

Dr. Lynn Fox, Chair ~ FoxLynn@me.com



Dear Elks Members and Families,

August has been on fire in many of the surround areas, along with record breaking heat. This added to the Covid 19 restrictions and now the smoke-filled air, we are all looking forward to September. A lot has been going on in the drug area, too. Long term valid and reliable research has been providing us with **SIGNIFICANT** information about the effects of marijuana on our children and lives. I have been given permission to use two very excellent sources: [SAM](#) and [DFAF](#) to share their very recent articles about the facts we need to know and share with others.

May we all become more informed and educated about what is happening to our youth, especially given the beginning of the school year. Remember children and teens need to know how to have a good time without harming their lives or the lives of others. You are their role models. High School age youth are very influenced by their peers.

PLEASE check out Lodge 1108 website and the National Elks website: see website at bottom of the page.

Stay healthy and well informed,

Dr. Lynn Fox
Chair,
DAP at Lodge1108



NEW CDC DATA CONFIRMS CONCERNING TRENDS IN YOUTH MARIJUANA USE

Finds marijuana use is number one risk factor for future prescription opioid misuse - *SAM August 2020*

(Alexandria, Va) - Today, new data from the [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System \(YRBS\)](#), an annual survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Prevention (CDC) confirms concerning trends when it comes to substance abuse, especially marijuana use, in high school students.

Notably, the data finds that lifetime marijuana use is the number one risk factor for prescription opioid misuse.

"This survey confirms a trend we have been noticing: every other drug among young people is going down with the exception of marijuana. There's a reason for that: the mass commercialization and normalization of today's high potency marijuana in this country," said Dr. Kevin Sabet, president of Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) and a former three-time White House drug policy advisor.

"One data point that should ring alarm bells is the fact that having ever used marijuana was the top risk factor to misusing prescription opioids in the past month. We have to understand that drug use does not happen in a vacuum - co-use is a real phenomenon."

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PRENATAL THC EXPOSURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AUTISM

[A new study found a stunning association between prenatal THC exposure and development of autism.](#) (recently published in *Nature Medicine Canada*) from Drug Free America Foundation, August 19, 2020

Using provincial birth registries, Canadian researchers analyzed all live births that occurred in Ontario between April 2007 and March 2012 for a total of 497,821 births.

Investigators found that **infants who were prenatally exposed to THC were 57% more likely to develop autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and 35% more likely to develop intellectual disabilities and learning disorders.** Previous studies of this type have been difficult to interpret due to polysubstance use among expectant mothers making it difficult to tease out the effects of THC exposure alone. **In this study, researchers were able to directly compare unexposed infants to those whose mothers only used marijuana during their pregnancy.** Thus, any effects observed in this study can be reliably attributed to **prenatal THC exposure since no other substances were used.** Results persisted even adjusting for other potential risk factors for ASD such as maternal age, education, psychiatric disorders, socioeconomic status, parity, and race.

The results of this study confirm that of previous research on the harms of prenatal THC exposure. Nevertheless, marijuana is routinely recommended to pregnant women by pot docs as well as dispensary employees with no medical training at all. Given the explosion in marijuana use among pregnant women in states like FL, **lawmakers must take immediate action to fund education campaigns and ban marijuana recommendations for pregnant women.** How many more lives need to be ruined so that Big Pot and their political allies can line their pockets?