

CCYSA ISSUE BRIEFING

MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN CHANDLER

MARIJUANA & CHANDLER YOUTH

The average age youth in the 85225 zip code try marijuana is **13 years old**.

The drug trends for 85225 continue to be alcohol, **marijuana**, synthetic drugs, and prescription meds.

In 2011, more 85225 youth aged 11-14 were cited for possession of marijuana than any other drug, including alcohol. Marijuana was #2 for 15-17 year olds.

73% of cardholders' list "chronic pain" as their medical condition, but **18- to 30-year-old males make up the largest percentage of cardholders (AZ, Aug. 2013)**

Medical Marijuana in Chandler Dispensaries, accessibility, and youth

BE INFORMED: MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAWS IN ARIZONA

- 2010: Medical marijuana became legal in AZ for treating patients with a "debilitating medical condition."
- Patients must obtain a doctor's recommendation and a state-issued Medical Marijuana ID card to buy and possess marijuana (up to 2.5 oz. every 2 weeks).
- Only licensed dispensaries may legally sell medical marijuana.
- A dispensary may also operate a separate cultivation site for growing and supplying medical marijuana.
- 1 dispensary per CHAA (126 CHAAs in AZ). Chandler is divided into 2 CHAAs, so Chandler can have 2 dispensaries.
- Cities, towns, & counties may enact reasonable zoning regulations that limit use of land for medical marijuana facilities.
- Chandler has enacted its own zoning regulations, including strict separation requirements (see Table 1, reverse).
- Chandler City Council has said minor deviations from separation requirements could be granted if too restrictive.
- Consumption of marijuana is prohibited on Chandler dispensary premises.
- Children under 18 can obtain a Medical Marijuana card with parent's permission.
- An AZ cardholding patient living more than 25 miles away from the nearest dispensary may legally grow up to 12 marijuana plants in their home. These growers are not subject to inspection and are not regulated by the state of AZ. The only requirement is that it be done in an "enclosed, locked facility."

WHY RESTRICT DISPENSARY LOCATIONS?

REDUCE ACCESS

- Reselling/sharing medical marijuana has been commonly reported, even right outside the dispensary.
- Ease of getting a doctor's recommendation allows people to obtain medical marijuana for wrong reasons.
- Unscientific dosage allotments allow people to obtain more marijuana than they need.

- Youth abuse of prescription narcotics is already a huge problem. Abuse of medical marijuana, which is much less controlled and has a much higher demand, will likely be a problem as well. Increased access will inevitably lead to more use among youth.

REDUCE EXPOSURE

- Communities proliferated with dispensaries in other states have seen

rising marijuana use among youth.

- Medical context and advertising makes drug seem healthy and fun, especially to youth.
- Dispensaries can legally sell marijuana-laced candy, lollipops, & gum that are attractive to kids.
- Restriction reduces presence of marijuana in the community and the normalization of its use.

STATUS OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN CHANDLER

- Several neighboring cities have at least 1 dispensary, including Tempe, Mesa, Phoenix & Gilbert
- All of Chandler is within 25 miles of a dispensary, so licenses for personal cultivation of marijuana are not being issued; however, residents who received a license before these dispensaries opened may continue to cultivate until their card expires (good for 1 yr.)
- Chandler has no dispensaries, thanks in part to strong zoning ordinances
- 3 areas meet zoning ordinance requirements: parts of Crossroads Towne Center; Chandler Fashion Center; and parts of Casa Paloma Shopping Center and the Chandler Pavilions. All of these landlords refuse to rent to a dispensary
- As of Aug. 2013, Chandler had 1,400 medical marijuana cardholders

Table 1

Dispensary/cultivation site must be separated from...	By... (feet)
another medical marijuana facility or cultivation site	5,280
public or private day care center	1,320
public or private park	1,320
place of worship	1,320
charter schools, public schools, private schools	1,320
residential zoning district boundary	1,320
public library	1,320
hospitals, public or private	1,320

SUPPORT CHANDLER'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS

- City ordinances protect our community and our youth from access & exposure to marijuana.
- A dispensary that covers Chandler must be responsibly located away from schools, residential areas, parks, and other places that families and children frequently visit.
- CCYSA supports Chandler's strong zoning ordinances and recognizes that medical marijuana dispensaries must be carefully located.
- Chandler lacks needed laws that would prevent a medical marijuana dispensary from advertising or appealing to youth through marijuana-laced candy or sales gimmicks.

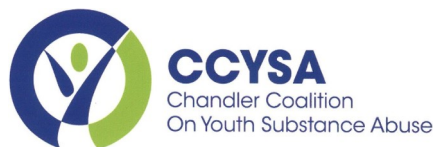
BE THE CHANGE

SUPPORT responsible laws & protect our youth!



MORE INFORMATION

For more information on medical marijuana in Chandler, connect with the following resources:



Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse (CCYSA)

facebook.com/CCYSACHandler

CCYSACHandler.org

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