

## **How the Legalization of Marijuana significantly impacts on any aspect of life or living today:**

1. Legalizers argue that regulated markets protect consumers, save the police money, raise revenues and put criminals out of business as well as extending freedom. Though it will be years before some of these claims can be tested, the initial results are encouraging: a big bite has been taken out of the mafia's market and thousands of young people have been spared criminal records and hundreds of millions of dollars have been legitimately earned and taxed. There has so far been no explosion in consumption or of drug-related crime.
2. But how much protection do users need in this state? As far as anyone has been able to establish (and some tried very hard indeed) it is as good as impossible to die of a marijuana overdose. But the drug has downsides. Being stoned can lead to other calamities: in the past two years Colorado has seen three deaths associated with cannabis use (one fall, one suicide, and one alleged murder, in which the defendant claims the pot made him do it). There may have been more. Colorado has seen an increase in the proportion of drivers involved in accidents who test positive for the drug, though there has been no corresponding rise in traffic fatalities.
3. Jonathan Caulkins of Carnegie Mellon University has found that cannabis users are more likely than alcohol drinkers to say the drug has caused them problems at work or at home. Through it is an imperfect comparison because most cannabis users are by definition lawbreakers, it is clear that pot is, in Mr. Caulkins' words a "performance-degrading drug."
4. Some also struggle to give it up: in America 14% of people who used pot in the past month meet the criteria by which doctors define dependence. Mr. Caulkins calculates that in America more than half of all cannabis is consumed by people who are high for more than half their waking hours.
5. The proponents of the Dutch "coffee shop" system, which allows the purchase and consumption in specific places, argue that legalization keeps users away from dealers who may push them on to harder substances. And there is some evidence that cannabis functions as a substitute for prescription opioids, such as OxyContin which kills 15,000 Americans each year. People used to worry that cigarettes were a "gateway" to cannabis, and that cannabis was in turn a gateway to hard drugs. But with the observations today, it may be the reverse: cannabis could be a useful restraint on the abuse of opioids, but a dangerous pathway to tobacco.
6. It is also a great need to set the right level of tax for Marijuana as to go too low encourages its use and to aim too high would mean you will lose one of the other benefits of legalization: closing down a criminal black market.
7. There is also concern in the high probability of the popularity of edibles—the different food made having THC content—as users appreciate the discretion with which they can be consumed and producers like the ease with which their production can be automated (no hand-picking of buds required). But edibles, in particular, make it easy to take more than intended. A hit on a joint kicks in quickly while cakes or drinks can take an hour or two. Inexperienced users sometimes have a square of

chocolate and feeling nothing wolf down the rest of the bar--only to spend the next 12 hours believing they are under attack by spiders from Mars.

8. The three cannabis-related deaths in Colorado **all followed the consumption of edibles**. Hospitals in the state also reported seeing an increasing number of children who have eaten their parents' grown-up gummy bears. In response, the authorities have tightened their rules on packaging, demanding clearer labeling, childproof containers, and more obvious demarcation of portions.

9. Professor Sam Kamin, a law professor at Denver University who helped draft Colorado's regulations, suspects that eventual federal legalization, which would make interstate trade legal, could well see cannabis cultivation become something like the business of growing hops as virtually all of which come from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Big farms supplying a national market would be much cheaper than the current local warehouse model, driving local suppliers out of the market, or at least into a niche.

10. In the end, different places will legalize in different ways. Some may never legalize at all or some will make mistakes they later think better of. But those that legalize early may prove to have a lasting influence well beyond their borders as establishing norms that last for a long while. It behooves them to think through what needs regulating, and what does not, with care while taking note that over-regulation also risks losing some of the main benefits of liberalization.

### **How Opioid painkillers significantly impacted on any aspect of life or living today:**

1. It has brought an increasing rate of Americans into fatal overdose as these medications are caused by physicians who recommend highly addictive opioid prescriptions like Vicodin, Percocetm and OxyContin to patients with even minor ailments and aches.
2. Doctors prescribe these opioids due to the claims of Dr. Russell Portenoy and a major pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma that there is said to be less chances of becoming addicted to the drug as referenced to a 1986 study of only 38 patients.
3. Purdue Pharma's reason to this claim is linked to their marketing of a new, powerful time-release opioid called OxyContin. They marketed it as having no real risks and only benefits in its usage. But in 2007, Purdue pleaded guilty to criminal charges that it misled regulators, doctors, and patients about the addictive qualities of the said drug.
4. Opioids are dangerous as they produce a powerful sense of euphoria in many users that leaves them feeling numb and carefree. At two weeks of treatment of the drug, it can produce drug tolerance in some patients which means they need larger doses to get the same effect. In larger doses, prescription painkillers can slow down the respiratory system so much that the person stops breathing.
5. As studies show that family doctors and internists are the vast majority who write opioid prescriptions, most states have now set up databases that keep track of who has received prescriptions for addictive painkillers, so physicians can check if a patient is doctor shopping and getting pills at multiple locations.
6. It is suggested that to stem the epidemic doctors has to be cautious in writing opioids to people especially the ones who have already overdosed. According to drug addiction expert David Courtwright as told in the *Pacific Standard*, "The problem is that, for some, opioids are just fine, and for others, they will ruin their lives and possibly kill them. Essentially, we are playing Russian roulette with prescriptions."
7. Opioid prescriptions has had a deadly unintended consequence of making heroin more popular as an increasing number of addicts have been driven to look for opioids on the black market due to the tightened regulation of prescription painkillers.