



## Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

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## ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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August 2018

The Illinois General Assembly is considering legalizing marijuana for recreational use. It is our intention to provide you with resources and information that outline the potential harm to individuals, families, employers, and the environment. In addition, we will outline the tremendous costs to the state associated with the use of today's marijuana. These costs will likely include an increase in crime, addictions, accidents, school dropouts and an expansion of the welfare state to support citizens who are unable to support themselves and their families.

We have discovered that it's becoming almost impossible to get the straight facts about the predictable increase in fatalities, hospitalizations, and crime. Too many people are shrugging and saying, "Will it really do any harm?" Yes. Absolutely, it will.

That's why we urge you to watch one or more of the webinars that will address some of the consequences of legalization. We encourage you to heed the warnings from people who speak first-hand about the effect it's had on them, their profession, and their families.

Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in 2013. The Colorado Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area puts out a comprehensive yearly report that tracks the impact legalization is having in their state.

- Marijuana-related traffic deaths (when a driver was positive for marijuana) more than doubled (66 percent increase). During the same period, all traffic deaths increased 16 percent.
- In the first 5 areas that legalized recreational marijuana (Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia) it is now the leading cause for drug treatment among youth (12-17).
- Marijuana-related hospitalizations have increased 72 percent from the time of legalization.
- Property crime increased by 8.3% and violent crime increased 18.6% since legalization.

In 2013, the Illinois General Assembly legalized medical marijuana. In 2016, the same body of lawmakers decriminalized possession of marijuana, reducing it to a \$100 fine. And now some want full legalization of recreational marijuana.

The Illinois Chiefs of Police and the Illinois Sheriffs' Associations strongly oppose legalizing high potency marijuana for recreational use and these webinars will give you a better understanding of why.

The speakers, dates, and times are enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Valente, volunteer coordinator of NoWeedIllinois.com, at 312-857-3288.

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