The Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Washington State

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What is a HIDTA?

“HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA”

HIDTAs are part of the national drug control strategy. They are grant programs managed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, awarded to geographic areas that are considered to be critical centers of drug production, manufacturing, importation, distribution and/or chronic consumption.
Northwest HIDTA Strategy

Combining Public Safety and Public Health Approaches:

**ENFORCEMENT**
- Investigative Support
- Task Force Support

**PREVENTION**
- Community Coalition Support
- Public Education & Awareness

**TREATMENT**
- Drug Court Programs
- Data Management & Evaluation
Investigative Support Center (ISC) Primary Components

• **Information Services Unit**
  – Watch Center
    • Officer Safety
    • Deconfliction

• **Analytical Unit**
  – Intelligence Research/Strategic Studies
  – Tactical Analysis
  – Case Support

• **Administrative Unit**
  – Technical Equipment & Services, Database Management, Fiscal Management, Training
Threat Indicators

“Critical Events” registered with the NW HIDTA by 61 L.E.A.s in 1998:

- Cocaine: 128
- Methamphetamine: 79
- Heroin: 33
- Marijuana: 27
- Other: 6

Total: 273
### Threat Indicators

"Critical Events" registered by over 150 LEA’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>1,976</td>
<td>1,907</td>
<td>2,423</td>
<td>1,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>1,772</td>
<td>1,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rx Opiates</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDMA (Ecstasy)</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,037</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,797</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,104</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,962</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,260</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2016 Marijuana Eradication Totals

TOTAL SEIZURES
(As of October 26, 2016)
Indoor Plants 1,560
Outdoor Plants 58,604
Arrests 7
Weapons 1

Indoor/Outdoor

1-500
501-1000
1001-5000
Non Reported
10,000
5001-9,999
10,000

Indoor Plants 1,560
Outdoor Plants 58,604
Arrests 7
Weapons 1
Oregon Marijuana Sales Restrictions

[Map of Oregon showing recreational marijuana bans by counties and cities.]
Massachusetts Marijuana Sales Restrictions

Shades of red are towns focusing on bans; shades of blue are ones focusing moratoriums; shades of green are communities with taxes or local zoning; and towns in brown have either reviews in progress or town officials have decided to wait on any actions.
I-502 Implementation Update

• Of 223 cities and towns in WA State
  • 107 have passed or already allowed permissible zoning
  • 74 have enacted prohibitions
  • 5 have moratoria in place
  • 37 have taken no action

• Of the 39 counties in WA State
  • 30 have passed or already allowed permissible zoning
  • 5 have prohibitions
  • 4 have taken no action

• The LCB has licensed 495 stores (452 with medical endorsements)

• The LCB has licensed 1,166 producers and 1,191 processors

• Daily retail sales exceed $4.5 million

• FY 2017: nearly $1.2 billion in sales; nearly $221 million in excise taxes -- all WA State retail sales increased 6% in 2016; marijuana sales made up 27% of the increase
NWHIDTA Impact Report Goals

- Impact Review
- Descriptive Snapshot
- Regulatory Overview
- Literature Review
Data Sections

Section 1: Legal Overview
Section 2: Regulatory Overview
Section 3: Youth Impacts
Section 4: Adult Impacts
Section 5: Impaired Driving
Section 6: Diversion
Section 7: Marijuana-Related Crime
Section 8: Environmental Impacts
Section 9: The Current Markets
Section 10: The Upcoming Market
Section 1:

LEGAL OVERVIEW
Legalization Timeline

• 1998 Medical Marijuana
  – Initiative 692

• 2012: Recreational Marijuana
  – Initiative 502

• 2015: Integration of the Medical Marijuana Market
  – Senate Bill 5052

• Federal Memos
  – 2009: David Ogden, Deputy Attorney General
  – 2013: James Cole, Deputy Attorney General
  – 2014: Monty Wilkinson, Director of the Executive Office for US Attorneys
Section 2:

REGULATORY OVERVIEW
Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB)

- Regulatory authority over recreational marijuana
- Responsible for:
  - Licensing process
  - Product rules
  - Industry guidance
  - Legal recommendations
  - Regulatory enforcement checks
Licensing Landscape

2,499 licenses = 1,674 licensed businesses
Producer/Processor combination licenses = 57.8% of industry
93.6% of Group 1 violations against public safety involved minors

40% of Group 2 regulatory violations are for failure to utilize and/or maintain traceability

32% of Group 3 are for true party of interest violations
Recreational Production

FY 2015 – 59,394lbs harvested
FY 2016 – 226,513lbs harvested
(an increase of 281%)
Recreational Infused-Products

Baked goods: cookies - Desserts: chocolate
Candy: “pebbles” - Snacks: fruit snacks
Liquid form: drinks - Misc: tinctures
Infused-Product Examples

**Baked Brownie Goodness**
NOW AVAILABLE IN 2 PACKS

**PROPER CHOCOLATES**
Peppermint Pattie

**THE GOODSHIP COMPANY**
Sea Salt Chocolate Chip Cookie

**Zoots**
Washington State - Zoots
Infused-Product Examples
Infused-Product Examples
Infused-Product Examples

- Magic Kitchen Marmas
- Cloud Bar
- Billifer's Hard Candy
Section 3:

YOUTH IMPACTS
Among 10th Graders who used marijuana in the past 30 days, nearly 1 in 3 used for 10 or more days.

- Used 6+ days during past month:
  - 8th graders: 41%
  - 10th graders: 45%
  - 12th graders: 52%
Healthy Youth Survey, 2016

Perception of Harm:

- **43%** of 8th graders
- **60%** of 10th graders
- **72%** of 12th graders
More than half (51%) of the 12th graders who reported marijuana use in the past 30 days said they had driven within three hours of using marijuana.
49% of statewide suspensions related to substance abuse involved marijuana during the 2014-2015 school year.

An increase of 6% from the 2013–2014 school year.
60% of statewide expulsions related to substance abuse involved marijuana during the 2014 - 2015 school year.

An increase of 12% from the 2013 – 2014 school year.
Washington Poison Center

From 2012 – 2016, calls increased **79.48%**
From 2014 – 2016, calls increased **20%**
Exposures in 0-5 year olds for 2016, 73% of exposures occurred in 1-3 year olds.
Treatment Admissions: SCOPE

2010: 60% of admissions
2015: 71% of admissions

YOUTH TREATMENT ADMISSIONS 2010-2015

SOURCE: SCOPE and NWHIDTA
Section 4:

ADULT IMPACTS
3% increase for use once a year

No change for use once a month

2% decrease for use once a week

1% decrease for daily use

SOURCE: Young Adult Health Survey 2015 and NWHIDTA
The **most common source** of marijuana for young adults is from friends:

- **76%** for those 18-20,
- **55%** for those 21-25
Section 5:

IMPAIRED DRIVING
62% of cases were at/above the DUI limit (5ng/mL)

38% of cases were at/above the DUI limit (5ng/mL)
2012
18.6% of drivers testing positive for active THC

2016
33.6% of drivers testing positive for active THC
10% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes in Washington between 2010 and 2014 had detectable THC in their blood at the time of the crash.
A 19 year old driver ran a stop sign and hit a local pastor on his bike killing him. The minor admitted to smoking marijuana before the crash. According to officers, there were no skid marks before the driver hit the pastor. Due to the force of the impact the pastor was thrown across the intersection.
Section 6:

DIVERSION
From 2012 to the first four months of 2015, Washington State origin marijuana was destined for 38 individual states across the nation.
United States Postal Inspection Service

STATE OF WASHINGTON
NUMBER OF MARIJUANA PARCELS AND WEIGHT BY FISCAL YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Parcels</th>
<th>Weight (Lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 14</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>301.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 15</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>764.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| FY 16       | 441               | 1,375.39      

FY 14 to FY 15
58% increase in parcels seized
153% increase in pounds seized

FY 15 to FY 16
60% increase in parcels seized
80% increase in pounds seized
Section 7:

MARIJUANA-RELATED CRIME
For 2016, the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab reports that minors made up the majority of cases submitted for testing.
Incidents related to the sale and manufacturing of marijuana:
– 31% increase in 2015
– 12% increase in 2016
– *when compared to the four years prior
Section 8:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
Marijuana Eradication

**TOTAL MARIJUANA PLANTS ERADICATED BY LAND TYPE**

- Private
- BIA
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- STATE

*SOURCE: Washington State Patrol and NWHIDTA*

*373,778* illegal marijuana plants were eradicated from 2012 through 2016
Marijuana Eradication

2016 MARIJUANA PLANTS ERADICATED BY LAND TYPE

58,604 illegal marijuana plants were eradicated in 2016 and consumed an estimated 43.2 million gallons of water (120 day cycle)

SOURCE: Washington State Patrol and NWHIDTA
Furadan, a neurotoxin extremely dangerous to humans, was discovered in one of the illegal marijuana grows.
Section 9:

THE CURRENT MARKETS
Recreational and Medical Marijuana Sales

FY 2015: $259,785,729
FY 2016: $972,729,675
FY 2017*: $800,590,866

*Source: Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board Marijuana Daily Sales Activity and NWHIDTA
Marijuana Excise Tax

FY 2015: $64,882,333
FY 2016: $185,678,650
FY 2017*: $271,838,049

SOURCE: Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board MJ Daily Sales Activity and NWHIDTA
Marijuana Tax Disbursements

MARIJUANA PROMISED DISTRIBUTION (IN MILLIONS)

- **WA State General Fund**
- **Prevention, Treatment, Education, & Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>WA State General Fund</th>
<th>Prevention, Treatment, Education, &amp; Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$30.4</td>
<td>$42.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$49.9</td>
<td>$70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$61.4</td>
<td>$86.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council and NWHIDTA

Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS), Department of Health (DOH), University of Washington, Washington State University, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
DOH was originally to receive $77 million, however, two-thirds of that allocation was eliminated.

Funds were intended to implement a marijuana hotline and an education campaign for youth and adults.
Section 10:

THE UPCOMING MARKETS
Marijuana Business Advertising

• Senate Bill 5131;
  – Elimination of:
    • Sign spinners, sandwich boards, inflatables, persons in costume;
  – Signs limited to:
    • Business or tradename
    • Business location
    • Identifying nature of the business
  – Cannot contain depictions of:
    • Plants or products
    • Images appealing to children
If a vote to legalize recreational cannabis were to be held again, it would easily pass.

**Did you vote to legalize recreational cannabis in 2012?**
- Voted to legalize: 53%
- Voted against legalization: 30%
- Unsure/Did not vote: 17%

**Would you vote to keep cannabis legal?**
- Keep it legal: 56%
- Make it illegal: 28%
- Unsure/Would not vote: 16%
Active Users’ cannabis use has remained steady or increased since legalization.

Legalization Effects: How has your use changed?

- Stayed the same: 59%
- Increased a lot: 12%
- Increased a little: 25%
- Decreased a little: 3%
- Decreased a lot: 1%

Q8. How has the legalization of recreational cannabis affected your use of cannabis? My use has...
Base: Active Users, n=209

© Hemispheres 2016
14% of Inactive Users are willing to try cannabis in the next 12 months, but Never Users are highly unlikely to try it.

Legalization Effects:
How likely are you to try cannabis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inactive Users</th>
<th>Never Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely unlikely</td>
<td>Extremely unlikely 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat unlikely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither likely nor unlikely</td>
<td>Neither likely nor unlikely 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat likely</td>
<td>Somewhat likely 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremely likely</td>
<td>Extremely likely 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q9. How likely are you to try cannabis in the next 12 months?
Base: Inactive Users, n=242; Never Users, n=549
Cannabis is seen as having many positives and more than half of Washington State believes that cannabis should be legalized nationally.

**Attitudes and Opinions**

- **Cannabis has many valid medical uses.**
  - Disagree: 8%
  - Neither: 17%
  - Agree: 74%

- **Adults should be able to make their own decisions about cannabis use.**
  - Disagree: 16%
  - Neither: 13%
  - Agree: 72%

- **Legalizing recreational cannabis use helps the economy.**
  - Disagree: 20%
  - Neither: 21%
  - Agree: 59%

- **Cannabis should be legalized nationally.**
  - Disagree: 29%
  - Neither: 17%
  - Agree: 54%

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**Q6. How much do you agree with the following statements about cannabis?**

Base: All respondents, n=1000
Thank you! Questions?

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