

Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency

Addressing the Health Impacts of Cannabis

Population health best practice must address 1) robust surveillance data on rates of use and harm to inform policy and programs, 2) preventing or delaying onset of use 3) enhanced treatment capacity, and 4) enhanced the knowledge, skills and ability of the broader system of services

Areas Identified to Increase Agency Capacity:

- Enhanced surveillance and epidemiology
- Prevention, education, interventions, diversionary programs, and evolving policy work
- Training for providers and staff – social workers, public health nurses, clinicians, physicians, case managers, etc.
- Enhanced treatment capacity for cannabis use disorder and comorbidity with other substance use disorders as well as mood and anxiety disorders
- Multifaceted interventions to address all potential issues of concern (e.g. mental health and physical health; risk taking behavior; impaired driving; specific risks to young people etc.)
- Adolescent diversion treatment program

Projected staffing, funding, and programmatic needs:

- \$350,000 in Community Health Branch staff and resources to enhance epidemiology, surveillance, training, outreach, program planning, implementation and evaluation, and community policy work.
- \$350,000 in Child Youth and Family Branch staffing capacity to respond to referrals for investigation, education and early intervention with pregnant and parenting youth, and to enhance data collection and analysis, including tracking and monitoring of outcomes related to cannabis use
- \$830,000 for Adult and Aging Branch staffing, treatment capacity, and training for increased treatment admissions, robust adolescent outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment programs, increased co-occurring disorders and physical health co-morbidities
- \$150,000 required diversion program treatment services

Projected Total Investment: \$1,680,000

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On the cusp of major changes to the widespread availability of cannabis, it is imperative to invest early and effectively in a population health approach to cannabis use prevention, harm reduction and treatment.

The legalization and commercialization of cannabis will have a definitive impact on the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

Yolo County has an opportunity to plan now for safeguarding residents, especially those most at risk, from the downstream impacts of legally available cannabis.

“While it is the most common illicit drug of dependence, only a minority of individuals with cannabis dependence access specialist treatment.” Gates et al 2009

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