

Laced Cannabis

- “Loveboat” in the ‘70s and ‘80s: Formaldehyde or Ethylene Glycol (Antifreeze)
- "Loud": Gasoline?
- Fentanyl
- Xylazine "Tranq"
 - Overdose deaths: Philadelphia: 26%, Maryland: 19%, Connecticut: 10%

Child (Pet) Cannabis Poisoning (Edibles)

- **Colorful sugar-coated candies, e.g., gummies, worms, cookies, chocolate candy bars, etc.**
 - Secondary exposure by inhalation of smoke
- **From 2017 to 2023 child overdoses of edible cannabis increased from 207 to 3054 cases, a 1375% increase**
- Age under 6
- Child cannabis poisoning accounts for 41% of all poisonings
- 98% of poisonings occurred in the home
- 22% required hospitalization
- **Altered Mental Status**
 - Obtundation - mild to moderate decreased alertness evident as loss of interest in the environment and slower than normal reactivity to stimulation
 - Stupor - unresponsiveness with little or no spontaneous movement requiring vigorous and repeated stimulation to arouse
 - Coma - unarousable, sustained unconsciousness for at least 1 hour

CBD Poisoning

- Only 30% of CBD products from 31 companies were accurately labeled for CBD and THC content; while 40% had higher concentrations, the remainder lower or negligible concentrations (Bonn 2017).
- Anecdotal observations of the use of CBD as a folk medicine for child ailments, e.g., colds, aches and pains, etc.
- 42% of CBD users replaced over-the-counter pharmaceuticals to treat: anxiety (67%), insomnia (60%), joint pain and inflammation (52%), depression (43%), headaches (38%), and chronic pain (30%).
- CBD creams and ointments present problems for children who have greater surface area to volume ratio than adults leading to greater absorption into the circulation and higher plasma concentrations
- Case Reports CBD Poisoning (Herbst 2020; Bass 2020)
 - Respiratory depression with impaired O₂%
 - Respiratory acidosis
 - Bradycardia
 - Obtundation
 - Vomiting
 - Creatine kinase elevation
 - Lactic acidosis

Synthetic Marijuana Poisoning

- Masquerades as CBD
- 4-cyano CUMYL-BUTINACA (4-CCB)
 - EC₅₀ values of 0.58 nM and 6.12 nM for CB₁ and CB₂ receptors, respectively
 - Cyanide byproduct of metabolism
 - Hyperthermia
 - Rhabdomyolysis
 - Seizures
 - Renal failure

Legal History of Marijuana

- Cannabis became "marihuana" after 1910 attached to Mexicans immigrating to the US to escape the Mexican Revolution. Mexicans were denigrated as vagrants smoking "locoweed" trafficking the drug. Others included "Negroes, prostitutes, pimps, and a criminal class of whites"
- Opium and Coca Leaves Trade Restrictions Act (Harrison Narcotics Tax Act) of 1914 did not class cannabis
- Rodrigues Dória, a Brazilian psychiatrist, "the pernicious and degenerative vice" of "savage" Blacks (1915)
- Reefer Madness (1936) - film attributes loose morals, crime, and orgies high on marijuana to Black music (streaming on YouTube)
- Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 - Harry J Anslinger, head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics
- Army Board of Inquiry finds no disadvantages to cannabis use in the Panama Canal Zone

Legal History of Marijuana (cont.d)

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)
- *Leary v. United States* 1969: Supreme Court of the United States declares Marijuana Act violates the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination
- *Controlled Substances Act* (1970) Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 classified THC and CBD as Schedule I drugs.
- Shafer Report: *Marihuana: a signal of misunderstanding; first report* (1972) - United States. Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse
 - marijuana is not a gateway drug and does not induce violence, insanity or sex crimes, which contradicted Richard Nixon's explicit directive to conclude the contrary
- Oregon becomes the first state to decriminalize cannabis - 1973
- Colorado and Washington legalize recreational marijuana - 2012
- The Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act (2022)

Cannabis Legal History

- Agricultural Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill)
 - President Donald Trump's 2018 farm bill defined hemp as containing less than 0.3% THC and explicitly legalized "hemp and hemp-derived products," removing them from Schedule I and regulation by the Controlled Substance Act of 1970
 - Marijuana-derived CBD remains a controlled substance regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), despite there is no difference in the CBD molecule derived from either variant
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program}
- Amateur and Professional Athletes
 - Δ -9 Tetrahydrocannabinol is listed as a prohibited substance by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
 - WADA permits the use of CBD. Unfortunately, studies of over-the-counter and internet CBD oil products have found up to 30% show Δ -9 THC contamination content as high as 2.5 mg that will test positive for cannabis use

Alcohol (Marijuana?) Outlet Density

- **Alcohol outlet density directly correlates with alcoholism in adults and proximity to schools with teenage alcohol abuse. Can one expect the same for marijuana?**
- **Although African American and Hispanics report lower use, alcohol outlet density is highest in Black and Hispanic redlined districts (Lee JP et al. SSM Popul Health 2020; doi:10.1016/j.ssmph.2020.10069). Can one expect the same for marijuana?**
- **New York City is the most densely populated city in US, 27,747.9/sq mile. Brownsville, Brooklyn, 91.8% Black, has the highest concentration of public housing in the country, with 30 liquor stores within reach**
 - **1st in elementary school absenteeism 40/100,000 (20 or more school days) [NYC COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILES 2015]**
 - **2nd in pre-term births 13.3/100,000**
 - **8th teen pregnancies 38.5/100,000 (ages 15-19)**
 - **2nd in incarceration rate at 348/100,000**
 - **1st in violent assaults 180/100,000**
 - **4th in alcohol-related hospitalizations 2,285/100,000**
 - **4th in drug-related hospitalizations 2,682/100,000**
 - **4th in HIV incidence 66/100,000**

Teen Casual Marijuana Use Outcomes

Sultan RS et al. JAMA Network Open. 2023;6(5):e2311294.

- Arrest (adjusted odds ratio, 4.15)
- Aggression (2.16)
- Fighting (2.04)
- Suicidal ideation (2.08)
- Truancy (1.90)
- Major depression (1.86)
- Difficulty concentrating (1.81)
- Low grade point average (1.80)
- Slower thoughts (1.76)

African American Teen Suicides Before COVID-19

- African American teen suicide up 47% for males and 59% for females
- Marijuana use odds ratio for **suicidal ideation 1.50** (95% CI, 1.11-2.03) and for **suicide attempts 3.46** (95% CI, 1.53-7.84) (Gobbi G et al. JAMA Psychiatry 2019;76(4):426-434)
- Early onset marijuana use reported suicidal ideation 3 times the rate of non-users (Floyd LJ. J. Ethnicity in Substance Abuse 2023; 2:1-15)
- Marijuana legalization associated with increased rate of suicide among 14-16 year old youth (Hammond CJ et al. J Child Adol Psych 2023)
- Cannabis users 6.9 times more likely to attempt suicide (Hinckley JD et al. JAACP OPEN 2023; 1(1):24-35)
- Among 626 completed suicides of 15-17 year-old Black youths 29.2% tested positive for marijuana, compared to 5.6% of 5-11 year old children (Sheftal AH et al. J Child Adol Psych 2022; 61(5):662-675)

Coming Marijuana Outlet Density

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends to DEA marijuana be rescheduled from a Schedule I to a Schedule III controlled substance - 8/29/2023**
- 2023 Cosponsored bill HB1080 in the Pennsylvania Senate and House proposes **converting state alcohol outlets to marijuana outlets** (Senator Marty Flynn and Representative David M. Delloso)
- Expunge marijuana possession convictions
- Justification: consumer safety, social justice, economic equity, substance abuse prevention and revenue
- State auditor estimated PA marijuana market at \$1.66 billion. Industry experts estimate the market at \$4 billion
- Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office estimated tax revenues between \$500 and \$700 million (current \$41.8 million)
- Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods less than 10% white have more than 3 outlets per sq mile whereas neighborhoods with <16% of residents below the Federal poverty level and >57% white have less than 2 outlets per sq mile (Drexel University Urban Health Collaborative)

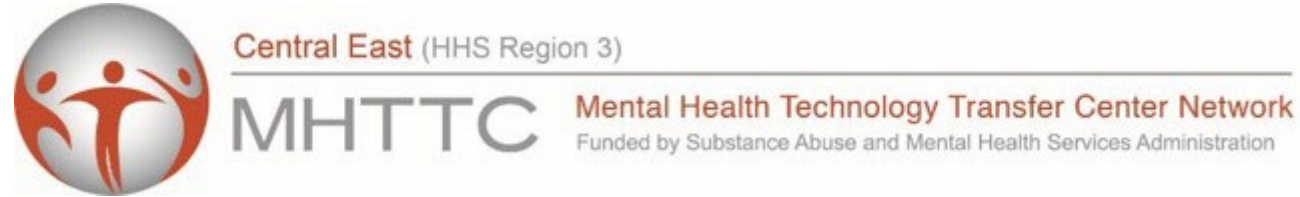
Questions



Appreciation



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