The Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI), a multidisciplinary research center at the University of Washington’s Health Sciences Administration, has been the recipient of the Washington State Dedicated Marijuana Fund for research at the University of Washington (Dedicated Marijuana Fund) since July 2015.

This report presents the activities and products developed by ADAI with support from the Dedicated Marijuana Fund during the 2015-2017 Biennium.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Passage of Initiative 502 (I-502), which legalized the sale of recreational marijuana to adults in Washington State, also called for funds to support prevention, treatment, public health, and public education related to marijuana use and misuse in Washington. The original legislation following the implementation of I-502 also specified that a percentage of excise taxes on the growth, processing, and sale of recreational marijuana be provided to the University of Washington and Washington State University “for research on the short and long-term effects of marijuana use, to include but not be limited to formal and informal methods for estimating and measuring intoxication and impairment, and for the dissemination of such research.”

The University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) was also specifically included in the original I-502 legislation: Funds were earmarked for ADAI “for the creation, maintenance, and timely updating of web-based public education materials providing medically and scientifically accurate information about the health and safety risks posed by marijuana use” and the legislation specified that “In deciding which programs and practices to fund, the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services shall consult, at least annually, with the University of Washington’s Social Development Research Group and the University of Washington’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute.”

Consistent with ADAI’s mission and with the original intent of the I-502 legislation, ADAI chose to utilize the Dedicated Marijuana Funds to support a number of related and synergistic activities:

- Develop and manage a peer-reviewed marijuana small grants program for University investigators, with primary emphasis on the legislatively suggested topics of short and long term consequences of marijuana use and misuse, prevention, treatment, and public health.
- Establish ADAI's Cannabis Workgroup to conduct and publish intramural research, conduct scientific literature reviews, develop research-based fact sheets and policy briefs, and develop collaborative research opportunities with researchers at the University of Washington, Washington State University, state agencies, and other research groups.
- Maintain its dissemination efforts through its marijuana-related website (http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org), workforce training, marijuana-related symposia; public and professional presentations; and distribution of marijuana-related materials and resources at statewide substance-related conferences and through the ADAI Clearinghouse.

The present report provides information about the activities in each of these three general areas that ADAI has facilitated, supported, and conducted during the 2015-2017 Biennium. As will be seen, a considerable amount of significant work has been accomplished during the biennium despite the fact that the level of funding was substantially less than the originally specified six-tenths of one percent of the taxes derived from recreational marijuana sales and the budget proviso that requires that funds be spent within a fiscal year without the possibility of being carried forward.

Dennis M. Donovan, PhD
Director, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute
RESEARCH FUNDING

The ADAI Marijuana Dedicated Fund supported knowledge advancement through both extramural and intramural projects.

In the 2015-2017 biennium, ADAI awarded 8 UW investigators with funds of up to $30,000 each. Projects included studies on the impact of legalization among adolescents, the use of cannabis to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among war veterans in Washington State, and the role of social media on adolescent marijuana use, among others.

Four ADAI intramural research projects produced novel insights through secondary data analysis. The focus of these projects was on marijuana use and the impact of marijuana legalization among at-risk and vulnerable populations. Results from these research projects will be updated as they continue to develop.

UW Extramural Research Projects

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for marijuana research solicited projects across multiple disciplines for studies on the "short and long-term effects of marijuana use and related consequences." The RFP was framed by I-502 and legislative language, including the impact of marijuana use and legalization on public health in Washington State, community norms, and individual and group behaviors.

- Characterizing Cannabis Use in Veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
  Kendall Browne, PhD, et al, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

- Steps Toward a Nation-wide Examination of the Effect of Marijuana-related Legislation on Adolescent Substance Use and Related Risk Factors
  Katarina Guttmannova, PhD, and Charles Fleming, MA, School of Social Work

- Development of a Novel and Translational Model of Binge Ethanol and Tetrahydrocannabinol Intake in Adolescent Rats
  Lauren Kruse, PhD, and Jeremy Clark, PhD, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

- Marijuana Use and Disorders from Adolescence into Young Adulthood: Examining Descriptive Epidemiology and Mental Health Risk Factors in a Community-based Prospective Cohort
  Isaac Rhew, PhD, and Ann Vander Stoep, PhD, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

- Linking Sight and Smell: fMRI Correlates of Marijuana Craving in Adults
  Natalia Kleinhans, PhD, Radiology

- Consumers' Perspectives on the Function of Marijuana in Their Lives
  Robin M. Harwick, PhD, and Tatiana Masters, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute

- Assessing Marijuana Promotions on Social Media: Theory, Health Information and Youth Targeting
  Megan A. Moreno, MD, MSEd, MPH, Pediatrics

- An Investigation of Craving and Cannabis Misuse among Young Adults Using Multiple Levels of Analysis
  Matthew C. Enkema, Psychology and Mary E. Larimer, PhD, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Find detailed descriptions and updates at:
ADAI Intramural Research Projects

This low-cost and expedient internal funding mechanism resulted in meaningful small projects that generated academic publications presenting new data on marijuana use among people receiving HIV care and among mothers in WA State who are at high risk for substance use.

Marijuana Use among High-Risk Mothers in Washington State
Therese M. Grant, PhD, Fetal Alcohol & Drug Unit

Medical Cannabis in HIV-positive Substance Users
Howard Newville, PhD, Center for AIDS Research

Multi-State Examination of Cannabis Use Disorder Rates in HIV Care
Bryan Hartzler, PhD

Comparative Examination of Cannabis Use Disorder as a Risk Factor in HIV Care
Bryan Hartzler, PhD

ADAI Cannabis Workgroup
Beatriz Carlini (Bia), PhD, MPH
Meg Brunner, MLIS
Dennis Donovan, PhD
Sharon Garrett, MPH
Bryan Hartzler, PhD
Susan Stoner, PhD
Nancy Sutherland, MLS
Jason Williams, PhD

Dr. Carlini coordinates the ADAI Cannabis Workgroup, which conducts intramural projects on the long and short term consequences of cannabis use and the public health impact of legalization.


Influencing Policy: Letters & Commentary by ADAI Researchers

ADAI scientists published their views on marijuana legalization in Washington State through editorials, viewpoints and commentaries:

Workforce Training

Legalization brought new challenges to health and social service providers who work with marijuana users. To help train the provider workforce, ADAI produced two science-based online trainings using principles of instructional design and adult learning.

Content was developed following a thorough review of available educational resources for health care providers, and formal and informal assessments of target audiences. *

Medicinal Cannabis and Chronic Pain

Developed for health professionals, this 2-module online training presents current information and clinical practice guidelines on the use of medicinal cannabis for the treatment of chronic pain.

Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Professional Education credits (CME/CPE) are available for physicians, nurses, osteopaths, pharmacists, and physician assistants. The first module is a basic primer on the mechanism of action of medicinal cannabis, its medical uses, and Washington State law. The second module focuses on the best clinical practices associated with the recommendation of medicinal cannabis. This training also provides tools that may be useful to health care providers in their discussion with patients about the use of medicinal cannabis in the treatment of chronic pain.

Originally developed in 2014 through a Cy Pres grant from the WA Attorney General Office, this online training was updated and Continuing Medical Education credits renewed in 2017, using ADAI Marijuana Dedicated Funds. 
http://adai.uw.edu/mcacp/

Cannabis and the Washington State Recovery Help Line

This training was designed for helpline staff and volunteers in Washington to be better equipped to answer caller questions about marijuana use within a legal market. It aims to increase knowledge about state laws, marijuana products, mechanisms of action, and to suggest resources that helpline staff may not yet have in their tool box.

The content of this training was based on an ADAI-funded assessment of helplines’ staff in four states which found that helpline staff and volunteers are empathetic and non-judgmental, but often unable to answer specific questions about marijuana use, or to find resources in the community that would address the needs of people who wanted help with their marijuana use.

* Publications:
INFORMING THE PUBLIC: SCIENCE-BASED EDUCATION
AND DISSEMINATION

I-502 directed $20,000 annually to the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute for the “creation, maintenance, and dissemination of science-based public education materials,” resulting in the website LearnAboutMarijuanaWA.org.

On the website, ADAI publishes Research Briefs, Factsheets, and Resource pages on dozens of marijuana topics; special resource pages are available for parents, teens, adult consumers, Spanish-speakers, and people seeking help for problem use. In June 2016, the site was enhanced to work on mobile devices.

In the 2015-2017 Biennium, the website received 1,665,992 views. It is widely viewed as an authoritative source for information about marijuana, with more than 700 organizations in Washington and other states linking to it.

Research Briefs and Fact Sheets

In the 2015-2017 biennium, ADAI Research Scientists developed 11 research summaries and factsheets on topics that are frequently requested by providers, community groups, students, and professionals. These resources are available on the LearnAboutMarijuanaWA.org website and also distributed by the ADAI Clearinghouse at provider conferences and community events across Washington State.

Treatment Approaches for Adolescents with Cannabis Use Disorders
Screening and Assessment of Cannabis Use Disorders
Marijuana Use by Older Adults
http://LearnAboutMarijuanaWA.org/factsheets/olderadults.htm
Marijuana Use Surveys: Different Methodologies Produce Different Estimates
Marijuana Use: Marijuana Impact in WA State
http://LearnAboutMarijuanaWA.org/factsheets/impactWA.htm
Marijuana Trends in WA State: Interactive Data
https://www.washington.edu/WAdata/marijuana.htm
Marijuana Impaired Driving: Toxicological Testing in Washington State
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2016marijuanadriving_testing.pdf
Marijuana Law and Policy – 2017 Update
http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/policy.htm
Marijuana and Sexual Assault
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mj_sexualassault.pdf
Tobacco and Marijuana
http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/factsheets/tobacco.htm
Vaping Marijuana
http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/factsheets/vaping.htm
Symposium on Legal Marijuana in Washington State

ADAI’s second day-long marijuana symposium in May 2016 featured researchers from the University of Washington, and speakers from the community, with interactive discussion and Q&A sessions. Presentations explored new and persistent questions within the changing landscape of legal marijuana, e.g. new policies, challenges, and opportunities; marijuana and public health; and prevention, brief intervention, and treatment. Nearly 200 researchers, policy makers and staff, treatment providers, and other stakeholders participated.

Video of presentations available to the public: http://adai.uw.edu/mjsymposium/

ADAI Clearinghouse

Supported by ADAI and the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), ADAI Clearinghouse is a resource center serving the residents of Washington State. It provides free materials from federal, state, and community agencies, as well as materials produced by ADAI and its partners, e.g. state agencies such as the Department of Health, and the Liquor and Cannabis Board.

During the 2015-2017 Biennium, 4,500 educational materials were printed using Marijuana Dedicated Funds, contributing to 62,000 marijuana-focused resources (brochures, posters, fact sheets), distributed at 14 community and professional events across Washington. http://adaiclearinghouse.org

COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

ADAI’s work on marijuana involves collaboration with state and national organizations through education, research and community outreach. The products and activities from these partnerships were partially supported by the Dedicated Marijuana Fund and/or funded through other funds and disseminated through channels supported by the Fund. Highlights of these collaborations in the biennium 2015-2017 were:

ADAI and WA Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR, Washington Department of Social & Health Services)

Under a contract with DBHR, the ADAI Cannabis Workgroup reviewed and synthesized the literature on the Effects of Marijuana Use on Mental Health. The result of this partnership is available to clinicians and researchers online:

Marijuana and ADHD
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mjadhd.pdf
Marijuana and Anxiety Disorders
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mjanxiety.pdf
Marijuana and Bipolar Disorders
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mjbipolar.pdf

Marijuana and Depression
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mjdepression.pdf
Marijuana and Psychotic Disorders
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mjpsychosis.pdf
Marijuana and PTSD
http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2017mjptsd.pdf
International Collaboration

International collaboration was largely sponsored by the countries involved. ADAI's role was to share UW expertise, and maximize networking and learning opportunities in Washington state and respective countries.


**France:** Cannalex Project (France). ADAI organized a visit and hosted representatives from the French Monitoring Centre for Drugs & Drug Addiction to discuss marijuana research in Washington, for their comparative analysis of marijuana public policy models. April 2016. [https://en.ofdt.fr/international-projects/](https://en.ofdt.fr/international-projects/)

**Australia:** Wayne Hall, Professor, Director Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research. The University of Queensland, Australia. ADAI hosted and organized Dr. Hall's visit to Washington to learn more about marijuana legalization implementation and outcomes. Dr. Hall delivered talks and was available for consultation and collaboration in projects. June 2016.

**Brazil:** ADAI partnered with the Federal University of São Paulo in translating the online training on Medicinal Cannabis and Chronic Pain to Portuguese. Dr. Carlini was an invited keynote speaker at the 5th International Marijuana Symposium in São Paulo, May 22 2017. [http://www.cebrid.com.br/v-simposio-internacional-maconha-outros-saberes/](http://www.cebrid.com.br/v-simposio-internacional-maconha-outros-saberes/)

Presentations and Attendance at Events

**Scientific Meetings**

- **2016 Addiction Health Services Research Conference.** Dr. Carlini presented. June 2016. Seattle, WA.
- **2017 Institute of Cannabis Research Conference.** Dr. Harwick presented. Colorado State University-Pueblo, April 2017.

**Legislative Committees**


**Community Organization Events**

- “Beyond Brownies and Joints: Product development in times of legalization,” a webinar delivered by Dr. Carlini to the College Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (CCSPAP), November 18th, 2016.
- **2017 National Cannabis Summit.** Ms. Sutherland served on the planning committee.
- “Seniors and Marijuana,” a presentation made by Dr. Stoner for the staff and clients of Sno-Valley Senior Center, April 2017.
Research Projects Funded by External Organizations

Dr. Hartzler is co-investigator with Dr. Walker (School of Social Work, UW) on a National Institute on Drug Abuse-sponsored 5-year study "A Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Trial of a School-Based Teen Marijuana Checkup". The study assesses how the Teen Marijuana Checkup (TMCU), an intervention with documented efficacy under controlled conditions, translates to real-world effectiveness in Washington State public schools for teens who voluntarily seek services for their marijuana use. The TMCU is a brief, school-based motivational enhancement therapy approach that has been systematically evaluated in three randomized controlled trials with reliable beneficial effects in prompting voluntary participation in the intervention and decreasing adolescent marijuana use. 

Dr. Banta-Green collaborated with the Harborview Injury Prevention Research Center in an analysis of Washington State Patrol Data in a study funded by AAA Foundation on “Cannabis Use among Drivers Suspected of Driving Under the Influence or Involved in Collisions.”
https://www.aaafoundation.org/cannabis-use-among-drivers-suspected-driving-under-influence-or-involved-collisions-analysis

LOOKING FORWARD

As the recipient of I-502 funds for the 2017-2019 Biennium, ADAI will continue to promote research through the Marijuana Dedicated Funds Small Grants Program and intramural projects, emphasizing collaboration with state and national organizations.

Research dissemination and training will continue and expand through ADAI's Learn About Marijuana website, the ADAI Clearinghouse, and training events.