

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
PETER T. SCHADE, RS, MPH, HEALTH COMMISSIONER

COMMENTS TO THE HURON CITY COUNCIL – JANUARY 23, 2018

Dear Council and ALL people of the City of Huron and Erie County, Ohio:

My name is Peter Schade. I am the Erie County Health Commissioner. I am here tonight representing the Erie County Board of Health.

The Erie County Board of Health is made up of 11 individuals from across Erie County, Ohio. They are our friends and neighbors who serve in an advisory capacity on issues germane to our Public Health status.

A new study by researchers at Dartmouth has found that adolescents living in medical marijuana states with dispensaries are more likely to have tried new methods of cannabis use, such as edibles and vaping, at a younger age than those living in states with fewer dispensaries.

Data suggests a relationship between the degree of regulatory oversight of legal cannabis and kids' propensity for trying new ways of using cannabis. We need to start having a broader national conversation about how best to design the production and distribution regulations for legal cannabis to mitigate potential public health harms.

As cannabis legalization rapidly evolves, in both medical and recreational usage, understanding the laws' effect on young people is crucial because this group is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of marijuana and possesses an inherent elevated risk of developing a cannabis disorder.

Due to the data collected by the Erie County Health Department via the Community Health Assessment process in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2015 and now, 2017, we can trend youth and adult quality of life areas, including drug/alcohol use. The Erie County Health Department used this data to apply for and received a *Drug Free Community* grant; the award indicates we have a problem!

On behalf of the Erie County Board of Health, these main areas of concern are raised:

1. The Board of Health is interested in finding solutions to current issues facing us today and in the future. We are willing to have a dialogue with any interested parties concerning this issue.
2. The Erie County Board of Health recognizes medical marijuana use has some limited legitimacy with large number of patients seeking it. However, thoughts prevail toward dispensing via current regulated pharmacies.
3. Medical marijuana needs more study and research, before the Erie County Board of Health can support its use in our jurisdiction; it is designated as a C1 drug.
4. The Erie County Board of Health is searching for support in our opioid addiction battle. We do not want to alienate medical marijuana supporters, but we are not ready to agree that medical marijuana is a legitimate alternative to opioids.
5. The Erie County Board of Health does not welcome this marijuana dispensary into our community, however, we recognize there may be no legal option to limit the development at this time.
6. The Erie County Board of Health deems this facility may harm our current social structure and current quality of life in Erie County.

Because of these concerns, the Erie County Board of Health would like to propose to the City of Huron, City Council, **their immediate vote to prohibit recreational marijuana sales in the City of Huron.**

In conclusion, the Erie County Board of Health monitors and collects data concerning drug abuse. As a region, we are dealing with kids and parents who are abusing drugs at an exponential rate. Eliminate this recognition and acceptance of marijuana, for the sake of our future.

- A. **SPARK** – *Students Preventing Abuse & Raising Knowledge* – youth coalition of over 40 active members, who work together to address substance use/abuse in their school communities. Every school district in the county is represented.
- B. **Youth Drug Use**
- 8% of youth had used marijuana at least once in the past 30 days (~ 590)
 - 5% of youth used medications that were not prescribed for them or took more than prescribed to get high at some time in their life. (~ 370)
 - 33% of youth reported they knew someone that needed help or a drug or alcohol use/abuse. (~ 520)
- C. **Social Determinants of Health**
- 21% of youth had 3 or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). (~ 1,500) *ACEs are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect that put an individual at high risk of developing risky behaviors.*

2017 Erie County Youth Substance Use Core Measures

Indicator	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana	Prescription Drugs
Substance use in past 30 days	19%	7%	8%	5%
Perception of Risk:				
a. great	37%	62%	38%	68%
b. moderate	40%	24%	25%	22%
c. slight	16%	7%	19%	7%
d. none	7%	7%	19%	4%
Perception of parental disapproval	77%	90%	79%	89%
Perception of peer disapproval	53%	58%	52%	71%

19% (1 out of 5) of Erie County youth, 6-12th grade, thought there was **NO RISK** to smoking marijuana once or twice a week. = 1,414 Erie County Youth

Behaviors of Erie County Youth Current Marijuana Use vs. Non-Current Marijuana Use *

Youth Behavior	Current Marijuana User	Non-Current Marijuana User
Had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	76%	17%
Had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days	66%	15%
Experienced 3 or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in their lifetime	56%	17%
Had been bullied in any way in the past year	47%	40%
Seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months	41%	12%
Smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days	38%	4%
Misused prescription drugs	17%	2%

* Current marijuana use indicates youth who self-reported using marijuana at any time during the past 30 days.

