
Legalized Cannabis:

What's Happening in Missoula and What Does this Mean for Youth

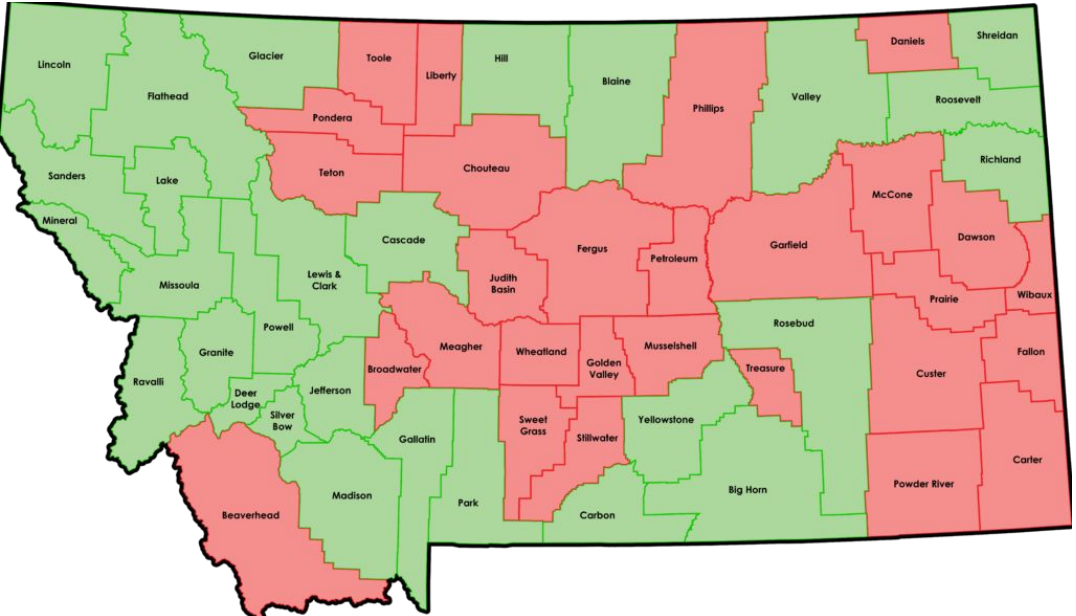
Presenter:

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Jan 1, 2022

- “Adult-Use” cannabis becomes legal to sell in Montana
- Current medical dispensaries will be allowed to sell adult-use





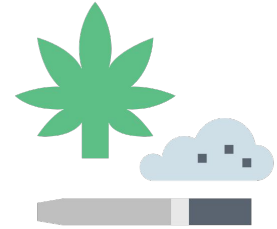
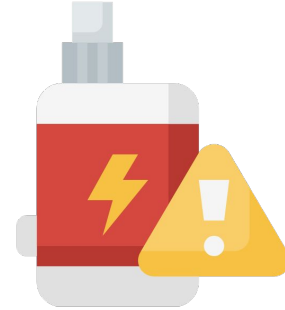
Montana Youth Are at High Risk

- Montana has the fifth-highest rate in the nation for youth (ages 12-17) currently using marijuana. (National Survey On Drug Use And Health, SAMHSA)
- Our state is also third in the nation for youth being diagnosed with a substance use disorder. (National Survey On Drug Use And Health, SAMHSA)
- Marijuana is the most commonly reported drug used for Montana youth seeking treatment. (Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services)





Substances of Concern in Missoula



Regular Use
(30 day use)
among high
schoolers

Missoula

35.6%

29.6%

24.5%

State

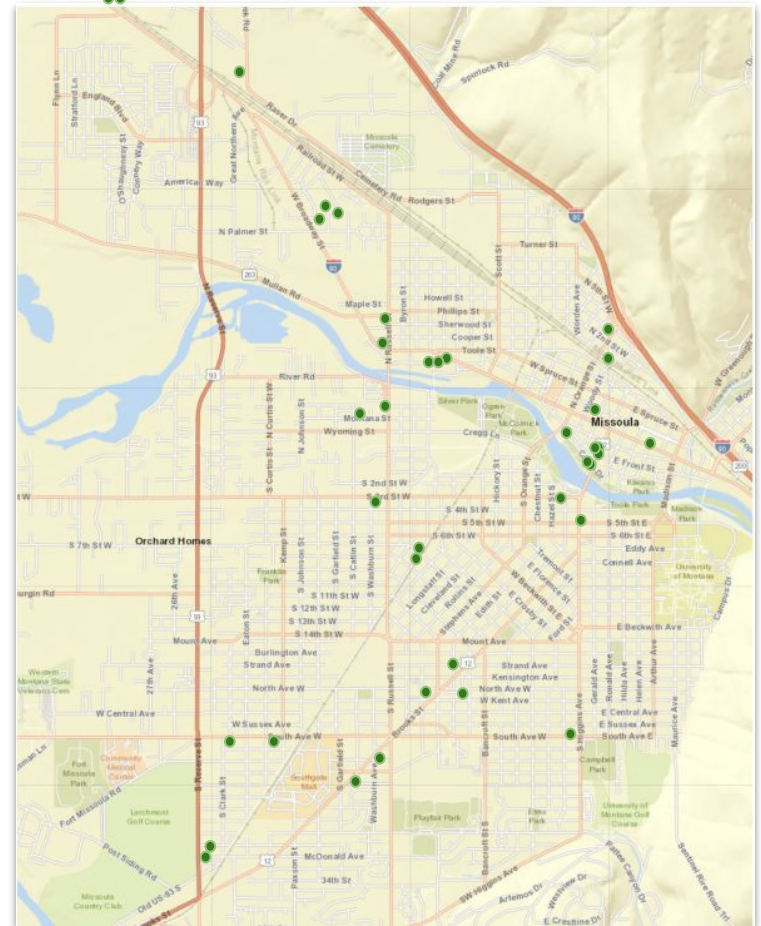
31.4%

25.5%

19.7%

Cannabis Density Map

- 45 dispensaries as of 2021
- Public Health Institute out of Oakland, CA recommendation is 1 dispensary per every 19,000 people which mean for the population of Missoula County (121,520 people) **we should have only 6 dispensaries.**
- Missoula is home to more dispensaries per capita than any other city in the country (Verilife report, 2020)
- As of Nov 29, the Missoula City Council has instituted new limits of 500' buffers between dispensaries





Cannabis and Health Concerns

- Short Term, while using or right after using
 - Learning, attention, and memory problems
 - Distorted perception: sights, sounds, time, touch
 - Increased heart rate
 - Anxiety, Paranoia
- Effects Lasting a Few Days
 - Learning and memory problems
 - Sleep problems
- Long Term, repeated use
 - Risk of addiction (1 in 5 youth will develop)
 - Risk of bronchitis or chronic cough
 - Learning and memory problems
 - 7x increased risk of suicide attempt
 - 5x increased risk of psychotic disorder for heavy users

The Bad News



52%

In Montana, marijuana is the most commonly used drug among ages 12-17 who visit treatment centers for drug misuse or abuse. Over half of youth are being seen primarily for cannabis-related issues.

2019 Montana DPHHS Medicaid Claim Treatment Data

NIDA. 2020, September 18. Want to Know More? Some FAQs about Marijuana. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/want-to-know-more-some-faqs-about-marijuana> on 2021, August 19



THC potency

- In 2000, average potency was 5%, now more than 17%
- Concentrates up to 99% THC
- Youth dabbing has more than doubled in CO
- Sale of concentrates has more than tripled in WA



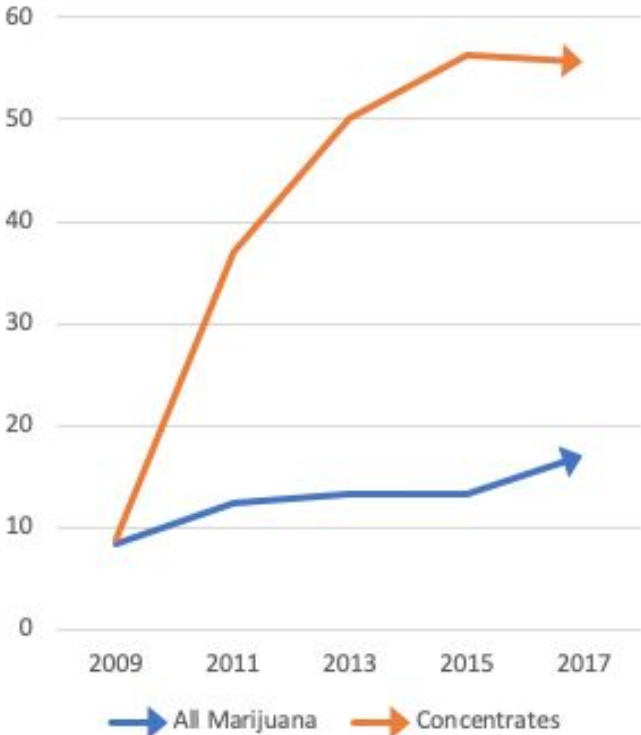
Greenhouse Farmacy

Lemon Skunk Live Resin 1g

Hybrid

THC: 98.3%

Potency of Marijuana in U.S.





Driving and Cannabis

Not allowed:

- Driving under influence
- Passengers smoking or consuming
- Unlawful possession in motor vehicle on highway – not counting purchased from a dispensary and that remains in its unopened, original packaging and in locked glove compartment or trunk.
 - shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$100
 - not a criminal offense and won't go on record or impact insurance



What's happening at state level?

- Montana Department of Revenue (Cannabis Control Division) developing regulations
 - Advertising - limited to online (web and social media)
 - Packaging - required warnings, content lists
 - Transporting and delivery
 - Inspections
 - And much, much more
- Subscribe for updates on MT Department of Revenue website (mtrevenue.gov/cannabis)
- Submit public comment!





State/Local Policy Options for Prevention

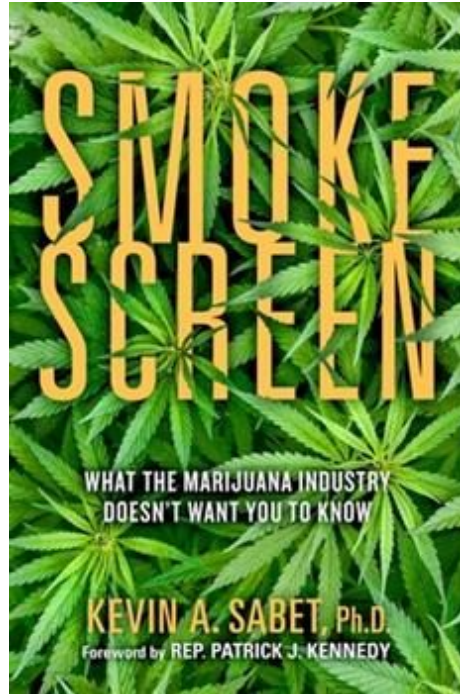
- High prices through excise tax
- Do not allow products attractive to youth in shape, packaging, or marketing
- Prohibit the use of flavor additives and limit marketing of flavor names known to attract kids
- Require buffer zones between youth-serving facilities (500' in Montana, 1000' recommended)
- Limit the number of retail outlets
- Prohibit smoking and vaping cannabis indoors in workplaces, multi-unit housing and in public outdoor spaces
- Dedicate a portion of marijuana tax revenue to public health, public safety, and/or substance use prevention



Resources



Podcast - hightruths.com



Advancing Public Health & Equity in Cannabis Policy

gettingitrightfromthestart.org



learnaboutsam.org



Thank you.