## **Marijuana and Crime**



Legalization creates profound social costs which multiply into increased crime, an influx of cartel activity, and an overall threat to public safety. There is a high risk of marijuana usage co-occurring with other offenses, including violence and robbery.



A survey of police forces in Illinois, post-legalization, shows "Twenty-six percent of respondents... stated that marijuana is the biggest contributor to violent crime in their area of responsibility (AOR) and 27 percent stated it was one of their top three drug threats"<sup>3</sup>

## University of Colorado (2019) Study:<sup>4</sup>



## **Chinese Marijuana Farms**

Since 2023, the DEA has reported hundreds of CCP-linked, cartel marijuana farms operating in legal states.





Relative to non-legalized states Per 100,000 population, an increase of...



- Over 270 were reported in Maine alone, generating over \$4.3 billion in profit for the Chinese government<sub>5</sub>
- They use enslaved, human trafficked labor; dozens of workers have died and suffered sexual abuse
- A House testimony wrote: "Chinese criminal organizations and networks have been cultivating tens of thousands of marijuana farms and grows houses throughout the United States... namely, in states that legalized marijuana",

## Endnotes

- "Associations of cannabis use, use frequency, and cannabis use disorder with violent behavior among young adults in the United States" Nord D. Volkow., et al. 2024 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38677161/
- 2. "Impact of recreational marijuana legalization on crime: Evidence from Oregon" Guangzhen Wu., et al. 2021.

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- 3. "The Impact of Legalization of Marijuana in Illinois" Chicago HIDTA. 2021. https://www.thenmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Chicago-HIDTA-2021-Marijuana-Legalization-Impact-Report-for-Illinois.pdf
- 4. "Marijuana Dispensaries and Neighborhood Crime and Disorder in Denver, Colorado" L. Hughes., et al. 2019. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07418825.2019.1567807
- 5. "Illegal Chinese Marijuana Grow Operations Are Taking Over Blue State, Leaked Memo Says" Jennie Taer. 2023. https://dailycaller.com/2023/08/16/exclusive-illegal-chinese-marijuana-grow-operations-taking-over-blue-state-leaked-memo-says/
- 6. "Jiaai Zeng Died Weeks After Starting Work at an Oklahoma Marijuana Farm. His Family Wants Answers" Sebastian Rotella., et al. 2024. https://www.propublica.org/article/marijuana-oklahoma-china-immigrationsafety-workers
- 7. "Testimony by Donald H. Im" The Select Committee on the CCP. 2024. https://www.congress.gov/118/meeting/house/117142/documents/HHRG-118-ZS00-20240416-SD001.pdf

