



Twenty Twenty-one
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MARIJUANA *factsheet* FOR LEGISLATORS

Marijuana

/,merə'(h)wänə/ • noun

cannabis, especially as smoked or consumed as a psychoactive (mind-altering) drug.

Many people state their or their child's medical condition has been helped by taking **marijuana**.

But another side of the story involves the suffering of tens of thousands of Georgians... children, teens, young adults, and adults who have become dependent on **marijuana**.

Marijuana can affect the developing brain of children, teens, and young adults, causing long-term or possibly permanent adverse changes in the brain.¹



Marijuana is the most commonly used mind-altering drug in the United States, after alcohol. In 2018, more than 11.8 million young adults reported marijuana use in the past year.²



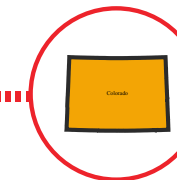
Recent data suggest that 30 percent of those who use marijuana may have some degree of marijuana use disorder,³ meaning they have a very serious marijuana problem.



Using marijuana while pregnant can increase the risk of premature birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth.⁴



People are dying on Georgia's highways as a result of THC intoxication, but we don't hear about it because THC levels are very rarely measured in an impaired or deceased driver's blood. In 2016 only 15 out of 460,000 crashes in Georgia were officially related to marijuana.⁵



For every \$1.00 the state of Colorado collected by taxing marijuana sales, the state of Colorado had to pay out \$4.50 to deal with the health and social effects of legalizing marijuana.⁶



Someone dies every 2½ days from a marijuana-related traffic fatality in Colorado.⁷



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SOURCES

¹NIDA, 2020, April 8. What are marijuana's long-term effects on the brain? <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/what-are-marijuanas-long-term-effects-brain>?²<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/what-scope-marijuana-use-in-united-states> (updated, Dec. 2019)³<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-addictive> (updated, 2019) ⁴Maternal Substance Abuse & Child Development, Emory University/ ⁵Communication from the Georgia Department of Transportation, 2019. ⁶Economic and Social Costs of Legalized Marijuana, Centennial Institute, November 2018 ⁷Colorado Department of Transportation, 2017