

The Colorado legislature passed House Bill 19-1230, which gives local communities the option to allow marijuana hospitality establishments where people can consume marijuana publicly. In 2003, Pueblo led the State by passing the Pueblo Clean Indoor Act. Passing of this ordinance demonstrated a prioritization of Puebloan's health. Pueblo leaders now have the opportunity to lead the State again, continuing to prioritize the health of its citizens. Although marijuana use is legal for adults over 21 years of age in the State of Colorado, there are public health concerns associated with consumption and accessibility of marijuana, some of which are noted below.

Permitting marijuana smoking/vaping in public places is contrary to the intent of the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act:

- As a community we have worked hard to eliminate smoke from public places, with documented improvement in the health of Pueblo citizens.
- Allowing smoking of marijuana is a step back; a confusing step back for the public.
- There is strong evidence marijuana smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing substances and toxic chemicals as tobacco smoke.
- The American Society for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers states for indoor air quality to be acceptable, it must be "completely free from secondhand smoke and emissions from electronic smoking devices."
- Employees, vendors, first responders, inspectors, etc. are not protected from the health effects when entering businesses where smoking/vaping is occurring. Even specialized ventilation systems are not considered effective at removing all secondhand smoke after consumption has ceased.

Reduction in perception of risk for youth:

- Public consumption of marijuana will contribute to the already reduced perception of harm.
- Research demonstrates when perception of harm decreases with a substance, youth rates of use increase.
- Evidence also shows public use could result in heavier overall usage (binging), which has multiple adverse health effects including psychosis, addiction, and increased use of other substances.

Potential for impairment for all patrons:

- Initial studies have shown secondhand smoke exposure from marijuana has a negative impact; research is still determining the full scope of impacts and impairments.
- Risk of motor vehicle crashes increases among drivers with recent marijuana use (10 mg or more of THC). Recommendations are to wait 6-8 hours for impairment to resolve and safely be able to drive.

The Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) is concerned about the public health impact if hospitality establishments are approved. PDPHE staff members are available to provide education about the detrimental effects and to provide technical expertise to inform the decision-making process.

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