

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PREVENTION FIRST
Building community capacity to prevent substance abuse

FACT SHEET Illinois Marijuana Law - Quick Facts

Beginning January 1, 2020, people 21 and older will be allowed to buy cannabis legally for recreational use at state-licensed dispensaries in Illinois.

General Facts

- Illinois is the 11th state to legalize recreational marijuana.
- The law is expected to generate revenue that will help crime- and poverty-stricken communities, as well as help fund substance abuse, mental health, and law enforcement services.⁽²⁾
- Though cannabis remains illegal according to federal law, federal law enforcement agencies generally do not prosecute possession of small amounts nor businesses complying with state cannabis programs.⁽²⁾

Who can buy cannabis?

Illinois residents age 21 and older may purchase cannabis products from licensed-sellers, with or without a medical marijuana card. Consumers may possess up to 30 grams (approximately the amount an adult can hold in cupped hands), 5 grams of cannabis concentrate, or 500 milligrams of THC (the chemical that gets users high) in a cannabis-infused product such as edibles, gummies, tinctures, or lotions. (Note: quantities differ for out-of-state visitors and medical marijuana users.)

Who can grow cannabis?

- Initially, 20 existing medical marijuana cultivation facilities will be licensed to grow cannabis.
- In 2020, the state will grant additional licenses to craft growers who apply for a license. Preference will be given to applicants from areas disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.⁽²⁾
- Medical cannabis patients will be able to legally grow up to five plants at a time.

Who can sell cannabis?

- In January 2020, medical marijuana dispensaries will be the only legal sellers of recreational marijuana (there are currently 55 medical licensees in Illinois).
- Beginning in mid-2020, additional licenses will be granted to new retail stores, as well as to other related business, such as processors and transporters.

Who can ban cannabis?

- Individual municipalities and counties may not ban individual possession but may ban cannabis businesses within their boundaries.
- Any landlord, business, or person may prohibit use on private property.
- Colleges and universities may continue to prohibit cannabis use.

Where is consumption* prohibited?

It is legal to use cannabis in one's own home (unless it is used at any time to provide licensed child care or other similar social service care on the premises). Use is prohibited:

- In any public place, like streets, parks, school grounds, etc. (except for medical users)
- In any motor vehicle
- In close physical proximity to someone under the age of 21

*Note that there are separate prohibitions for possession.

Who will handle oversight?

- The Department of Agriculture will be responsible for licensure and oversight of cultivation centers, craft growers, infusers, and transporting organizations, as well as establishing the potency limits and serving size limits, including THC amounts. THC has been associated with harmful effects, such as psychosis.
- The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation will be responsible for licensure and oversight of dispensing organizations.

How will cannabis advertising be restricted?

Marijuana business establishments cannot engage in advertising that:

- Is false or misleading
- Depicts actual consumption
- Depicts a person under 21 consuming marijuana
- Appeals to minors
- Includes the image of a cannabis leaf or bud
- Promotes overconsumption of cannabis or cannabis products
- Makes any health, medicinal or therapeutic claims about cannabis or cannabis-infused products

References:

1. Berg, Austin. "What You Need to Know About Marijuana Legalization in Illinois." www.illinoispolicy.org. 01 Jun. 2019. Web. Retrieved 30 Jul. 2019.
2. McCoppin, Robert. "Here's when marijuana will be available, and answers to other burning questions about recreational weed." *Chicago Tribune*. 25 Jun. 2019. Web. Retrieved 30 Jul. 2019.
3. Illinois.gov. "Adult Use Cannabis Summary." ND. Web. Retrieved 30 Jul. 2019.

Resources for Further Research

- CADCA: Research into Action Webinar Series - Marijuana
<https://www.cadca.org/resources/research-action-webinar-series-marijuana>
- CADCA: What Do We Know About Marijuana E-learning Course
<http://learning.cadca.org/available-courses>
- Illinois Policy: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Illinois' Cannabis Legalization Law
<https://www.illinoispolicy.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-marijuana-legalization-in-illinois/>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): Research Report Series on Marijuana
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana>
- Partnership for Drug Free Kids: How to Talk About Marijuana
<https://drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-about-marijuana>
- SAMSHA: Know the Risks About Marijuana
<https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana>
- Smart Approaches to Marijuana (Illinois)
<http://healthyillinois.org/>
- Smart Approaches to Marijuana
<https://learnaboutsam.org/>