

**The Norwalk  
Partnership**

PREVENTING SUBSTANCE MISUSE  
AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



PLEASE JOIN OUR LOCAL  
PREVENTION COALITIONS FOR A  
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

# CT's Cannabis Law: next steps

A conversation with stakeholders from  
Norwalk and Westport, including prevention &  
health, youth services, and law enforcement

JANUARY 10, 2022 | 9:00AM | VIA ZOOM

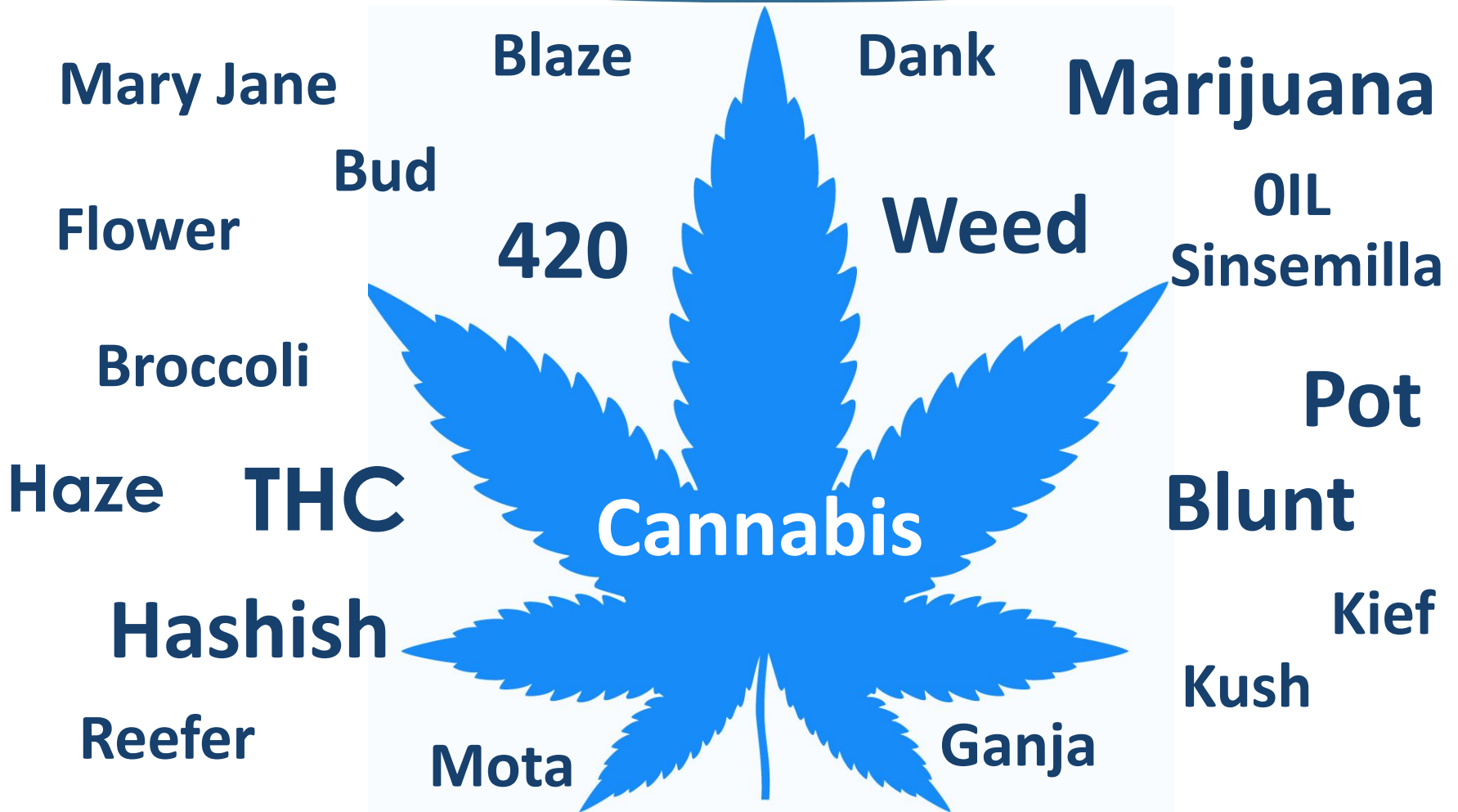
# Agenda

1. **Welcome & context for joint Norwalk/Westport meeting** (Mayor Rilling, Selectwoman Tooker, Elaine Daignault, Lamond Daniels)
2. **Purpose & format of meeting** (Margaret Watt)
3. **About cannabis & the new law** (Margaret Watt, Ginger Katz)
4. **Prevention considerations** (Kevin Godburn, Melissa McGarry, Dave Walenczyk)
5. **Health considerations** (Denise Rollinson, Dr. Robin Oshman)
6. **Law enforcement considerations** (Lt Prezioso, Sgt Gulino, Lt Dinho)
7. **Community/equity considerations** (Diana Revolus)

# Presenters

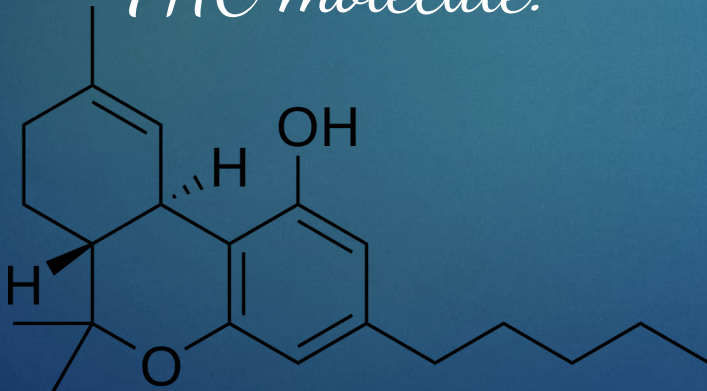
- ▶ *Elaine Daignault, Director, Westport Human Services*
- ▶ *Lamond Daniels, Director, Norwalk Community Services*
- ▶ *Margaret Watt, Prevention Director, Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention & Counseling*
- ▶ *Ginger Katz, Founder/CEO, the Courage to Speak Foundation*
- ▶ *Kevin Godburn, Director, Westport Youth Services*
- ▶ *Melissa McGarry, Preventionist*
- ▶ *Dave Walenczyk, Director, Norwalk Youth Services*
- ▶ *Denise Rollinson, Behavioral Health Therapist, Norwalk Community Health Center*
- ▶ *Dr. Robin Oshman, Board President, Fairfield County Medical Association*
- ▶ *Lt Prezioso, Westport Police Department*
- ▶ *Sgt Gulino and Lt Dinho, Norwalk Police Department*
- ▶ *Diana Revolus, Norwalk Common Council*

# Marijuana? Cannabis?



# Cannabis Facts

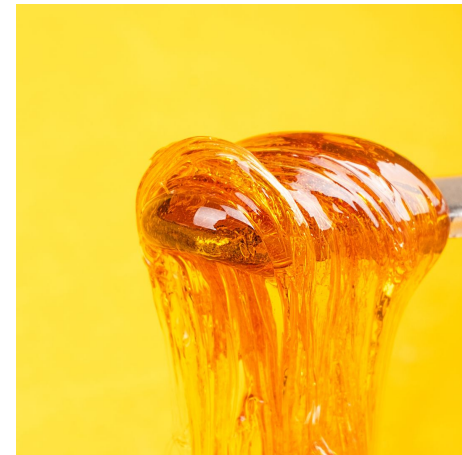
*THC molecule:*



*"natural" plant*




*concentrate*



# Chemicals

**THC vs CBD**  
AN AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE

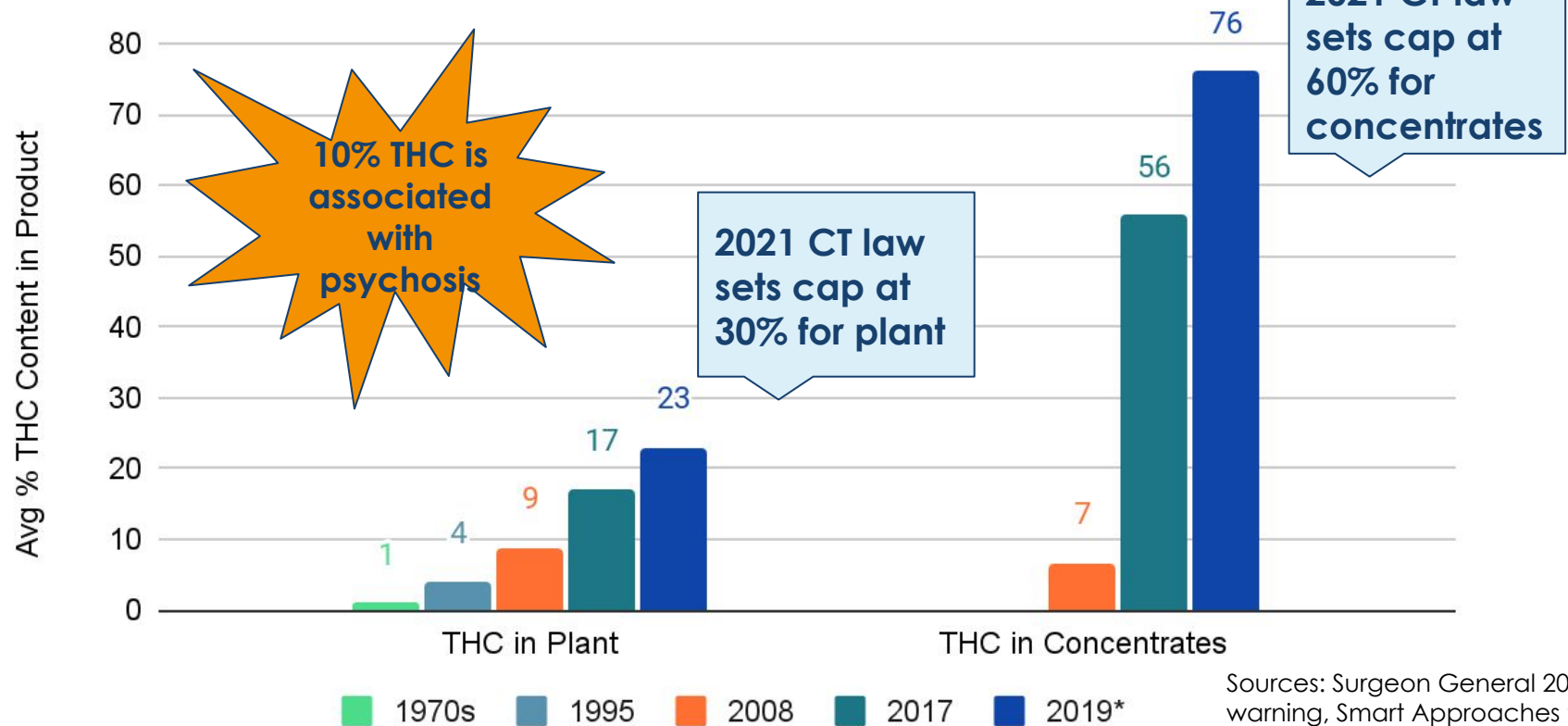
<u>THC</u>	<u>CBD</u>
Short for TetraHydroCannabidiol	Short for Cannabidiol
Only legal in select states	Legal across the USA
Psychoactive	Non-psychoactive
Can cause anxiety	Can relieve anxiety

The logo for 420 TOURS is circular with a mountain range silhouette at the top. The text 'MY' is above the mountain, '420' is in the center, and 'TOURS' is at the bottom. The logo is surrounded by a decorative border of stars and leaves.

# Engineered for Potency

## Increase in Strength of Cannabis Over Time

% THC Content in Product



Sources: Surgeon General 2019 warning, Smart Approaches to Marijuana 2021 report

# Today's PLANT products...

## Changing Landscape

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courtesy Dr. Aaron Weiner



# Today's CONCENTRATE products...

## Changing Landscape

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courtesy Dr. Aaron Weiner

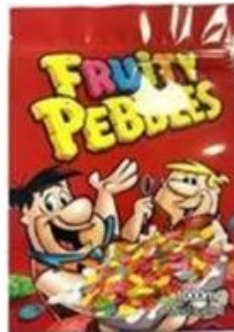
# Today's EDIBLE products...

## Changing Landscape



2021 CT law sets 5 mg cap on edibles

# Edibles can mimic snacks



**ILLEGAL**

According to  
the CT Attorney  
General

# Health Effects of Cannabis

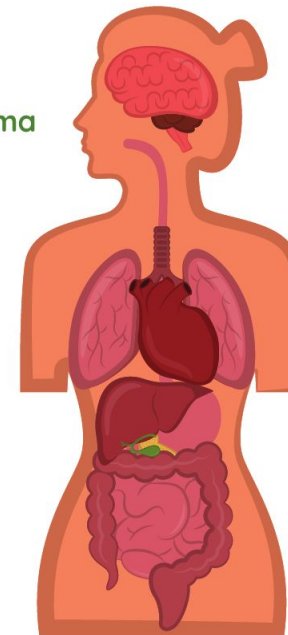
## Effects of Marijuana

-relieves glaucoma

-can relieve  
pain, muscle  
spasms

-can relieve  
nausea

-can slow down  
tumor growth in  
cancer



-harms brain  
development in  
teenagers (loss of  
IQ)

-irritates lungs &  
increases phlegm;  
associated with  
bronchitis

-increases heart  
rate & risk of  
heart attack

-harms fetal  
development

-can weaken  
immune system

adapted from Medical News Today

# Impact on the Brain

## CANNABIS CAN CAUSE

- Mental Illness (Anxiety, Paranoia, Suicide)
- Aggression
- Memory Loss
- Altered sense of Time/Space and Reasoning

1 in 6 Teens  
Become Addicted



Loss of up to  
8 IQ  
Points



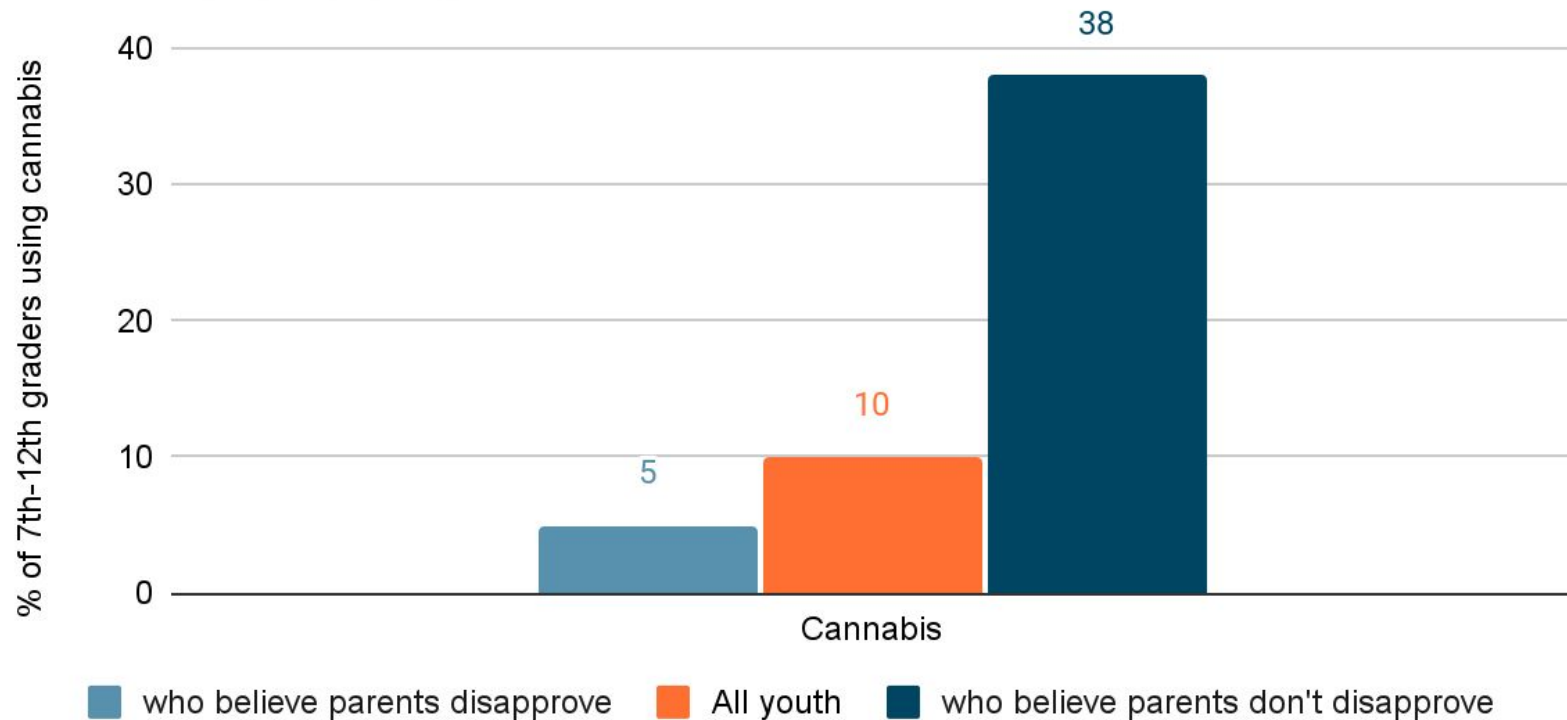
Increased Risk of  
Psychosis



# Parental Disapproval Reduces Teen Consumption

## Teen Cannabis Use is Associated with Perceived Parental Approval

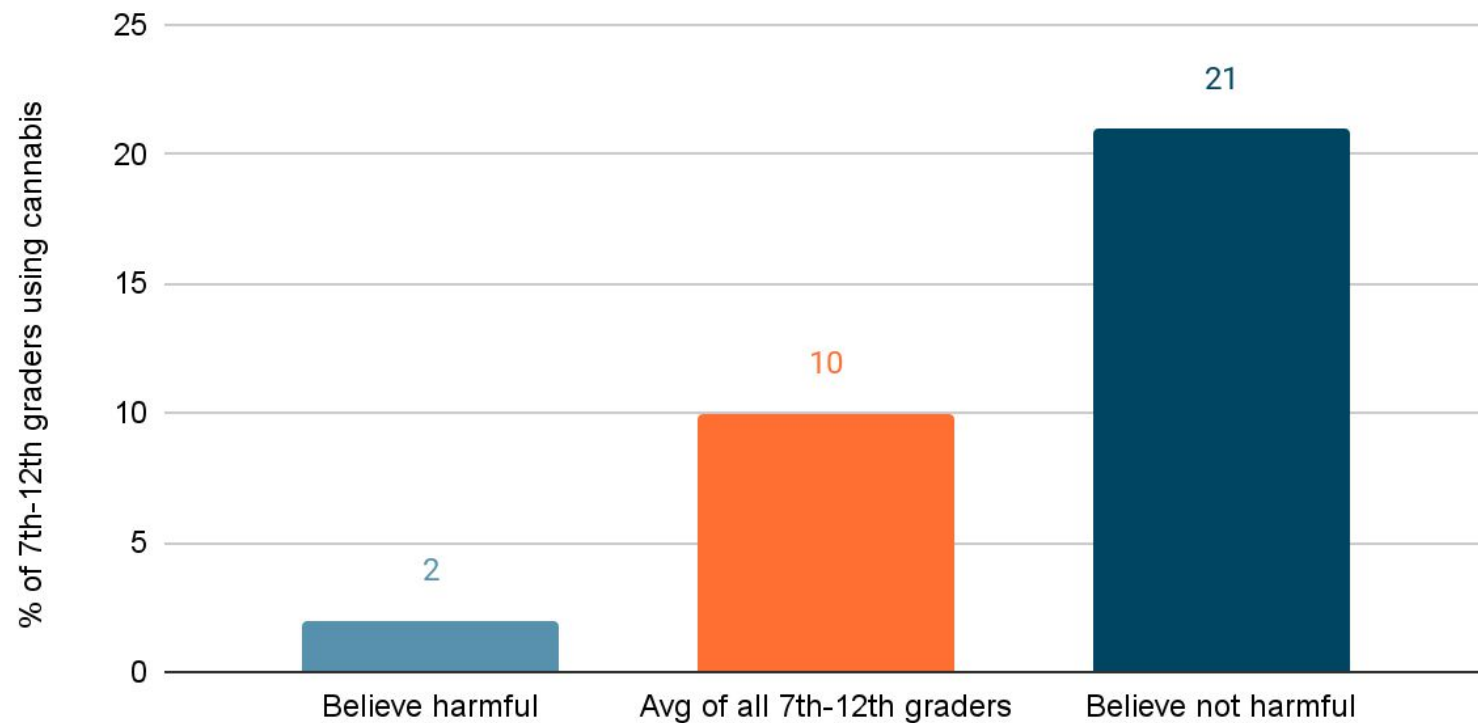
Town example, CT, spring 2021



# Teen Awareness of Health Risks Reduces Consumption

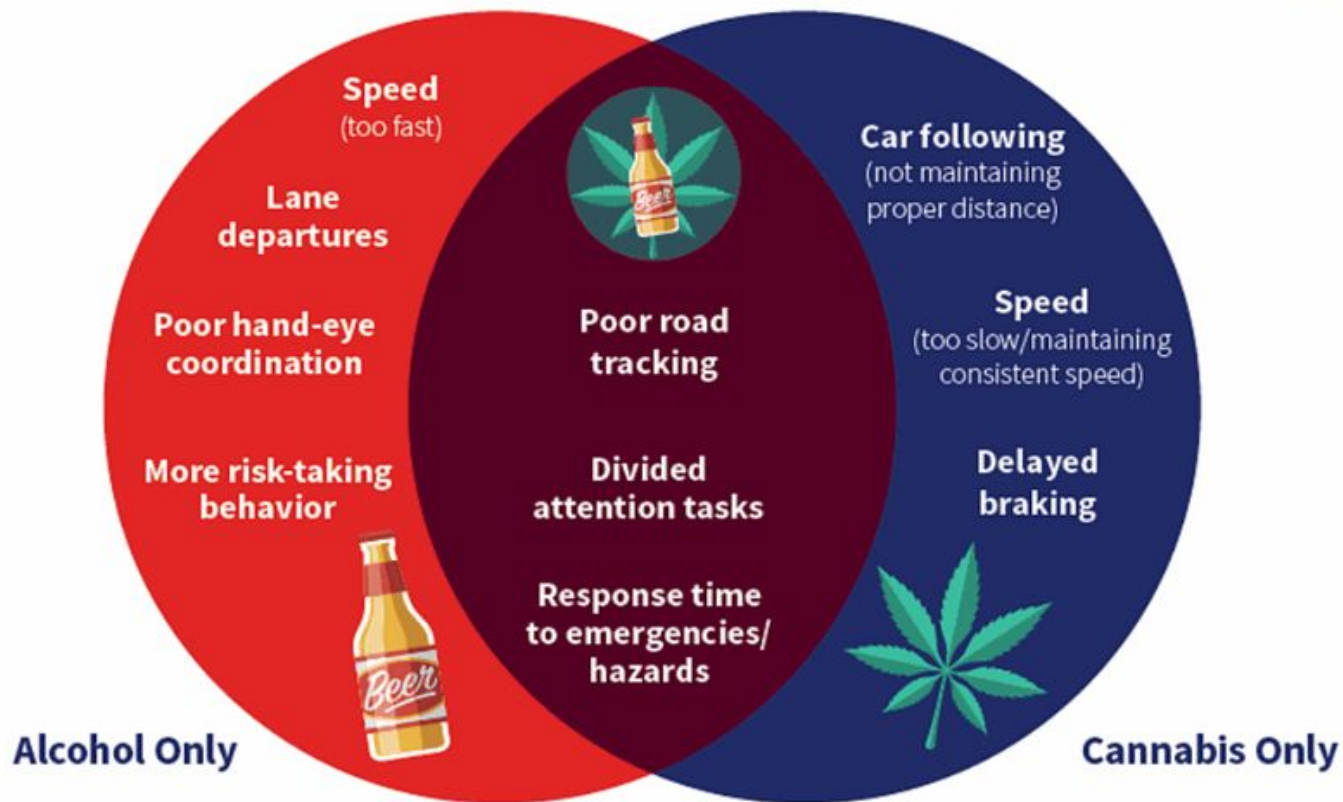
## Teen Cannabis Use is Associated with Risk Awareness

Town example, CT, Spring 2021



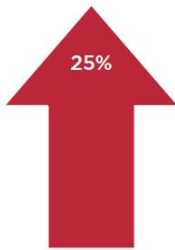
# Driving Under the Influence

## Negative Effects of Alcohol and Cannabis on Brain Functions and Driving Skills





# Following legalization...



**There was a 25% increase in Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) among 12-17 year-olds in “legal” states.**

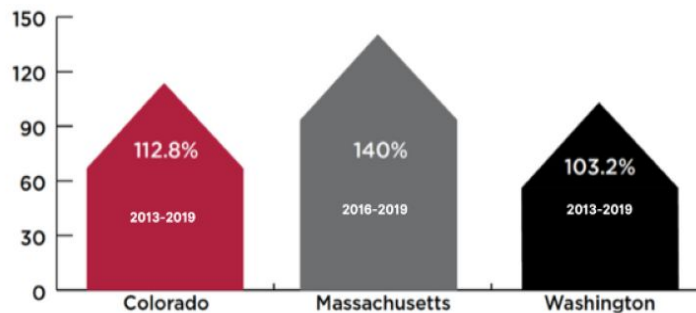
(Cerde et. al., 2019)

## MARIJUANA HOSPITALIZATIONS INCREASES SINCE LEGALIZATION



(Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2013-2017; Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 2020).

## PERCENT INCREASE IN CALLS MADE TO THE POISON CONTROL CENTER FOR MARIJUANA EXPOSURES FOLLOWING LEGALIZATION IN THE STATE.



(Rocky Mountain HIDTA, 2019; Whitehill et al., 2019; Washington Poison Center, 2018)

**Source:** Lessons Learned from State Marijuana Legalization  
© 2021 Smart Approaches to Marijuana

# Funding for Prevention Starts Late

## State Retail Cannabis Tax Revenue Distribution

<i>Funds and Accounts</i>	<i>FY 22</i>	<i>FY 23</i>	<i>FYs 24- 26</i>	<i>FYs 27- 28</i>	<i>FYs 29+</i>
Cannabis Regulatory and Investment Account	100%	-	-	-	-
General Fund	-	100%	15%	10%	-
Social Equity and Innovation Fund	-		60%	65%	75%
Prevention and Recovery Services Fund	-		25%	25%	25%

# Ian's Case

- Lack of consequences was enabling
- Lower potency cannabis in 90s still wreaked havoc on the family
- Marijuana use is associated with opioid use



Ian James Eaccarino  
1975 - 1996

# How You Can Help

Strengthen the law to...

1. Increase consequences to deter and prevent youth use
2. Provide warnings and education around health and prevention
3. Support law enforcement for compliance checks, traffic stops, etc.
4. Protect our communities

# Funding for Prevention Starts Late

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# Prevention Considerations

- Loopholes related to pre-filled cartridges
- Lack of consequences for underage possession

# Prevention Considerations

## 2021 Law Enforcement Guide to Tobacco, E-Cigarette (Vapor), Alcohol and Cannabis Offenses

Alcohol Charges	Under the Age of 16	Age of 16 and Up
<b>C.G.S. § 30-89(b)(1)</b> - Possession of Alcohol by a Minor (Public Roadway)	Juvenile Summons <b>or</b> Juvenile Review Board Referral (150 Day Delay to Obtain License)	<b>\$136 Infraction</b> (<21 License Suspension) (150 Day Delay to Obtain License)
<b>C.G.S. § 30-89(b)(2)</b> - Possession of Alcohol by a Minor (Private or Public place, other than a Roadway)	Juvenile Summons <b>or</b> Juvenile Review Board Referral (150 Day Delay to Obtain License)	<b>\$136 Infraction</b> (<21 License Suspension) (150 Day Delay to Obtain License)
<b>C.G.S. § 30-89a</b> - Permitting a Minor (<21) to Possess Liquor (Social Host)	<b>UNDER 18:</b> Juvenile Summons <b>or</b> Juvenile Review Board Referral	<b>18 AND UP:</b> Class A Misdemeanor

Cannabis Laws (PA 21-1)	Under the age of 18	Between 18 and 21	Over the age of 21
<b>C.G.S. 21a-279</b> - Possession < 1.5 oz. (750 mg of THC or 7.5 g of con.) <b>**21+</b> can also have additional 5 oz. in a locked glove box or trunk of a vehicle <b>OR</b> a locked container inside a residence	Written Warning and Juvenile Review Board Referral	1st Offense \$50 infraction Subsequent Offenses \$150	Legal
<b>C.G.S. 21a-279</b> - Possession of more than 1.5 ounces, but less than 5 ounces	Written Warning and Juvenile Review Board Referral	1st Offense \$50 infraction Subsequent Offenses \$150	Legal - <b>**IF IN A LOCKED CONTAINER</b> <b>IF NOT **LOCKED:</b> \$150 1st / \$250 2nd

SECTION 21a-267 USE, POSSESSION OR DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA (SECTION 4) DOES NOT APPLY TO CANNABIS

Updated 8/17/21



# Health Considerations

- Need for warning labels on packaging (similar to alcohol)
- Health education campaigns, visual materials at point of sale
- Funding for prevention / health education



# Warning Labels to Consider:

- Smoking / dabbing is associated with impaired driving
- Maternal use of cannabis may be associated with increased risk for preterm birth, spontaneous preterm birth and small-for-gestational-age infants
- Cannabis is associated with IQ loss, psychosis, and mental illness in teens
- Cannabis is addictive for adults and more so for teens
- Cannabis increases risk of heart attack
- Cannabis is associated with lung diseases such as bronchitis
- Cannabis use is associated with opioid use

# Law Enforcement Considerations

- Tracking?
- Need for compliance checks
- Limits on traffic stops

# Community Considerations

- Inequitable impact on neighborhoods
- Density regulations at state level to guide municipalities