

Our goal is to educate representatives from Region 6 regarding matters related to substance abuse and prevention. Our coalition includes PMP (Partners for Meth Prevention), TFS (Tobacco Free Sarpy), TFCC (Tobacco Free Cass County), LiveWise, NFC (Nebraska Families Collaborative), CSI (Child Saving Institute), is overseen by Region 6, and is always adding to our membership.

Marijuana: What LEARN wants you to know this quarter

Marijuana companies = Tobacco companies

Decades have been spent trying to regulate the tobacco industry, but the statistics remain that tobacco has injured more people than any other health infraction, natural disaster, or war throughout human history. This is concerning because marijuana companies are strategizing, almost word for word, the same way tobacco companies have in the past.

Some examples:

1. Make ~~tobacco~~ marijuana seem harmless good for you.
2. Children are more susceptible to developing addiction, so advertise to children.
3. Make it more addictive (i.e. increasing the amount of THC.)

In conclusion, "Big Tobacco" IS "Big Marijuana."

Colorado's Making Money... Or Are They?

Colorado is estimated to make \$40 million in tax revenue from marijuana. Upon closer examination of this money, it shows that dividing \$40 million amongst the entire state population averages out to be less than \$8 per person per year. In addition, for every dollar that is received in taxes on tobacco and alcohol, \$10 is spent in social costs, such as with higher taxes due to increased visits to the emergency room, higher health insurance premiums, etc. Marijuana is actually costing Colorado tax payers \$360 million.

OIL 710 > Marijuana 420

In the 1970's, marijuana (coded 420) contained about 1% or less THC. Today, it has between 13-19% THC. This is the marijuana people smoke. However, the method of **oil extraction** has made it possible to ingest "goods" like candy, cookies, brownies, cake pops, and other products that are clearly marketed to children, with THC levels between 60-90% THC! This hash oil has been nicknamed/ coded as 710: the word "OIL" upside-down.

Another issue with hash oil is that the serving size of these goods is never clearly outlined on packages. Instead of eating

one cookie, although many of us prefer to eat two, three, or four in one sitting, the marijuana companies state that eating ¼ of a cookie is the recommended serving size. Whether people eat ¼ of a cookie or four cookies, it still takes about two hours before the high hits. This has undoubtedly contributed to the increased number of psychotic episodes, suicides, marijuana-related traffic fatalities, and visits to the Emergency Room that have occurred in Colorado.

Medicinal Marijuana:

- **THC:** Tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana
- **CBD:** Cannabidiol, the non-psychoactive ingredient in marijuana
- There are several kinds of medicinal marijuana being proposed. **Charlotte's Web** is a low-THC, high CBD medical cannabis.
- The average card holder for medicinal marijuana in California is a 30 year-old Caucasian male with "chronic pain." This is a much different demographic than what the medicinal marijuana industry would like you to see, such as from the cancer patient going through chemotherapy and/or the child with epilepsy.
- In every state with medicinal marijuana, there has been an increased number of youth who report getting marijuana from a friend or family member. So while medicinal marijuana may not be PRESCRIBED to youth, they are still getting their hands on it.

Consider *Dr. Christian Thurstone's account:

- **Charlotte's Web** is not THC-free and won't be capable of being THC-free anytime soon. While Rep. Pat McElreiff of North Carolina said, "But it's very low on THC—less than 0.3%. You can drink a whole bottle and never get high," this

statement is misguided. THC has been found to be a pro-convulsant: a child who receives more than trace amounts of THC regularly could experience more convulsions or suffer long-term damage to his/her brain development.

- Because the contents of Charlotte's Web aren't exactly known, there is no guarantee of the oil's consistency in quality. That means the substance fails to meet even the basic standards required of any substance that would—or should—earn the title "medicine" in the United States.
- Unfortunately, not every child with intractable epilepsy is responding favorably to Charlotte's Web

**Dr. Thurstone is board certified in general, child and adolescent and addictions psychiatry. He is medical director of one of Colorado's largest youth substance-abuse-treatment clinics and an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado Denver, where he conducts research on youth substance use and addiction. Dr. Thurstone also currently serves as president of the Colorado Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Society.*

With sufficient research, it may be possible to understand and ultimately use CBD to our advantage. The FDA has already fast-tracked a medicine called **Epidiolex**, a purified form of CBD, which is meant for Dravet Syndrome, a child form of epilepsy for which there is not currently an effective treatment option. The FDA is also fast tracking **Sativex**, medical cannabinoid in oral spray form, which could be used to help multiple sclerosis as well as cancer pain. Although the FDA process may seem frustrating and slow, the FDA was established to protect our citizens. Their thorough scientific testing will ensure that what is ingested is safe. Lastly, it is important to mention that **Marinol**, another cannabinoid medicine, is already available to help alleviate nausea caused by cancer treatments.

