

Is Marijuana Medicine?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) opposes “medical marijuana” outside the regulatory process of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The following is taken from the American Academy of Pediatrics position paper dated December 2015:

In recent years, states have enacted laws, passed ballot measures, and adopted public policies supporting the use of “medical marijuana” and the use of cannabis oil to treat, among other conditions, seizure disorders in children. The approved conditions that marijuana can treat, the amount of marijuana that the patient can possess, the cultivation process and registration requirements vary widely.

Marijuana is classified a schedule I drug by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), signifying the drug has a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use, and there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or substance under medical supervision. **Cannabinoids, which are components of marijuana, have been proven to be effective in treating of specific conditions in adults including nausea, vomiting, and chronic pain conditions. Currently, 3 pharmaceutical cannabinoids have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).** Though anecdotal accounts have shown that certain cannabinoids could benefit children with certain chronic debilitating diseases, there have been no published studies about the effects on cannabinoids on the pediatric population.

FDA approval permits these pharmaceutical cannabinoids to be prescribed by licensed physicians and filled by registered pharmacists and pharmacies. Protocols ensure uniform potency and dosing.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, December 2015:

- There are currently no published studies on the efficacy of marijuana as a medication in children.
- While there are studies that have shown chemicals in marijuana do help patients with some chronic conditions, these studies have been done on adults. Children may respond differently.
- Marijuana edibles, particularly those that look like baked goods or candy, present a poisoning risk to children.
- No drug should ever be administered through smoking. Smoking marijuana has a well-documented negative effect on lung function.
- Because marijuana is not regulated by the FDA and the purity and THC content cannot be consistently verified, the risk-benefit cannot be determined.

Missouri Legalization Efforts:

Efforts are underway to both amend the Missouri Constitution and pass Missouri legislation by legalizing marijuana as medicine through the legislative and ballot processes instead of by standard protocols for approval, prescription and dispensing of FDA approved medicines.

Signature collection has begun for ballot petitions to amend the Missouri Constitution. Residents are encouraged to learn about these petitions at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/petitions>.

At the same time, Missouri legislators held a hearing on February 15 on a House bill to license medical cannabis centers, and cultivation and production facilities in the state. The measure drew both support and opposition. Newspaper reports on the hearing are linked below.

Conversations have started taking place in Lee's Summit. On January 22, Lee's Summit state representatives Mike Cierpiot and Rebecca Roeber, Jackson County Sheriff Mike Sharp and two pro-marijuana lobbyists met with area residents to discuss medical marijuana in Missouri.

Jackson County Sheriff Mike Sharp supports marijuana for medical use. His position was reported by KMBZ radio and the Jefferson City, MO *Missouri Times* newspaper. Mr. Sharp is the 1st Vice President of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association.

The Missouri Sheriffs' Association "voted overwhelmingly to oppose any measure, either legislatively or through a ballot initiative, that would make medical or recreational marijuana legal in the state. The vote was taken in August [at] a meeting in Branson," according to the February 3, 2016 Cape Girardeau, MO *Daily Dunklin Democrat* newspaper. A similar article was carried in the Houston, MO *Herald* newspaper.

Learn more at:

American Academy of Pediatrics: https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/state-advocacy/Documents/Medical_Marijuana.pdf

FDA process: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm421168.htm#use>

Augusta (GA) University, Georgia Cannabidiol Study:
<http://www.augusta.edu/research/studies/cannabidiol/faq.php>

http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/medical-marijuana-advocates-shoot-for-november-ballot-in-missouri/article_53d53ee8-39fc-5cdf-9eda-a24a845c88e3.html

http://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/state_news/house-committee-hears-bill-on-legalizing-medicinal-marijuana/article_26023d7e-d451-11e5-97fc-a3d44ef88ab7.html