



# The Legalization of Marijuana

The National Marijuana Initiative  
November 2019



# Common issues–common concerns

Impacts being seen after marijuana is legalized in the areas of:

## Public Health Issues

- Potency
- Usage Rates
- Treatment

## Public Safety Issues

- Impaired Driving
- Black Market
- Crime
- Hospitalizations
- Diversion
- Extraction Labs

## Other Topics

- Taxation Issues
- Product Awareness 101



Marijuana is rapidly becoming more widely available in the U.S.: 33 states: allow medical marijuana use; 10 states plus DC have legalized recreational use

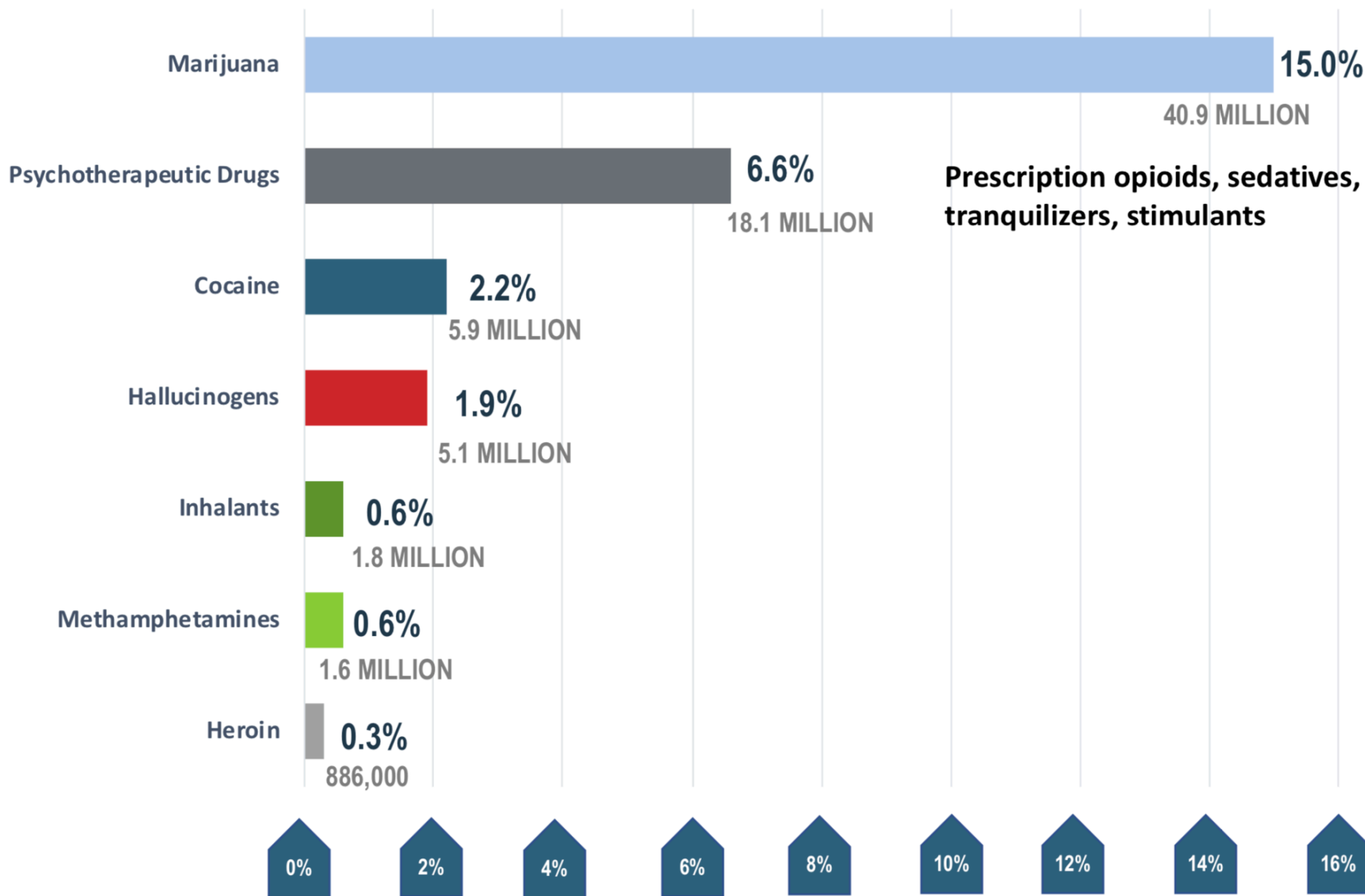


Huge and profitable industry that markets heavily with health claims that have little to no basis and which have had virtually no counter arguments put forward until the present time

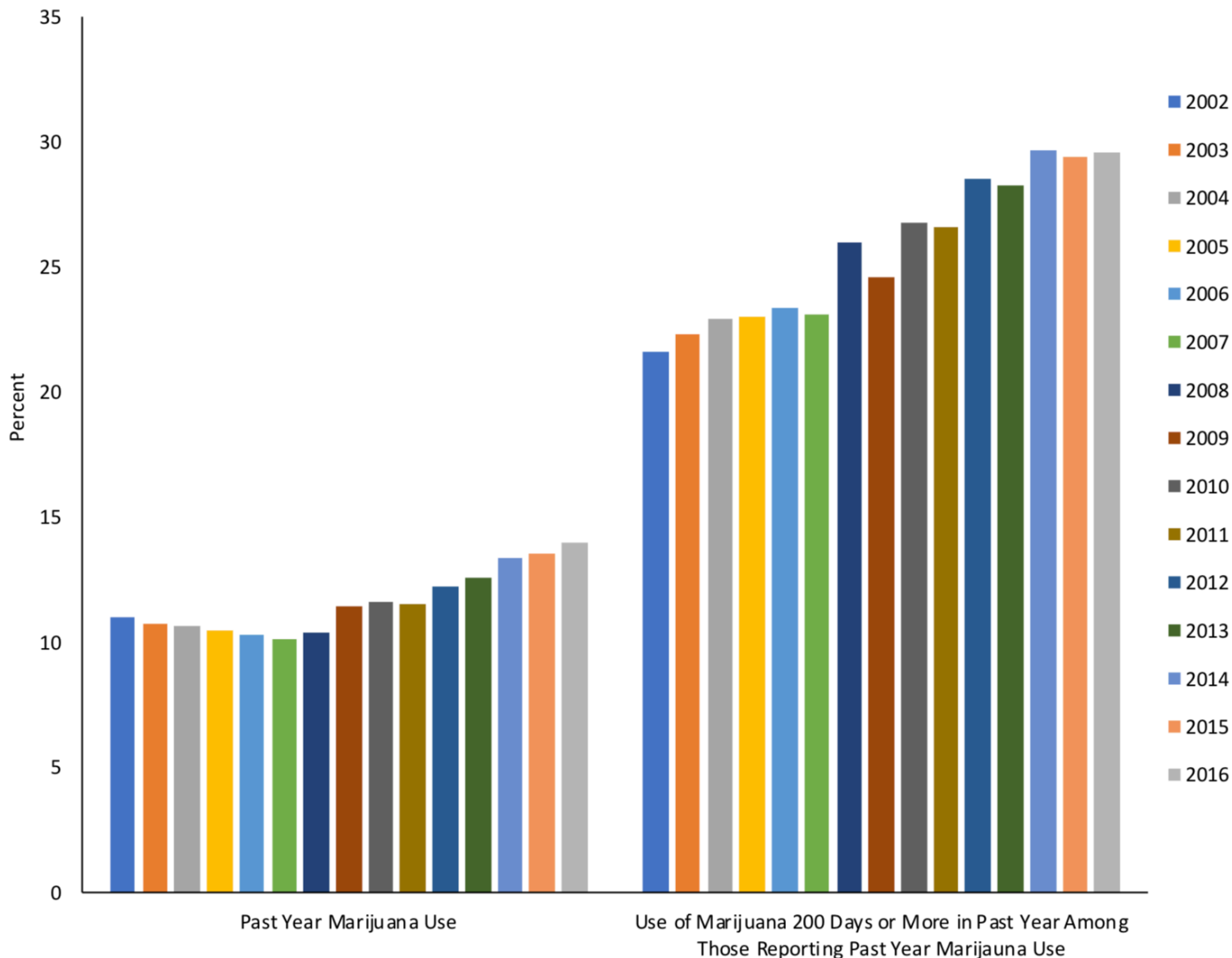
Numerous forms: smoked, edibles, oil for vaping, lotions, transdermal patches

# Illicit Drug Use Impacts Millions: Marijuana Most Widely Used Drug

PAST YEAR, 2017, 12+



# Marijuana Use Is Increasing in the U.S.



- Since 2007, past year marijuana use has increased 37%
- In 2016, 1 in 7 Americans  $\geq 12$  years used marijuana in the past year
- Frequent marijuana use (using  $\geq 200$  days in the past year) increased 37% since 2002
- Nearly 1 in 3 people using marijuana in 2016 reported using  $\geq 200$  days in the past year



# Public Health Issues – Potency





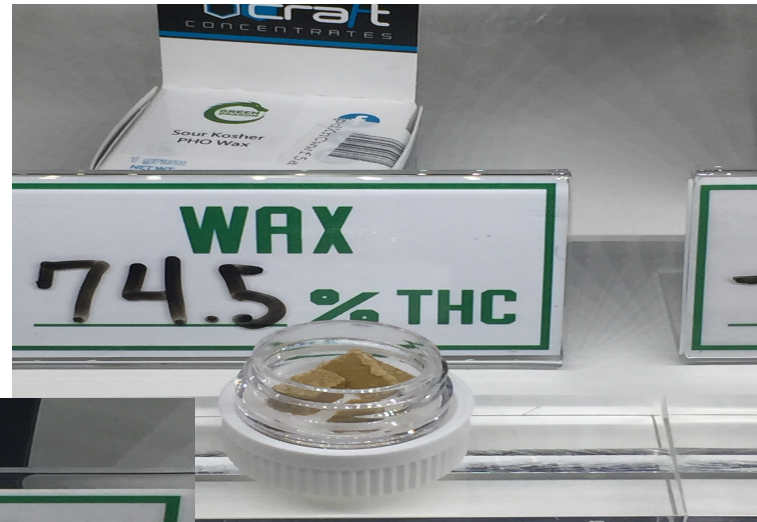


# Public Health Issues – Potency

## Key Talking Points:

- The potency of THC in raw marijuana are at historic highs
- High potency THC products are being made in response to market demand
- Higher potency THC products place users at a greater risk of addiction and cognitive impairment
- THC Potency examples:
  - 1995: 4 percent
  - 2014: 12 percent
  - 2017: 23 – 34 percent
  - 2018: THC-A reported at 99 percent

# Public Health Issues – Potency



Our THCa Crystalline was developed as a means of delivering large, quantifiable doses of THCa and is known as the purest isolate anywhere on the market testing at 99-100%. This pure THCa converts to THC when vaped and creates a clear and highly cerebral effect, or remains non-psychoactive when ingested.

# Historical Overview

- ▶ Legalization efforts became part of a predictable game plan
- ▶ Decriminalization
  - No arrest or jail time ... but still a violation of law
  - Small possession limits
  - Civil / administrative Court fines
- ▶ Medical Model
  - Address “medical conditions” as medicine
  - Eliminates arrest, summons, fines for small amounts
  - Involves “Qualifying Medical Condition” as basis for card
- ▶ Commercial / Recreational Model
  - Full on retail sales ... like alcohol

# Historical Overview

- ▶ The New Strategy – HEMP
  - Round 1 – The 2014 Farm Bill
- ▶ The 2014 Farm Bill:
  - Sign into law in February 2014
  - Slated to expire in 2018
  - Buried in Section 7606 – “Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research”
  - Allowed for “industrial” hemp research by:
    - Institutions of higher education
    - State department of agriculture
  - For agriculture pilot program or academic research
    - Pilot program focus on growth, cultivation and marketing



# Historical Overview

- ▶ The New Strategy – HEMP
  - Round 1 – The 2014 Farm Bill
- ▶ The 2014 Farm Bill:
  - Industrial Hemp defined:
    - 7606 (b)(2) – INDUSTRIAL HEMP – The term “industrial hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, **with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent** on a dry weight basis. (*emphasis added*)

# Historical Overview

- ▶ The New Strategy – HEMP
  - Round 2 –The 2018 Farm Bill and Hemp
- ▶ The Farm Bill allows for:
  - Hemp to be viewed separate from marijuana
  - The broad cultivation of “commercial” Hemp
  - Transportation across interstate lines
  - The sale/possession/transportation of “hemp-derived” products
  - Shared state and federal regulatory involvement
  - Removal of “hemp derived products” from Sch. I status
  - Now under USDA guidance



# And here we are!










# Wrapping up ...

- ▶ Use impacts experienced “there” as predictive tool
  - ▶ Messaging can work in both directions
  - ▶ Be objective and seek answers
    - Combat misinformation with facts
  - ▶ This is new territory ...
    - We need time and valid research to have good answers to questions
  - ▶ Marijuana is having local impacts in other states with
    - Use rates
    - Treatment rates
    - Public safety and traffic issues
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# Wrapping up ....

- ▶ The question...
- ▶ Has there been anything 100% positive about legalizing marijuana



Yes – It is causing people to ask questions and seek valid answers through research

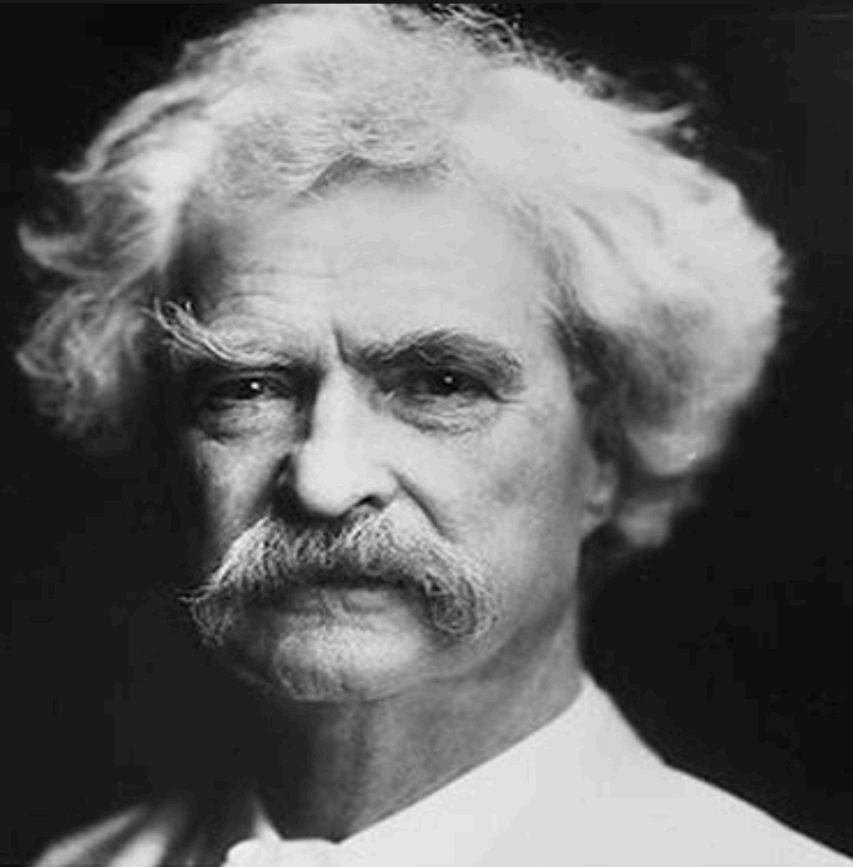
# Remember .....

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“What gets us  
into trouble is  
not what we  
don't know...

It's what we know  
for sure ... that  
just ain't so.”

*Mark Twain*





# ► To get a more information

- New website effective 1/31/19

## ► THENMI.ORG

Featuring:

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