

Study Finds Passage of California Cannabis Initiative Will Increase Traffic Deaths

Marijuana May Overtake Alcohol as a Major Contributing Factor in Fatal Crashes

June 2, 2010 - Moraga, CA A recent study by Al Crancer Jr. a retired research analyst for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found that that passage of the upcoming California initiative this November "TC2010" as it is commonly known might triple the amount of traffic deaths of marijuana related deaths on California highways. "No one is looking at the effect of the passage of this initiative on traffic deaths and injury," said Al Crancer, Jr. "Everyone is focusing on the tax revenue benefit to the state of California".

The study showed that the largest increases in fatalities in fatal crashes where the driver tested positive for marijuana occurred over the 5 years following the establishment of the Medical Marijuana Program in January 2004. There were 1240 fatalities in fatal crashes where the driver tested positive for marijuana for the following five years, compared to the 631 fatalities for the five years before for an increase of almost 100%.

Based on data from 2008 there were 8 counties in California with 16% or more of the drivers in fatal crashes testing positive for marijuana and 5 of the 8 counties had 20% or more. Based on this experience, California could see a use rate of 16% to 20%, which would triple the present level of 230 fatalities in 2008. At these levels, marijuana would rival alcohol as the top cause of traffic fatalities in California.

"There is not a law enforcement officer in the state of California that would disagree with the data and the premise that deaths will increase on the streets and highways if the initiative passes", said Crancer.

The California Board of Equalization estimates that a tax income of \$1.4 billion yearly could be expected if "TC2010" passes. "This tax benefit is small compared to the economic loss, if it passes." Crancer added. "From a public health point of view, the passage of "TC2010" might prove to be of epidemic proportions".

About Al Crancer Jr.

Crancer lives in Moraga, Californian today is the principal of Crancer and Associates, a statistical research group that conducts research and analyses in traffic safety. In addition, Mr. Crancer has published numerous research articles that appeared in such journals as Science, Journal of the American Medical Association, and the American Journal of Psychiatry.

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