

## Potential Implications of Legalized Marijuana in Ohio

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#### Abstract

*The presentation is an argument that, due to potential consequences, marijuana legalization likely would have a negative overall impact on Ohio citizens. At the time of the presentation, public debate is being held across the state of Ohio regarding this issue, since a vote will occur in the November 2015 election in order to potentially legalize the drug. In the presentation, we cite research showing that some Ohio marijuana users will substitute the substance for prescription psychotropic medications, addiction numbers will increase within the state, increased accidents are likely to occur, marijuana will gateway to other more addictive drugs, and marijuana use will negatively impact job performance. We argue that since (a) so much is yet unknown with few pilot studies that mirror Ohio demographics in order to make accurate extrapolations, (b) the potential consequences can be devastating, life-long, and impact thousands of individuals, and (c) once this type of law becomes passed, it is highly unlikely to reverse it should history show the legalization be a mistake—then it is best for Ohio to exercise conservative caution regarding potentially passing a legalization law at present.*