



Coalition Meeting Agenda | April 5th, 2024 @ 12:30pm
Edgewater Public Library & via Zoom
Please Sign In & Help Yourself to Lunch!

South County Bridges to a Drug-Free Community is one of four prevention coalitions dedicated to reducing substance misuse within Anne Arundel County. We are parents, students, teachers, police, healthcare providers & many others who are committed to changing the culture of drug and alcohol use among youth & young adults.

Welcome & Introductions *Leslie Beers, SoCo & ASAP Coalition Coordinator; Ashley Robey, DOH Prevention Coalitions Coordinator; Justin Noel, DOH SADD Coordinator; Desi Thomas, DOH Suicide Prevention Coordinator; Loise Taliferro, DOH STEPS Supervisor; Tracey Cherry, PCYFS; (via Zoom) Julie Kwedar, MVA Community Engagement; Julia Halberstam, MADD*

Marijuana: What's the Deal? Presentation on new laws, misconceptions, impact on youth & other relevant information about marijuana *(see slides embedded)*

DOH Grant Strategies Updates - TIPS, Narcan, Safe County Alliance

- Listening Sessions: In need of small groups of people to participate in collecting data on perceptions of use, harm, consequences—all participants will get \$10 gift cards. Data collection is critical to determine community needs!

Community Updates

- March - Narcan Vending Machines placed throughout AACo, including Deale Library

Upcoming Events

- TIPS Schedule www.preventsubstanceuse.org/tips-training/
- TIPS @ Pirate's Cove Tuesday 4/30 at 10am (open)

Group Announcements

- Tyler Heights Community School - Program Manager

MARIJUANA: WHAT'S THE DEAL?



Lunch & Learn Coalition Meeting

April 5, 2024



DEFINITIONS... WHAT'S WHAT??



FORM	DEFINITION
Marijuana / Cannabis	Mixture of dried leaves, flowers, stem & seed from the <i>Cannabis sativa</i> plant
THC - <i>Tetrahydrocannabinol</i>	Main psychoactive compound in marijuana that makes it a mind-altering substance
CBD - <i>Cannabidiol</i>	One of the active compounds in marijuana; it is not psychoactive
Delta-9 (most common); Delta-8, Delta-10	Cannabis plants contain dozens of different <i>cannabinoids</i> (chemicals), each has different THC potency
METHOD OF USE	DEFINITION
CBD oil / Hash oil	Concentrated cannabis extract with high THC levels (up to 90% THC)
Edibles	Any food product that contains cannabis extract as an active ingredient
Smoking	Inhalation of smoke or vapor released by heating the flower, leaves, or extracts of cannabis, releasing the psychoactive chemical THC

PRODUCTS - WHAT'S OUT THERE?



THC & CBD chemically bind differently to the brain, causing different effects by each ingredient.

THC is consumed by smoking cannabis flower (marijuana) and is also put into oils, edibles, tinctures, capsules, and more for different desired effects.

CBD is sold in oil, gummies, gels, supplements, extracts, and more.

CBD does not produce the “high” effect associated with marijuana (THC).

CBD oil can be made with or without THC.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY??



July 1, 2023 - Adults **21 and older** may possess up to 1.5 grams of cannabis flower (marijuana), 12 grams of concentrated cannabis, a total amount of cannabis product that does not exceed 750mg of THC, or 2 plants.

Anne Arundel County abides by the laws set forth by the State of Maryland & the **Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA)**.



The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission transitioned into the Maryland Cannabis Administration, which **regulates** all cannabis businesses.

It is **illegal to carry or transport cannabis, medical or recreational, across state lines**—a person may not leave or enter any state with any cannabis product regardless of the states' laws.

Cannabis consumption in any youth serving facility, including parks, is a **felony**.

Federal law still classifies marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act as a **Schedule I drug**, like cocaine & heroin.



MARIJUANA IN THE UNITED STATES



24 states are fully legal - law allows medical & adult use of marijuana/cannabis

→ *Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, MARYLAND, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine*

5 states are mixed - law allows medical use and has **decriminalized** adult use, meaning a person will not be criminally prosecuted for personal use or possession of small quantities

→ *Hawaii, North Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire*

8 states permit medical use only - but it is *not* decriminalized

→ *Utah, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, West Virginia, Pennsylvania*

2 states are fully legal & decriminalized - there is no medical use program in place

→ *Nebraska, North Carolina*

7 states allow CBD oil for medical use - limited amounts of low THC cannabis or CBD oil and is *not* decriminalized

→ *Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Georgia*

4 states remain fully illegal - no medical use programs, no decriminalization, no adult use

→ *Wyoming, Idaho, Kansas, & South Carolina*



MEDICAL VS. "RECREATIONAL" HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?

It is important to note that the preferred term is NOT recreational use, but rather "**Adult-Use**"

The word recreation implies that it is worthwhile, accepted, and provides immediate satisfaction. This also applied it is legal for all not just those 21+.

This term likely has played a role in significant decrease of the perception of harm around marijuana use.

Definition of Recreation

- It is a worthwhile socially accepted leisure, experience that provide immediate and inherent satisfaction to the individual who voluntarily participates in the activities.

Legalized marijuana is viewed similarly to alcohol, being restricted to ages 21 and older, subjected to 9% sales tax & is regulated.

And similar to alcohol, the substance has negative impacts.





MEDICAL USE



Medical cannabis use has been legal since 2013 and available for purchase at licensed dispensaries since 2017.

There are currently **101 dispensaries** in MD, with **7 located in AACo.**

Qualifying conditions include chronic pain, PTSD, seizure disorders, glaucoma, other chronic conditions and mental health disorders such as anxiety.

Persons 18 and older may register for the Medical Cannabis program. Laws require dispensaries to have 'patient-only' hours or service lines to ensure patients have access to their medications.



TODAY'S MARIJUANA

THC content in marijuana has been steadily increasing since the 1980's

- 1990's average THC sample was roughly 3.7%
- 2016 THC content was 13.18%
- Oils & edibles deliver high levels of THC to the user
- Today's average marijuana extract contains 50% THC, some as high as 80%

So while the perception of harm has decreased, potency has increased as well as the actual risk of harm.

Over the years, there has been more ER visits related to marijuana use and this is likely due to its increased potency.

There have also been cases of marijuana-induced psychosis which can result in violent tendencies.

Edibles must be digested before they take effect, leading to users consuming larger quantities to feel the effect quicker, resulting in dangerous outcomes.



Higher THC levels = higher risk to develop addiction

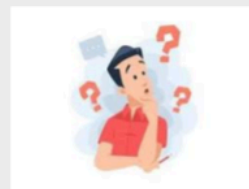
Source: DEA

MISCONCEPTIONS

Perception of harm has significantly decreased as laws continuously evolve & legalization of Adult-Use Cannabis occurs across the US.

According to the DEA...

- large majority of HS seniors perceive a *great risk* of harm for a person who uses illicit drugs like heroin, cocaine, MDMA, etc.
- only 32% of HS seniors perceive risk of harm for regular marijuana use
- only 12% of HS seniors view experimenting with marijuana as entailing any great risk (*88% see no harm*)
- TREND: perceived risk of regular use has declined while current use (past 30 days) has steadily risen



MISCONCEPTION:

"Marijuana is not harmful"

FACT: Marijuana IS addictive & can have harmful effects regardless of age.

People who begin using marijuana before the age of 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop a substance misuse disorder.

Source: DEA



IMPACT ON YOUTH



The psychoactive ingredient THC is a **mind-altering substance**. It affects the brain—changes in mood, impaired body functions, difficulty thinking & problem-solving, and impaired memory.

- The brain is not fully developed until approx. age 26. **Marijuana use on the still developing brain will have long-term effects** including reductions in thinking, memory, and learning ability.

Young users & long-term users are **at risk for mental illness** such as temporary hallucinations, induced psychosis, and worsening of schizophrenia symptoms.

Marijuana is linked to school dropouts. Research shows that **teenage use is linked to lowered IQs**.

Marijuana is the **most common drug involved in auto-fatalities**. It affects necessary skills for safe driving—alertness, reaction time, coordination, & concentration.

Source: DEA



Teach the youth in your life the dangers of marijuana.

Regardless of its legality and/or adult-use, it is NOT SAFE for 21 & under.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

www.JustThinkTwice.com

- DEA's website for teens provides credible information about various substances and their harmful effects

www.teens.drugabuse.gov

- NIDA's website for teens to learn how drugs affect the body & the brain.

www.store.samhsa.gov

- SAMHSA Brochure: Tips for Teens - The Truth About Marijuana

Questions? Want to get more involved?

Leslie Beers, Coalition Coordinator

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Alameda County Bridges
TO A DRUG-FREE COMMUNITY