

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
M.A.S.S. Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 2016

Members of M.A.S.S.,

Today's presentation is largely assembled with data collected from Colorado as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Report of the Special Senate Committee on Marijuana. Although you probably have already heard much of the information shared today, we assembled this document so you can have a take away to share with your stakeholders.

Video information:

Then and Now: Industry Playbook and Addiction Marketing

www.Eventi.com

Massachusetts Report of the Special Senate Committee on Marijuana:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/SD2479>

- Where marijuana is legal, young people are more likely to use it, according to a January report from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.
 - The report found that while use among minors has declined nationwide in recent years, states like Colorado have seen an increase.
- Regular use that starts in adolescence has been shown to impair brain development, shrink school and career outcomes, and even lower IQ.
- With the high THC levels in marijuana today — it's up to seven times more potent than it was in the 1970s — about one in six users who start as teenagers become physically dependent.
- Medical science is also showing a frightening correlation between regular marijuana use and severe mental health issues. Even an untrained eye can see differences between the MRI brain images of those who habitually use marijuana and those who don't.
- In the year after the drug was legalized in Colorado, marijuana-related emergency room visits increased nearly 30 percent, as did traffic deaths involving marijuana. Edible marijuana products — often in the form of brownies, candy, or soda — pose a particular threat for children, who may mistake them for regular treats.
- According to data from the National Poison Data System, marijuana exposure has been on the rise among children under six, particularly in states where the drug is legal. High potency edible products also pose a risk to adults, who can easily consume more marijuana than intended and experience serious

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adverse effects. These products are rarely labeled properly to reflect their psychoactive THC content, which is particularly concerning given that edible marijuana products constitute almost half of the legal marijuana market in Colorado.

- The majority of DUI drug arrests in Colorado involve marijuana and 25 to 40 percent were marijuana alone.
- In 2012, 10.47 percent of Colorado youth ages 12 to 17 were considered current marijuana users compared to 7.55 percent nationally. Colorado ranked fourth in the nation, and was 39 percent higher than the national average.
- Drug-related student suspensions/expulsions increased 32 percent from school years 2008-09 through 2012-13, the vast majority were for marijuana violations.
- In 2012, 26.81 percent of college age students were considered current marijuana users compared to 18.89 percent nationally, which ranks Colorado third in the nation and 42 percent above the national average.
- In 2013, 48.4 percent of Denver adult arrestees tested positive for marijuana, which is a 16 percent increase from 2008.
- From 2011 through 2013 there was a 57 percent increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits.
- Hospitalizations in Colorado related to marijuana have increased 82 percent since 2008.
- There are more dispensaries in Colorado than there are Starbucks, McDonalds and 7-Elevens combined.

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