



# ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS, INC.

## POSITION STATEMENT ON MARIJUANA

- ❖ *The Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, Inc. is opposed to the legalization and decriminalization of marijuana; and*
- ❖ *The Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, Inc. is opposed to the reduction of penalties for marijuana crimes; and*
- ❖ *The Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, Inc. references and incorporates herein the DEA Position on Marijuana, dated January 2011.*

### Scope of the Problem

- Marijuana is the most commonly abused illegal drug among Indiana kids, grades 6-12<sup>1</sup> and among adults and youths in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>
- More youths in the U.S. are in treatment for marijuana abuse or dependence than for the use of alcohol and all other drugs.<sup>3</sup>
- Among emergency department visits made by patients less than twenty years of age, resulting in drug misuse or abuse, after alcohol, marijuana was the most commonly involved illegal drug.<sup>4</sup>

### Criminal Justice System

- Marijuana use consistently predicts a greater likelihood of involvement in crime and the criminal justice system<sup>5</sup> where the risk of criminal involvement was between 1.5 and 3.0 times greater for marijuana users<sup>6</sup>.
- Long-term marijuana use has been shown to negatively affect the central nervous system in ways that may promote violence.<sup>7</sup>
- A consistent link between frequent marijuana use and violent crime and property damage has been identified among juveniles.<sup>8</sup>
- Marijuana use by parents is strongly associated with child abuse and neglect.<sup>9</sup>

- Marijuana impairs motor coordination and reaction time and is the second most prevalent drug (after alcohol) implicated in automobile accidents.<sup>10</sup>
- Marijuana use more than doubles the risk of being in an accident.<sup>11</sup>

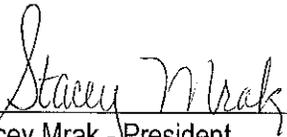
### Health

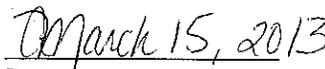
- Marijuana potency levels in the U.S. are the highest ever reported since the scientific analysis of the drug began.<sup>12</sup>
- Marijuana is addictive for 1 in 9 adults and 1 in 6 adolescents who use the drug.<sup>13</sup>
- Adults who were early marijuana users were found to be five times more likely to become dependent on any drug, eight times more likely to use cocaine in the future, and fifteen times more likely to use heroin later in life.<sup>14</sup>
- Marijuana continues to negatively affect attention, memory, learning, and intelligence after the intoxicating effects of the drug have subsided.<sup>15</sup>
- Marijuana negatively affects the development of the adolescent brain.<sup>16</sup>
- Marijuana use during adolescence is directly linked to the onset of major mental illness, including psychosis, schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety.<sup>17</sup>
- Marijuana is one of the 3 (others being alcohol and cigarettes) "gateway" drugs which leads to the use of other illegal drugs.<sup>18</sup>
- The use of marijuana triggers relapse to other drugs of abuse among participants in substance abuse treatment and increases failure rates in Drug Courts.<sup>19</sup>
- The use of marijuana makes addiction to other drugs more likely.<sup>20</sup>

### Education and Employment

- Marijuana use is consistently associated with poorer academic grades and a reduced likelihood of graduating from school.<sup>21</sup>
- Teens may significantly lower their IQs if they smoke marijuana.<sup>22</sup>
- Marijuana use impairs the ability to function effectively and safely on the job and increases work-related absences, tardiness, accidents, compensation claims, and job turnover.<sup>23</sup>

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, Inc.

  
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 Stacey Mrak - President  
 Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, Inc.

  
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 Date

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<sup>1</sup> Indiana Prevention Resource Center. (2012). Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents. Bloomington: Indiana University.

<sup>2</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2012). *Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings* [NSDUH Series H-44, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 12-4713]. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Available at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k11Results/NSDUHresults2011.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (2010), Substance abuse treatment admissions by primary substance of abuse according to sex, age group, race, and ethnicity, United States [Data table from Quick Statistics from the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System]. Available at <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/US10.htm>; See also <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/NewMapv1.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Health and Human Service, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. "Highlights of the 2009 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), Findings on Drug-related Emergency Department Visits." December 2010. P. 3

<sup>5</sup> See Bennett, T., Holloway, K., & Farrington, D. (2008). The statistical association between drug misuse and crime: A meta-analysis. *Aggression & Violent Behavior*, 13, 107–118; See also Pedersen, W., & Skardhamar, T. (2010). Cannabis and crime: Findings from a longitudinal study. *Addiction*, 105, 109–118.

<sup>6</sup> Marlowe, D. B. (2010). Need to Know: The Facts On Marijuana. National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

<sup>7</sup> National Research Council. (1993). Understanding and preventing violence, Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>8</sup> Dembo, R., Williams, L., Schmeidler, J., Wish, E.D., Getreu, A., & Berry, E. (1991). Juvenile crime and drug abuse: a prospective study of high risk youth. *Journal of Addictive Disorders*, 11(2), 5–31; Salmelainen, P. (1995). The correlates of offending frequency: a study of juvenile theft offenders in detention, Sydney, Australia: New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; Baker, J. (1998). *Juveniles in Crime—Part 1: Participation Rates and Risk Factors*, Sydney, Australia: New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research & New South Wales Crime Prevention Division; Friedman, A. S., Glassman, K., & Terras, A. (2001). Violent behavior as related to use of marijuana and other drugs. *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 20, 49-72.

<sup>9</sup> Goldman, J., Salus, M.K., Wolcott D., & Kennedy, K.Y. (2003). *A coordinated response to child abuse and neglect: The foundation for practice*. Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office on Child Abuse. Available at <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/foundation/index.cfm>; Sullivan, S. (2000). *Child neglect: Current definitions and models—A review of child neglect research, 1993–1998*. Ottawa, Canada: National Clearinghouse on Family Violence; Perry, B.D. (1998). Incubated in terror: Neurodevelopmental factors in the 'cycle of violence.' In J.D. Osofsky (Ed.), *Children in a violent*

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society (pp. 124–145). New York: Guilford Press; Kraemer, G.W. (1992). A psychobiological theory of attachment. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 15(3), 493–511.

<sup>10</sup> See DuPont, R., Logan, B.K., Shea, C.L., Talpins, S.K., & Voas, R.B. (2010). Drugged driving research: A white paper. Bethesda, MD: NIDA. Retrieved November 2011 from <http://stopdruggeddriving.org/pdfs/DruggedDrivingAWhitePaper.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2012). Marijuana. DrugFacts.

<sup>12</sup> "New Report Finds Highest Levels of THC in U.S. Marijuana to Date." *Office of National Drug Control Policy Press Release*. May 14, 2009.

<sup>13</sup> Wagner, F.A., & Anthony, J.C. (2002). From first drug use to drug dependence; developmental periods of risk for dependence upon marijuana, cocaine, and alcohol. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 26, 479–488.

<sup>14</sup> "What Americans Need to Know about Marijuana." *Office of National Drug Control Policy*. October 2003. P. 9.

<sup>15</sup> Hall W. & Degenhard L. (2009). Adverse health effects of non-medical cannabis use. *Lancet*, 374, 1383–1391; Schweinsburg, A.D., Brown, S.A., & Tapert, S.F. (2008). The influence of marijuana use on neurocognitive functioning in adolescents. *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, 1(1), 99–111, 2008.

<sup>16</sup> Giedd, J.N. (2004). Structural magnetic resonance imaging of the adolescent brain. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1021, 77–85.

<sup>17</sup> Room, R., Fischer, B., Hall, W., Lenton, S., & Reuter, P. (2010). *Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate*, New York: Oxford University Press & Beckley Foundation Press.

<sup>18</sup> Indiana Prevention Resource Center. (2012). Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents. Bloomington: Indiana University.

<sup>19</sup> Sechrest, D.K., & Shicor, D. (2001). Determinants of graduation from a day treatment drug court in California: A preliminary study. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 31(1), 129–148.

<sup>20</sup> Schweinsburg A.D., Brown, S.A., & Tapert, S.F. (2008). The influence of marijuana use on neurocognitive functioning in adolescents. *Current Drug Abuse Review*, 1(1), 99–111.

<sup>21</sup> Macleod, J., Oakes, R., Copello, A., Crome, I., Egger, M., Hickman, M., et al. (2004). Psychological and social sequelae of cannabis and other illicit drug use by young people: A systematic review of longitudinal, general population studies. *Lancet* 363(9421), 1579–1588.

<sup>22</sup> Meier, M.H., Caspi, A., Ambler, A., Harrington, H.L., Houts, R., Keefe, R.S.E., et al. (2012). Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 109(40), E2657–E2664.

<sup>23</sup> NIDA (2012). Marijuana abuse. *NIDA Research Report Series* (NIH Publication No. 12-3859), p. 8.