



Position on the Legalization of Marijuana
May 27, 2015

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County opposes any attempts to legalize, promote, grow and sell marijuana for recreational purposes in the State of Ohio, and will lead and assist in efforts to defeat any actions to legalize marijuana including an Ohio Constitutional Amendment.

This decision is congruent with the Board's efforts to prevent mental illness and addictions and ensure that recovery services are available. The Board believes that the use of marijuana is not benign -- which is consistent with major medical organizations -- as studies clearly outline the physical harm of marijuana including increasing the risk of psychotic disease by five times, and that adolescents are especially vulnerable to its many known adverse effects.

In addition to the physical effects, the Board also believes that there would be ramifications on society, including exacerbating a current problem of employers not being able to hire candidates or retain employees because of failed drug tests, decreased adolescent perceptions of marijuana's harmful effects, and a potential increase of individuals developing addictions to marijuana and other drugs.

The Board also believes that marijuana for medical purposes should be subject to the same research, consideration, and study as any other potential medicine, under the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Approved by the ADAMHS Board of Directors on May 27, 2015, through the passage of Resolution #15-05-02: Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana in the State of Ohio.