming presidential administrations.

Read *Hemp Industry Daily* article [here](#).

VAPING



How health groups defeated Juul's effort to rewrite San Francisco's e-cigarette regulations

Dr. Stanton Glantz wrote a blog post about how the tobacco industry, like the marijuana industry, uses the ballot initiative process to take down measures regulators pass to protect the public's health.

In this case, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors was already the first US jurisdiction to have passed a total ban on flavored tobacco products (except tobacco flavor). It also defeated a \$12 million ballot-initiative challenge by RJ Reynolds to overturn it.

Meanwhile, the federal Food and Drug Administration required e-cigarette makers to obtain FDA authorization of their products before legally being allowed to market them. But by March 2019, no e-cigarette maker had submitted such a proposal, so the San Francisco board passed a moratorium on the sale of e-cigarettes whose manufacturers had not received FDA premarket authorization. Following RJ Reynolds' example, Juul, which is based in San Francisco, sponsored a ballot measure to overturn the board's e-cigarette ban.

Titled "An Act to Prevent Youth Use of Vapor Products," Juul's \$15.5 million initiative contained several poison darts, including a requirement that any law promulgated by regulatory agencies like the board of supervisors must first be confirmed by a costly ballot initiative in which voters must approve the law. In such a David-vs-Goliath contest, it's one thing for a multi-billion-dollar industry to sponsor a ballot initiative, quite another for a taxpayer-funded agency to match industry's investment to defend its regulations.

Yet voters defeated Juul's initiative by 82 percent. Dr. Glantz credits this victory with the private support of Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes, or PAVe, who raised enough early funds to draw large donations from traditional public-health

organizations. So, the battle became a \$15.5 million vs a \$7 million effort, but even with less than half the amount, the good guys won.

Epilogue

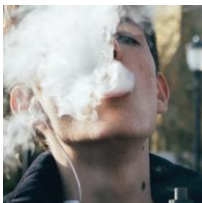
Last summer, California legislators passed a statewide ban on flavored tobacco products. Had Juul's ballot measure succeeded, public-health advocates feared its requirement that voters must approve regulatory laws via ballot initiatives would have applied to the statewide flavor ban. Now, the tobacco industry has managed to place yet another initiative on California's 2022 ballot to overturn the statewide ban on flavored tobacco. So far, this one is a \$21 million to zip battle (although the public-health community is like to contribute funds closer to 2022).

Remember this story the next time the marijuana industry invades your state to legalize marijuana for recreational use via a ballot initiative or, if you live in a legal state, to water down hard-fought-for regulations to reduce use, especially among kids.

Read Dr. Glantz's blog post [here](#).

Read *American Journal of Public Health* abstract [here](#).

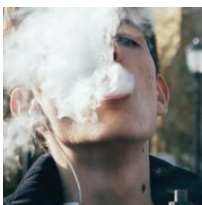
Read Ballotpedia's summary of tobacco industry's ballot initiative to overturn California's ban on tobacco flavors [here](#).



The youth vaping epidemic: from science to public policy

The New York Academy of Sciences will hold a webinar called "The Youth Vaping Epidemic: From Science to Public Policy" on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register [here](#).



HEXO Operations Inc. voluntary product recall

A Canadian company is recalling three of its vape pens due to a defect in the hardware, which may cause the plastic shell to melt. The specific products being recalled are the HEXO Trainwreck All-in-One Disposable Pen, HEXO Blue Dream All-in-One Disposable Pen, and HEXO Durban All-in-One Disposable Pen.

Learn how to return recalled products for a refund, whether you bought them in a store or online, [here](#).

DRIVING



Drugged driving infographic

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has a useful, annotated infographic titled “What is Drugged Driving.”

Access it [here](#).



NIDA science spotlight- Cannabis effects on driving performance

NIDA also has posed a video with Dr. Marilyn Huestis showing the simulator she persuaded several federal agencies to allow her to use to test the impact of marijuana on driving ability.

Access the *NIDA* video [here](#).

Listen to Dr. Huestis on podcasts she recorded for National Families in Action discuss what her team found as a result of this ground-breaking study [here](#).

LEGALIZATION



The state of cannabis: Local scorecards provide glimpse into California’s ‘wild west’ patchwork of cannabis policies

Getting it Right from the Start at the Public Health Institute has released 157 scorecards to enable Californians to see how well, or not, their new marijuana ordinances are protecting youth and supporting social equity.

The organization found that 157 of the state's 539 cities and counties allow storefront sales of recreational marijuana. Of those, 34 "went backwards on smoke-free air" by allowing onsite consumption. Only one, Cathedral City, taxes products by the amount of THC concentration each contains.

For more insight on the state of marijuana regulation in California access Getting It Right from the Start's press release and scorecards [here](#).



Notice regarding billboard advertisements on interstate and state highways

Here's the notice regulators sent to all licensed marijuana dispensaries in California regarding a recent court decision that bans all billboards on interstate and state highways that cross California's borders.

Read the *California Bureau of Cannabis Control Notice* [here](#).



Idaho senator pushes back on legalization with proposed psychoactive drug ban

Idaho Senator C. Scott Grow has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that would ban "the production, manufacture, transportation, sale, delivery, dispensing, distribution, possession, or use of a psychoactive drug." The only exceptions would be drugs approved by FDA for marketing to the public.

The amendment needs the support of at least two-thirds of Idaho's House and Senate and then must be approved by voters in the 2022 election.

Senator Grow says he is offering his amendment because "Neighboring states have legalized controlled substances to the detriment of their children, families, and communities."

Read *High Times* story [here](#).



The Marijuana Report

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Introducing The Marijuana Report **Index**

You asked. We listened!
In response to our readers' survey,
National Families in Action
has developed The Marijuana Report Index.
You can search it to easily locate
more than 1,300 summaries published weekly in
The Marijuana Report since July 2014.

To see how it works, check out our demo [here](#).

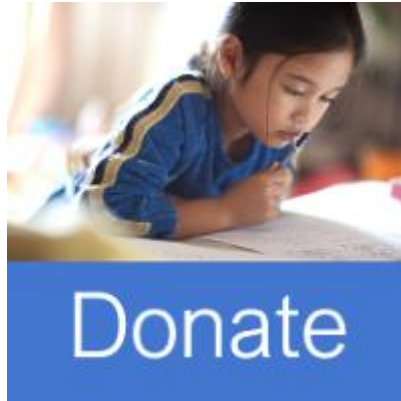
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Thank you!



Parenting got a lot harder with legal marijuana

Are you in yet?

Take the "I'm In" pledge to join Parent Movement 2.0! To sign, click [here](#).



The Marijuana Report Staff

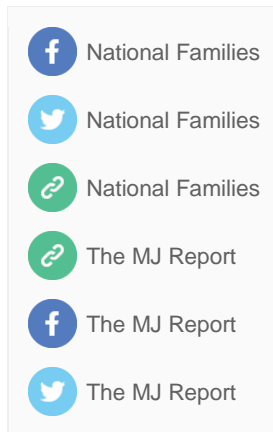
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