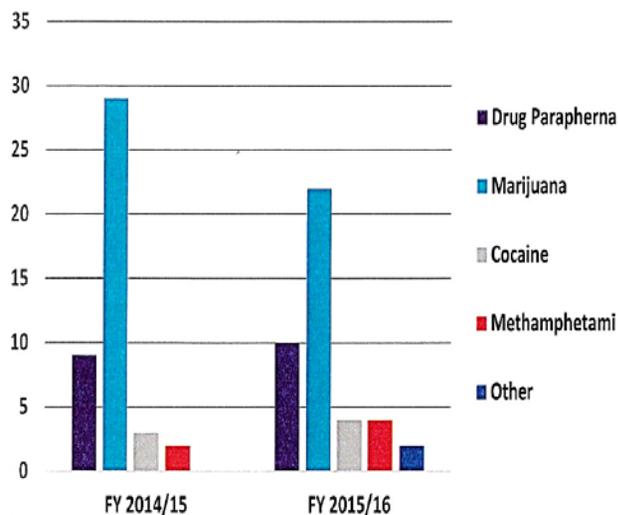


Community Drug Coalition

of Lea County strongly believes that the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in New Mexico would be a ***grave mistake***. This drug is addictive by nature, decreases a sober and productive workforce, increases impaired driving in our state and significantly increases the chances of the drug being possessed by children. Beyond the risks to all New Mexicans, marijuana is a gateway drug that causes harm to the entire New Mexico population.



Juvenile Drug Cases in Lea County District Court



Source: Lea County District Attorney Office

Facts of Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

- Addictive Nature
- Today's marijuana is not your average Woodstock weed
- Altered Perception
- Gateway Drug Status
- Increased in stoned driving and related cases
- Increased Chances of the Drug Falling into the hands of children
- Accidents, liability and insurance rates will increase
- Legalizing drugs will send a message to children that drug use is acceptable

Source: drugrehab.us
www.CBSnews.com

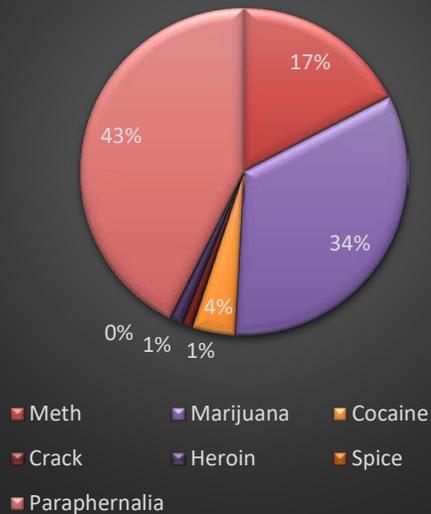
**Know The Facts
Before Legalizing
Marijuana For
Recreational Use!!**



My Life, My Choice...NO DRUGS!

Community Drug Coalition of Lea County
P.O. Box 5403,
Hobbs, NM 88241-5403
Office: (575) 391-1301
info@communitydrugcoalition.com

2015 Possession of Controlled Substance - HPD



Source: Hobbs Police Department

CDC TREATMENT

In 2009 the County of Lea joined the Community Drug Coalition of Lea County in fighting back against substance abuse in Lea County. Since that time, the CDC of Lea County and the County of Lea have assessed 236 citizens and sent 217 citizens to in patient rehab and/or sober living facilities. Lea County continues to invest heavily in the future health of its citizens.

CLIENT TREATMENT DATA 2009-2016

Clients Assessed	236
Clients Sent	217
Average Age	31

SEX

Females	42%
Males	58%

RACE

Hispanic	39%
Caucasian	56%
African American	6%

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployed	89%
Employed	11%
Use affected Job	92%

FAMILY

Have Children	70%
Have Custody	0%
Use affected family	100%

LEGAL

Have Legal Issues	66%
No Legal Issues	44%

DRUG USE

Alcohol	87%
Marijuana	61%
Methamphetamine	54%
Cocaine	26%
Heroin	15%
Opiates	15%
Use Daily	100%
Use only 1 substance	0%
Use more than 1 substance	94%
Use 3 or more substances	72%
Average Years of Use	21
Average age started use	13

Total Treatment Clients Assessed (2009 – 2017)	236
Number of clients who listed Marijuana as a drug of choice	145 (61%)
Marijuana was the first drug ever used	120 (83%)
Average age of first marijuana use	12.4 years old

Source: CDC Treatment Matrix

Effects on the workforce

Employees who test positive for marijuana had 55 percent more industrial accidents and 85 percent more injuries and they had absenteeism rates 75 percent higher than those that tested negative. This damages our economy.

Economic Cost

The argument that we can tax and regulate marijuana and derive income from it is false. The increased use will increase the multitude of costs that come with marijuana use. The costs from health and mental wellness problems, accidents, and damage to our economic productivity will far out strip any tax obtained. Our economy is suffering. The last thing we need is the burden that legalization will put on us.

Health Effects

Marijuana use accounts for tens of thousands of marijuana related complaints at emergency rooms throughout the United States each year. Over 99,000 are young people.

Despite arguments by the drug culture to the contrary, marijuana is addictive. The levels of THC (marijuana's psychoactive ingredient) have never been higher. This is a major factor why marijuana is the number one drug causing young people to enter treatment and why there has been a substantial increase in the people in treatment for marijuana dependence.