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# Marijuana Policy and Research Updates

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**SAM** Smart Approaches to Marijuana  
preventing another big tobacco

**SAM promotes  
an evidence-  
based  
approach to  
marijuana  
policy that  
prioritizes  
public health**



## **NON-PARTISAN BUT HIGH-PROFILE**

founded by former Democratic Congressman Patrick Kennedy and leading Republican pundit David Frum

## **SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

composed of more than 12 leading researchers, professors, and public health/legal experts

## **HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PRESS MENTIONS**

including major media outlets such as *The New York Times*, NBC News, Slate, BBC News, and FoxNews

# Collaboration

SAM has collaborated with credentialed and reputable groups across the country



American Medical Association



American Academy of Pediatrics



National Business Group on Health®

National Business Group on Health

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
CHILD & ADOLESCENT  
PSYCHIATRY

WWW.AACAP.ORG

American Academy of  
Child and Adolescent  
Psychiatry

Other leading public health authorities

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# Florida

**Marijuana corporate giant Trulieve donated \$152.27 million to Amendment 3, shattering previous ballot measure campaign donations**

**Bipartisan opposition: Governor Ron Desantis, Florida GOP Congressional Delegation, Donna Shalala, and Patrick Kennedy**

**Best message: corporate monopoly and public use**

**Won by 4 points**

## Other States

**South Dakota: Beat legalization by 11 points, rejecting pot for the second time**

**North Dakota: Beat legalization by 5 points**

**Massachusetts: Beat psychedelics legalization by 14 points, despite being a liberal state and being outspent more than 10-to-1**

# **New Research**

**A study from the University of Western Australia discovered that marijuana is associated with significant increases in cancers, particularly breast, pancreatic, liver, thyroid, and testicular.**

**Testicular cancer risk rose 2.6 times among cannabis users.**

# Impact on Babies

**Marijuana use among parents can lead to significant developmental abnormalities, including missing limbs, heart problems, and chromosomal disorders.**

**The cause? DNA mutations sparked by marijuana. “Micronuclear fragmentation” occurs, (chromosomes in micronuclei break into tiny fragments and are dispersed into the cell's main nucleus).**

## Impact on Babies

**Among 663 stillbirth deliveries, women who had a stillbirth were twice as likely as those with a live birth to report having been addicted to an illicit drug. THC, the most common individual drug reported by the population, was found in 3% of women with a stillbirth**



# Cellular Aging

**30% acceleration of cellular aging in users as young as 30 and clusters of major birth defects in areas with high cannabis cultivation**

# How Many Pregnant Women Use?

**A new study from the University of Georgia found that about 6% of pregnant women reported using marijuana during the last month**

**Within that group, 70.9% perceived little to no risk associated with marijuana use during pregnancy**

**Two-thirds of the pregnant women who reported using marijuana lived in a state where medical marijuana was legal**



**Marijuana's effects on developing babies could include low birth weight, and other developmental problems – including fatal conditions**

**70%**

of marijuana dispensaries in Colorado recommended THC products to pregnant women

**83%**

of medical dispensaries

**60%**

of retail dispensaries

Denver Health,  
2018

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**Thank  
you!**

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*Your Voice on Marijuana Issues  
in the United States*