

PENNSYLVANIA'S

MARIJUANA MINUTE



Many health organizations caution or outright oppose marijuana legalization due to its many health concerns.

American Medical Association says marijuana "is a dangerous drug and as such is a serious public health concern."

Dr. Robert Lee of the **American Academy of Pediatrics** expresses their association's position: "Legalization would create an industry to commercialize and market marijuana, which would be harmful for children."

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) "opposes the recreational use of marijuana."

Caron Treatment Centers - based in Pennsylvania - "does not endorse the legalization of recreational marijuana" because of the harms caused by marijuana they see in patients on a daily basis. "Lawmakers need to pause for a deeper understanding because lives are at stake." (Doug Tieman, President and CEO)

In their position statement in opposition to marijuana as medicine, the **American Psychiatric Association (APA)** says, "There is no current scientific evidence that cannabis is in any way beneficial for the treatment of any psychiatric disorder."

American Society of Addiction Medicine "does not support the legalization of marijuana" and recommends any jurisdiction that has already legalized "to prohibit the legal sale of marijuana products to anyone younger than 25 years of age."

The **American Lung Association** "caution the public against smoking marijuana because of the risks it poses to the lungs" and "supports measures to require totally smokefree environments, including marijuana."

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) states marijuana legalization "would encourage increased use, including among teenagers."

The **American Heart Association** "recommends that people not smoke or vape any substance, including cannabis products, because of the potential harm to the heart, lungs and blood vessels." AHA found "frequent cannabis (marijuana) use among young people was linked to an increased risk of stroke and people diagnosed with cannabis use disorder were more likely to be hospitalized for heart rhythm disturbances (arrhythmias)," according to two new preliminary studies to be presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions (November 16-18, 2019) in Philadelphia.

Even the **American Cancer Society** recognizes harms: In 2010, they pointed out how they do not advocate for legalization because marijuana "delivers harmful substances, including many of the cancer-causing substances found in tobacco smoke." The **American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)** currently does not take a position on legalization but oppose "the smoking or vaping of marijuana and other cannabinoids in public places because the carcinogens in marijuana smoke pose numerous health hazards to the patient and others in the patient's presence."



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