

Research Agenda: Update

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Overview

To examine effects of cannabis legislation on the Commonwealth, the Cannabis Control Commission's (CCC) research will:

- Assess baseline and ongoing data collection
- Collaborate with state agencies, research institutions, and municipalities
- Report on each research agenda item including those mandated by Chapter 55, *“An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana,”* as well as items specified as important by CCC Commissioners and staff

Potential Impact: Why our research matters?

- Opportunity: 1970 CSA [Cannabis Scheduling]
- Health and Public Health
- Public Safety
- Public Education / Disciplinary Action
- Economic/Fiscal Impacts
- Effective Regulations and Enforcement Fidelity

Potential Impact: Why our research matters?

- **Cohorts of significance:**
 - Age cohorts:
 - Adolescents (12-18)
 - Emerging Adults (18-25)
 - At risk cohorts: Youth/Adolescent, Persons in treatment, Pregnant and breastfeeding women
 - Persons and communities disproportionately affected by prohibition

Potential Impact: Why our licensee research matters?

- Medicinal Benefits
- Effects of isolated cannabinoids and terpenes
- Cultivation; agricultural innovations
- Energy efficiency
- Small business creation
- Etc.

Goals and Objectives

- Pathway to credible cannabis research
- Internal research team
- Establish long-term collaborations and partnerships
- Chapter 55 research agenda items
- Data warehouse
- Annual research conference

St. 2017, c. 55,
An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana

In Section 17, the Legislature established that: “[t]he commission shall develop a research agenda in order to understand the social and economic trends of marijuana in the commonwealth, to inform future decisions that would aid in the closure of the illicit marketplace and to inform the commission on the public health impacts of marijuana...”

Chapter 55: Themes of Research

- General patterns and trends
- Health and public health
- Public safety
- Economic/ fiscal impacts
- Social equity
- Industry
- Market analysis– illicit market
- Educational system

Chapter 55:

An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana

Section 17. (a) The commission shall develop a research agenda in order to understand the social and economic trends of marijuana in the commonwealth, to inform future decisions that would aid in the closure of the illicit marketplace and to inform the commission on the public health impacts of marijuana. The research agenda shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) patterns of use, methods of consumption, sources of purchase and general perceptions of marijuana among minors, among college and university students and among adults;
- (ii) incidents of impaired driving, hospitalization and use of other health care services related to marijuana use, including a report of the state of the science around identifying a quantifiable level of marijuana-induced impairment of motor vehicle operation and a report on the financial impacts on the state healthcare system of hospitalizations related to marijuana;
- (iii) economic and fiscal impacts for state and local governments including the impact of legalization on the production and distribution of marijuana in the illicit market and the costs and benefits to state and local revenue;
- (iv) ownership and employment trends in the marijuana industry examining participation by racial, ethnic and socioeconomic subgroups, including identification of barriers to participation in the industry;
- (v) a market analysis examining the expansion or contraction of the illicit marketplace and the expansion or contraction of the legal marketplace, including estimates and comparisons of pricing and product availability in both markets;
- (vi) a compilation of data on the number of incidents of discipline in schools, including suspensions or expulsions, resulting from marijuana use or possession of marijuana or marijuana products; and
- (vii) a compilation of data on the number of civil penalties, arrests, prosecutions, incarcerations and sanctions imposed for violations of chapter 94C for possession, distribution or trafficking of marijuana or marijuana products, including the age, race, gender, country of origin, state geographic region and average sanctions of the persons charged.

Projects Underway

- Baseline Data (!!)
- Public Health: Public Awareness Campaign Research
- Public Safety
- Social Equity

Baseline Data

- Significance
- Retroactive “baseline” [“before implementation”] data
- **St. 2016, c. 351, Section 18:** Department of Public (collaboration with UMass School of Public Health & UMass Donahue Institute)
“Baseline Study”
 - Report: July 1, 2018

Public Health: Public Awareness Campaign Research

- **Public Awareness Campaign (collaboration with Department of Public Health (DPH) and The Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS)]**
 - Focus groups & surveys
 - Cross-sectional pre/post surveys

Public Safety

- **Chapter 55, Section 17 (a) (ii):** *“Incidents of Impaired Driving”*
 - **Survey:** MA Police Department assessment of:
 - Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and
 - Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training
 - Sent out June 12th (n=<60)

Social Equity

- **Chapter 55, Section 17 (a) (iv):** *“Ownership and employment trends in the marijuana industry examining participation by racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic subgroups, including identification of barriers to participation in the industry”*
 - Survey
 - Focus Groups
- Industry metrics: METRC Continuous monitoring & reporting
 - Demographics of applicants and licensees

Industry

- **Chapter 55, Section 17 (a) (v):** *“Market analysis examining the expansion or contraction of the illicit marketplace and the expansion or contraction of the legal marketplace, including estimates and comparisons of pricing and product availability in both markets”*
 - Licensees by Type
 - Users: State and Industry (Agents)
 - Seed-to-Sale: Maturity of plant life cycle
 - Transfers/Deliveries
 - Package traceability (variations of products)
 - Lab results of harvested materials

Working Groups

- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Peer-Review group (PRG)

Thank You!