

THE CANNABIS REPORT

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES REGARDING
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION



DEAR COUNCILMEMBER

A simple google search with the term words "marijuana delivery dc" reveals a plethora of informative and descriptive articles authored by taste makers and other credible journalist platforms likes the Washington Post.

GentlemanToker.com is another reference site that refers to the Congress rider banning DC residents from walking in and purchasing products like Oregana and Washington. It provides extensive reviews of the marijuana people are receiving under Initiative 71 in addition to listing several sources of delivery services in the DC area. GentlemanToker prides itself as the go-to for all marijuana information. Each page offers a discount on one of the businesses. Each company is reviewed by their vape cartridges, specific strains like Sour Grapes and Platinum Cookies, tinctures, and other concentrates. Titles are enticing and informative. Entry into this site only requires a button to declare if you are over 21 or under.

Wheresweed.com provides an online database for delivery services around the United States. By typing in Washington, DC you can find a delivery services that offers online ordering, recreational, accepts credit cards, discounts for veterans, terminal patient discount, specials and menus for on staves, indicas, hybrids, concentrates, edibles, pre-rolls, and seeds. These companies can be sorted by distance, popularity, or best rated. The filters should only view dispensaries, co-ops, or doctors, however searches reveal active marijuana businesses. Searches reveal over 20 businesses available to DC residents, and there are only 7 legal dispensaries in DC. You may join this website or download the app. Joining only takes "validating your age" without actually providing an ID. After you sign up, these companies are at your finger tips.

Now the question is, how do we ensure these companies are only serving of-age consumers. The legality of these companies are by far a stretch in accordance with Washington, DC initiative 71. However, if the Council choses to allow these companies to continue business as usual, there must be a standard system of proof of age. Just as delivery services like Grubhub and Postmates require their users to reveal their photo ID upon receiving an alcoholic beverage, the same should be required of marijuana delivery services. Moreover, we must educate parents on parental blockages and other ways to prevent access to these sites.

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In the effort to stop teenage experimentation, prevention messages often pretend there is no difference between use and abuse. This hypocritical message is often dismissed by teens who see that adults routinely make distinctions between use and abuse. Most observe their parents and other adults using alcohol [and marijuana] without abusing it. The abstinence- only mandate puts adults in the unenviable position of having nothing to say to young people we need most to reach.

The District needs scientifically accurate general education campaigns that provide reality-based information. Teenagers will be empowered with right tools to make responsible decisions by:

- Providing honest science-based information
- Encouraging moderation in youth who continue to use
- Promoting an understanding of the legal and social consequences of drug use
- Prioritizing safety through personal responsibility and knowledge.

Even so, young people have a tendency to discount drug campaigns directed solely at them. Because of strong peer influences and youthful experimentation, they are likely to discount most prevention messages as propaganda.

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Let's talk strategy prevention! It is important the city studies issues affecting adolescent substance abuse prior the creating a strategy. Such important issues include:

- The optimal length of substance use programs to achieve lasting impacts: Evaluations and programs should vary in both length and duration.
- Identification of key variables that contribute to preventing and stopping substance use: Critical program features will be influenced by informed decisions.
- Program factors that contribute to long-term post-intervention success: Knowledge of specific factors that directly influence long-term intervention success should be studied to improve relapse rates.
- Identifying the determining factors signaling the transition from drug use to abuse and the ways that program interventions can affect that transition

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In the context of adult legalization, it will be particularly difficult to persuade teens of their unique vulnerability.

Current Popular Prevention strategies:

- (a) by the Drug War's emphasis on criminal justice enforcement,
- (b) by "scare them straight" education programs, and
- (c) by mass media campaigns often exaggerating the risks.

Advocates of medical marijuana often contribute to the misinformation surrounding the effects of marijuana on our health with exaggerated benefits and minimized negative side effects.

Broad education campaigns are needed, however differentiated and focused interventions created based on individual need and community/school context is important in developing and funding interventions that provide basic or clinical referral for the minority of students already in trouble.

For example, students just entering high school, school dropouts, and students with a positive family history of addiction would be considered groups with increased and specific risks. The council should create strategies that focus on addressing specific risk factors or subgroups, identified through the use of screening tools, arrests, and school or family reports. The juvenile justice system can also make court diversion referrals to community or school-based programs.

Additionally, prevention strategies should include motivational interviewing, evaluation of barriers to learning, family contacts, assessment of learning skills, and individual and group counseling to reduce behaviors that put students at risk of developing addictions that require professional treatment.

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The residents of DC want to ensure that prevention programs put in place reflect what we think will significantly impact the youth in the District.

- Multi-component programs generally work. Programs that attempt to reach adolescents and youth through a variety of different approaches, such as school, family, community, outside social activities and media campaigns, have an impact on prevention of substance use.
- Programs that address all forms of drug use in combination generally work. Programs of this type had impacts on initiation of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and/or illicit drug use.
- Increasing knowledge of the health consequences of substance use increases the likelihood/success of stopping use of alcohol and other substances.
- Programs tailored to address substance use risks that are specific to particular populations, such as those defined by developmental age, gender, and ethnicity, tend to work.

Peer teaching works when combined with adult facilitation. Peer-led intervention strategy has an impact on substance use when combined with input teachers or trained facilitators.

- Programs that emphasize drug resistance and reinforcement of anti-drug attitudes appear to work.
- Both prevention and cessation programs work for adolescents and youth.

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