

Committee on Public Health Consequences of Changes in the Cannabis Policy Landscape: Committee Meeting 3

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, January 11, 2024, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. ET

Day 2: Friday, January 12, 2024, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. ET

Background:

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on the Public Health Consequences of Changes in the Cannabis Policy Landscape will host public information gathering sessions for the committee's third full meeting. The sessions will feature presentations and panel discussions on social and equity considerations related to cannabis regulatory models and how those models have influenced employment, tax revenues, economic indicators, criminal justice interactions, the unregulated market, and access to prevention and treatment resources for cannabis use disorder.

Objectives:

The committee will learn from experts how cannabis policies at the local, state, and federal levels affect social equity and public health. Key questions that will be covered throughout the meeting are:

- Have cannabis policy reforms benefited social equity?
- How have cannabis policies and entanglements in the criminal justice system impacted people's lives and well-being?
- What policies and programs are implemented to improve social equity in states and localities with legal cannabis?
- How have cannabis policies impacted communities in terms of economics and impacts on the unregulated markets?
- How can we balance or prevent the harms of cannabis use?

Workshop Overview

Day 1 will cover criminal justice, impacts on the unregulated markets, and strategies to improve social equity through cannabis policy reforms.

Day 2 will cover cannabis policies impact on communities and how we can balance or prevent the harms of cannabis use.

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SESSION I WELCOME AND OPENING

11:00 AM [Welcome and Opening Remarks from the Committee Chair](#)
Yasmin Hurd, Committee Vice-Chair

SESSION II Cannabis and Criminal Justice: Have Cannabis Policy Reforms Led to Improvements in Social Equity?

11:10 [Session Introduction](#)
Doug Berman, Committee Member

11:15 [Association between Cannabis Laws and Cannabis Possession Arrest Rates in the US](#)
Yuyan Shi, University of California, San Diego

11:35 [Mandated Drug Treatment in the Aftermath of Recreational Cannabis Legalization](#)
Katharine Harris, Rice University

11:55 [The Impact of Recreational Cannabis Legalization on Racial Disparities in Cannabis Arrests](#)
Dale Willits, Washington State University

12:15 PM [Panel Discussion with Session Presenters](#)

Yuyan Shi
Katharine Harris
Dale Willits

Session moderator Doug Berman will facilitate a discussion between the session speakers and the committee members, which may cover questions such as:

- What is the relationship between cannabis policies and arrests, incarceration, and racial disparities?
- What is the impact of a cannabis offense in a criminal record on employment, housing, access to education, and other areas of life?
- Have patterns of arrests and other criminal justice entanglements changed with cannabis policy reforms?

SESSION III CANNABIS POLICY CHANGES: IMPACTS ON THE ILLICIT MARKET

1:00 [Session Introduction](#)
Beau Kilmer, Committee Member

1:05 [An Economic Perspective on the Impact of Cannabis Legalization on the Illicit Market](#)
Tiffanie Perrault, McGill University

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SESSION IV CONSEQUENCES OF ENTANGLEMENTS WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

1:25 Session Introduction

Nick Zaller, Committee Member

1:30 Ramifications of a Cannabis-Related Criminal Conviction

Jason Ortiz, Last Prisoner Project

1:50 Panel Discussion: Perspectives of Those Impacted by the Justice System

Donte West, Last Prisoner Project

Stephanie Shepard, Last Prisoner Project

Kyle Page, Phasal / Last Prisoner Project

Jason Ortiz

Session moderator Nick Zaller will facilitate a discussion between the panelists and the committee members. Panelists will begin with about 5 minutes of testimony describing their experience with the criminal justice system and how they believe it has impacted their lives. Then, they may answer questions from committee members, such as:

- Can you share how past experiences with the legal system related to cannabis have affected your opportunities in areas like work, housing, or education?
- What support systems or resources helped you overcome any difficulties faced due to past cannabis-related legal involvement?
- In your experience, what could be done to ensure that everyone has equal access to opportunities regardless of past encounters with the legal system surrounding cannabis?

2:35 Break

SESSION V CULTIVATING EQUITY: EMPLOYMENT, TAXATION, AND THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF CANNABIS REGULATION

2:55 Session Introduction

Debra Furr-Holden, Committee Member

3:00 Tax Aspects of Cannabis Policy

Alex Brill, American Enterprise Institute

3:20 Creating Social Equity Through Cannabis Policy

Shaleen Title, Parabola Center for Law and Policy

3:40 Panel Discussion: State Government Strategies for Social Justice in Cannabis Legalization

Damian Fagon, New York Office of Cannabis Management

Eugene Hillsman, California Department of Cannabis Control

Abigail Vivas, Division of Cannabis Regulation, Missouri Department of Health, and Senior Services

Wesley McWhite, Diversity and Inclusion, New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory

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Commission

Erin Johnson, Illinois Cannabis Regulation Oversight Office

Session moderator Debra Furr-Holden will facilitate a discussion between the panelists and the committee members. Panelists will begin with about 5 minutes of testimony describing the social equity program in their state and what challenges they are working to address to achieve social equity through cannabis policy:

- Several programs encourage licenses for groups who have been negatively impacted by cannabis prohibition. Are there strategies that go beyond access to licenses and help members of marginalized communities build a successful business, such as mentorship and access to capital?
- Describe your state's efforts to mitigate corporate dominance in the cannabis industry and promote small businesses. Are there tensions between those programs promoting small businesses and generating state revenue from tax income?
- What can state governments do to ensure that cannabis sales, as well as marketing and advertising, are not targeted toward minority populations? Are there lessons learned from public health efforts in tobacco and alcohol that should be applied to cannabis?

4:25

Panel Discussion: Municipal Government Strategies for Social Justice in Cannabis Legalization

Imani Brown, City of Los Angeles, California

Garland Doyle, National Council on Municipal Cannabis and City of Pontiac, Michigan

Al Romero-Gibu, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Session moderator Debra Furr-Holden will facilitate a discussion between the panelists and the committee members. Panelists will begin with about 5 minutes of testimony describing the social equity program in their city and what challenges they are working to address to achieve social equity through cannabis policy:

- Several programs encourage licenses for groups who have been negatively impacted by cannabis prohibition. Are there strategies that go beyond access to licenses and help members of marginalized communities build a successful business, such as mentorship and access to capital?
- Describe your city's efforts to mitigate corporate dominance in the cannabis industry and promote small businesses. Are there tensions between those programs promoting small businesses and generating local revenue from tax income?
- What can municipal governments do to ensure that cannabis sales, as well as marketing and advertising, are not targeted toward minority populations? Are there lessons learned from public health efforts in tobacco and alcohol that should be applied to cannabis?

5:05

Break

SESSION VI

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

5:25

Public Comment Session

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Moderator: Steve Teutsch (Committee Chair)

Pre-registered individuals will be given up to 3 minutes to comment about the project to the committee.

SESSION VII	CLOSING REMARKS
5:55	Chair’s Reflection and Preview of Workshop Day 2
	Steven Teutsch, Committee Chair
6:00	End DAY 1

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Day 2: Friday, January 12, 2024, 11 a.m. – 4:10 p.m. ET

SESSION VIII WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP SERIES

11:00 AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks from the Committee Vice Chair**
Steve Teutsch, Committee Chair

SESSION IX NAVIGATING CANNABIS POLICY SHIFTS: A DIALOGUE ON COMMUNITY IMPACTS AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

11:10 **Session Introduction**
Donald Vereen, Jr., Committee Member

11:15 **Panel Discussion: Perspectives of Those Impacted by the Harms of Cannabis Policy**

Juli Shamash, Parent, California
Teresa Fiore, Resident, New York
Steve Glassman, Parent, New Jersey

Session moderator Donald Vereen will facilitate a discussion between the panelists and the committee members. Panelists will begin with about 5 minutes of testimony describing their personal experience with the potential harms of cannabis use. The committee will ask questions to allow them to elaborate on their individual stories. Example questions that may be asked include:

- How have recent changes in cannabis policy laws (e.g., legalization, decriminalization) affected your daily life?
- Do you perceive an increase or decrease in stigma surrounding cannabis use or misuse since the policy change? Do you think that may impact one's willingness to seek help?
- In your opinion, what aspects of the current cannabis policy landscape could be modified to better protect public health?

11:45 **Break**

SESSION X PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE EVOLVING CANNABIS POLICY LANDSCAPE: SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

12:00 PM **Session Introduction**
Kelly Young-Wolff, Committee Member

12:05 **A Comprehensive Look at Cannabis Use Disorder**
Deborah Hasin, Columbia University

12:25 **Not Your Grandmother's Weed: Adolescent Cannabis Use & Mental Health Concerns**
Maria Rahmandar, Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Northwestern University

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12:45 **Multi-Level Associations between Changing Cannabis Laws and Cannabis Use Disorder Treatment**
Pia M. Mauro, Columbia University

1:05 **Panel Discussion**
Deborah Hasin
Maria Rahmandar
Pia M. Mauro
Kenneth Finn, Springs Rehabilitation

Session moderator Kelly Young-Wolff will facilitate a discussion between the session speakers and the committee members. To begin the discussion, Ken Finn will have about 5 minutes of opening remarks, then we will follow with discussion. Example questions that may be asked include:

- How can we public health policy help balance the potential risks and benefits of cannabis use?
- What are the most effective public health strategies for preventing or reducing cannabis misuse?
- How can healthcare providers better identify and support individuals struggling with cannabis use disorder?
- What role can public policy play in addressing the challenges associated with cannabis use and mental health?

1:50 **Break**

SESSION XI **STRENGTHENING A HARM REDUCTION APPROACH TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

2:10 **Session Introduction**
Dustin Duncan, Committee Member

2:15 **Harm Reduction Considerations for Marijuana Use and Policy**
Sheila P. Vakharia, Drug Policy Alliance

2:45 **Harm Reduction, Cannabis, and Adolescents**
Renee Johnson, Johns Hopkins University

3:00 **Panel Discussion: How Can Harm Reduction Policies be Used to Protect Vulnerable Populations**

Christopher Williams, Purchase College
Celestina Barbosa-Leiker, Washington State University
Renee Johnson
Sheila Vakharia

Session moderator Dustin Duncan will facilitate a discussion between the panelists and

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the committee members. Each panelist who was not a presenter, will begin with about 5 minutes of opening remarks. The committee will ask questions to allow them to elaborate on their points of view and their research. Example questions that may be asked include:

- How can the general tenets of harm reduction be translated into policies that protect the health of vulnerable populations like adolescents, pregnant persons, the elderly?
- Some may see harm reduction as conflicting with preventing drug use. How can we reconcile these seemingly opposing goals within a harm reduction framework for vulnerable or marginalized populations?
- How can harm reduction principles be adapted for the unique needs and vulnerabilities of adolescents and pregnant persons, considering developmental stages, legal considerations, and potential consequences of drug use?

SESSION XII	CLOSING REMARKS
3:45	Vice Chair’s Reflection
	Yasmin Hurd, Committee Chair
4:00	End DAY 2
