



## Drug Free Divide

*United to Raise Youth Above the Influence*

10-16-12

6540 Wentworth Springs Rd  
Georgetown, CA 95634  
530-333-8312  
[www.drugfreedivide.com](http://www.drugfreedivide.com)

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

Hello, my name is Carolyn Barla and I work for Drug Free Divide, a community based coalition collaborating for a healthy Georgetown Divide, in order to raise strong and thriving youth. We are very concerned about the messages we send to young people as a community, when we allow unregulated medical marijuana grows, and the crime that comes with them, to flourish in our neighborhoods. Recent reports for California Healthy Kids Survey show that fewer than in prior surveys adolescents believe that regular marijuana use is harmful to health (2008-11 Black Oak Mine USD data-see attachments).

Communities must take shared responsibility for creating conditions that support positive choices about marijuana use. I urge the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to think of our youth and what messages we send them in the policies and enforcement of our medical marijuana cultivation laws. The enforcement of these policies shape how marijuana will be promoted, sold, and consumed for all members of our society, including our youth.

The data on teen substance use/abuse is overwhelmingly clear. We know that the two most common substances teens abuse are tobacco and alcohol. Why? Because they are legal and therefore, easier to access. And now we enter the age of legalized medical marijuana. We need to be very cognizant of the how this new direction will affect our youth, and therefore the very culture of our county and state.

There is much debate all around the issue of medical marijuana. However, both sides of the medical marijuana debate can agree on at least on thing; we want to protect and nurture the brains of our children.

We know that brain development and maturation continues well into the mid twenties. New studies show clear evidence linking teen marijuana use with lower IQ. (See attachment on Teen Marijuana use study). Let's start with that common ground when creating laws and regulations for our community.

I suggest El Dorado County take a leadership role on this issue and make clear and decisive laws and regulations early on, to protect our children. Keep our neighborhoods safe by creating very specific marijuana ordinances and laws regarding cultivation, use, and distribution. Create specific marijuana zoning and land use ordinances that will provide the Sheriff's Department clear guidelines for enforcement. These ordinances have to be permanent in order to be clear and decisive.

Our youth are look for your guidance. Society's laws reflect the social morals of a civilization. Please send a message to our children and general public that you support a safe and healthy county.

Thank you for your time,

Carolyn Barla

Drug Free Divide  
Youth Coordinator  
[cbarla@bomusd.org](mailto:cbarla@bomusd.org)

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**Table A4.15*****Perceived Harm of Frequent Marijuana Use***

	Grade 8 %	Grade 10 %	Grade 12 %
<b>Marijuana - Smoke Occasionally</b>			
Great	41	33	17
Moderate	26	21	19
Slight	17	19	41
None	16	27	23
<b>Marijuana - Smoke once or twice a week</b>			
Great	59	43	34
Moderate	20	19	22
Slight	8	16	27
None	13	22	17

*Question HS A.82-83/MS A.68-69: How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana occasionally and/or smoke marijuana once or twice a week?*

**Table A4.15*****Perceived Harm of Frequent Marijuana Use***

	Grade 8 %	Grade 10 %	Grade 12 %
<b>Marijuana - Smoke Occasionally</b>			
Great	28	28	20
Moderate	34	17	19
Slight	19	26	34
None	19	29	27
<b>Marijuana - Smoke once or twice a week</b>			
Great	53	41	37
Moderate	18	22	18
Slight	14	16	28
None	15	21	17

*Question HS A.82-83/MS A.68-69: How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana occasionally and/or smoke marijuana once or twice a week?*

**Table A4.15****Perceived Harm of Frequent Marijuana Use**

	Grade 9 %	Grade 10 %	Grade 11 %	Grade 12 %
<b>Marijuana - Smoke Occasionally</b>				
Great	24	35	23	16
Moderate	32	24	22	16
Slight	24	29	25	32
None	19	12	30	33
<b>Marijuana - Smoke once or twice a week</b>				
Great	47	37	34	31
Moderate	19	25	20	31
Slight	17	19	23	24
None	17	9	23	15

*Question HS A.82-83/MS A.68-69: How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana occasionally and/or smoke marijuana once or twice a week?*

**Table A4.15****Perceived Harm of Frequent Marijuana Use**

	Grade 9 %	Grade 10 %	Grade 11 %	Grade 12 %
<b>Marijuana - Smoke Occasionally</b>				
Great	35	19	34	19
Moderate	23	29	13	11
Slight	25	26	27	33
None	17	25	26	37
<b>Marijuana - Smoke once or twice a week</b>				
Great	51	37	51	26
Moderate	20	26	18	23
Slight	14	19	15	27
None	15	18	17	23

*Question HS A.82-83/MS A.68-69: How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana occasionally and/or smoke marijuana once or twice a week?*

\* Please see Science Daily article explaining the context of this international research.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/08/120827152039.htm> - ScienceDaily (Aug. 27, 2012) — persistent, dependent use of marijuana before age 18

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/08/22/1206820109.abstract> PNAS August 27, 2012

## Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife

1. Madeline H. Meier<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Avshalom Caspi<sup>a,b,c,d,e</sup>, Antony Ambler<sup>e,f</sup>,
2. HonaLee Harrington<sup>b,c,d</sup>, Renate Houts<sup>b,c,d</sup>, Richard S. E. Keefe<sup>d</sup>,
3. Kay McDonald<sup>f</sup>, Aimee Ward<sup>f</sup>, Richie Poulton<sup>f</sup>, and Terrie E. Moffitt<sup>a,b,c,d,e</sup>
- 4.

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1. Edited by Michael I. Posner, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, and approved July 30, 2012 (received for review April 23, 2012)

## Abstract

Recent reports show that fewer adolescents believe that regular cannabis use is harmful to health. Concomitantly, adolescents are initiating cannabis use at younger ages, and more adolescents are using cannabis on a daily basis. The purpose of the present study was to test the association between persistent cannabis use and neuropsychological decline and determine whether decline is concentrated among adolescent-onset cannabis users. Participants were members of the Dunedin Study, a prospective study of a birth cohort of 1,037 individuals followed from birth (1972/1973) to age 38 y. Cannabis use was ascertained in interviews at ages 18, 21, 26, 32, and 38 y. Neuropsychological testing was conducted at age 13 y, before initiation of cannabis use, and again at age 38 y, after a pattern of persistent cannabis use had developed. Persistent cannabis use was associated with neuropsychological decline broadly across domains of functioning, even after controlling for years of education. Informants also reported noticing more cognitive problems for persistent cannabis users. Impairment was concentrated among adolescent-onset cannabis users, with more persistent use associated with greater decline. Further, cessation of cannabis use did not fully restore neuropsychological functioning among adolescent-onset cannabis users. Findings are suggestive of a neurotoxic effect of cannabis on the adolescent brain and highlight the importance of prevention and policy efforts targeting adolescents.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: [madeline.meier@duke.edu](mailto:madeline.meier@duke.edu). Author contributions: M.H.M., A.C., and T.E.M. designed research; M.H.M., A.C., A.A., H.H., R.H., R.S.E.K., K.M., A.W., R.P., and T.E.M. performed research; M.H.M., A.C., R.H., and T.E.M. analyzed data; and M.H.M., A.C., and T.E.M. wrote the paper.

10-16-12

Good Morning, my name is Michael Bergland. I am an intern with El Dorado County Alcohol and Drug Programs, with my focus being on prevention programs in our county. I am here today on the concerns regarding county ordinances 4970 and 4971. These two particular ordinances cover a very controversial topic and that is marijuana. I am here today to help you make a well informed decision regarding the status of these ordinances.

I want to tell you a short story of how my neighborhood was affected by "medical marijuana." Recently, we had some neighbors rent the house next to ours. Upon their arrival, we noticed they had begun to grow marijuana in their backyard. We lived in our house for ten years prior to their arrival and there was little to no crime in our neighborhood. However, it only took a few weeks before that began to change. Our neighborhood noticed an increase in traffic flow, with random cars coming at all hours. We also begin to notice more night time prowlers, with some neighborhood bicycles ending up in their backyard. Neighbors also noticed how at times it would be unsafe to even take a walk in the neighborhood because they would have their pit bull running freely. These are just a few things that began to change. My point by this story is that when marijuana is introduced to our local neighborhoods, things begin to change, sometimes creating unsafe environments for our local families. By taking a stance regarding marijuana cultivation, you will be providing our local Sheriff department something well defined to work with.

Now, I would like to inform you that according to our local California Healthy Kids Survey, 21% of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have at least tried marijuana some point in their lifetime. With this same population at least 20% believe there is no perceived risk associated with smoking marijuana. (2011-12 Black Oak Mine USD data) This number helps prove the case that marijuana usage is becoming more accepted in our culture.

Now, I know you may not be able to change these numbers, but you may help us make a cultural impact within our county. If the Federal government won't declare a stance on the issue and our state government won't declare a stance, the power to set an example for all youth in our county is in your hands.

With that said, all I ask for today is that you stand next to us in reducing the accessibility of marijuana in our county. By doing this, you are helping to create a county culture that includes less marijuana, which in turn creates a less accepted culture.

Open Forum  
M. Bergland  
10-16-12  
12-0003 29 A 5 of 6

Oct. 11, 2012

Dear Board of Supervisors for El Dorado County,

RE: Continuation of Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Cultivation

When we built our home 15 years ago in El Dorado County on land we purchased in 1970 we soon came to realize there were "Medical Marijuana Cultivations" in our area. This made us apprehensive in regards to safety. We found out as a little time went by that most of the growers were considerate to others (or maybe to themselves due to fear of others who wished to help themselves) that they kept it discreet. We never felt imposed on or threatened until the last few years. **THINGS HAVE CHANGED THE LAST FEW YEARS!**

During the past few summers there were those of our neighbors who took advantage of the "Medical Marijuana Laws". One of those neighbors did not even live on the property he cultivated but hired "care takers" to grow and watch over his crops. He not only had a permit for himself, he had one for a "Medical Marijuana Dispensary". The growth was in plain sight, only about 25 feet from the road. Oh, they did have a canvas fence around it but you could see over it easily from the road. The "care takers" were very inconsiderate and frightening. They had bon fires during the no burning season, would fire off guns that sounded like canons anytime they felt like it and there were cars coming and going all times of day and night. The Sheriffs came several times in answer to our pleas for help but could do nothing because the property owner had "permits" for the growth.

We had hope back in our lives that sanity would return when the Moratorium on Medical Marijuana was put in place the end of last year. If you should do anything instead of discontinuing it the end of this year it should be to expand it so that there is some "teeth" to it so that the law enforcement groups could help those of us who would like to live in sanity and safety.

We realize that there maybe a need for Medical Marijuana and if it was done with some guide lines and common sense and consideration it would make life better for all of us who live in El Dorado County. Please help by continuing or improving the Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Cultivation.

Yours Sincerely,

Katherine Pranza

Submitted by K. Pranza

at Board Hearing of 10-16-12  
Open Forum