

Marijuana Legalization

A Public Health Perspective



CONCERNS

- Cannabis legalization will have long-term **negative impacts on youth**.
- There is a direct connection between cannabis use and **mental health concerns**.
- The **potency** of cannabis is higher than ever before.
- Legalization will not eliminate the **illicit cannabis market** or solve broader **social justice concerns**.
- **Impaired driving and road safety** concerns will increase.

**Compass Mark
is opposed to
the legalization
of adult-use
cannabis in PA**



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide funding to reduce harms associated with cannabis use & address the corresponding need for increased mental health & substance use treatment.
- Invest in diversionary programs for specific levels of cannabis-related offenses.
- Require local jurisdictions to “opt-in” to cannabis retail sales in their community.
- Launch a science-based public education campaign.
- Ensure that a portion of cannabis tax revenue is directed toward further research on impacts of policy.



COMPASS MARK
SCIENCE-BASED ADDICTION PREVENTION

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✓ **Read our full position paper, including references to research.**