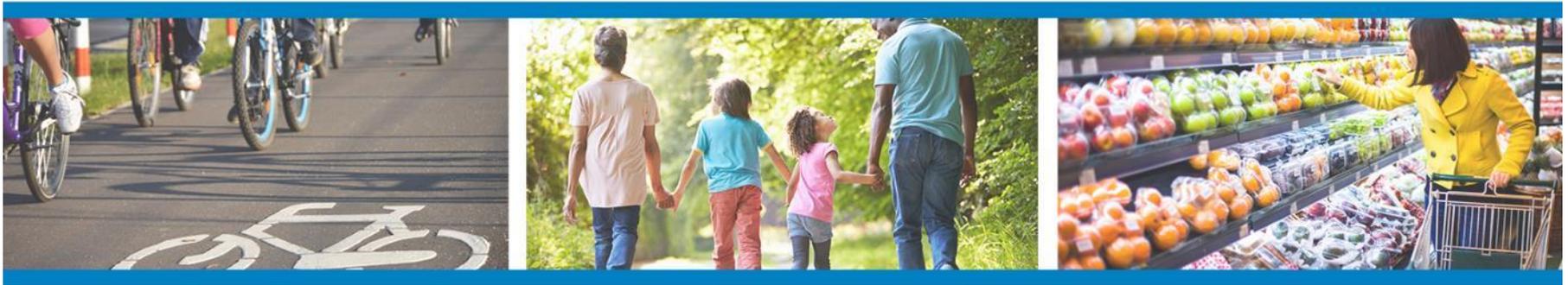


Protecting Public Health and Promoting Equity in Adult-Use Marijuana Legalization in Illinois



A briefing by Elissa Bassler, CEO, Illinois Public Health Institute
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IPHI's Mission



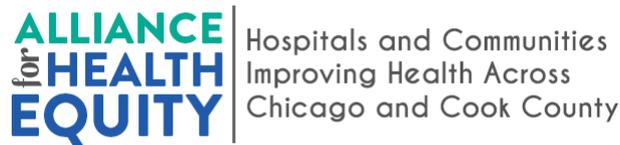
To mobilize stakeholders, catalyze partnerships, and lead action to promote prevention and improve public health systems in order to maximize health, health equity, and quality of life for the people of Illinois





Some of *What We Do* at IPHI

- » Alliance for Health Equity
- » Community Capacity Development
- » Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity
- » Illinois State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program
- » Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH)
- » Chicagoland Master Person Index Planning Initiative
- » Chicago CARES



IPHI Policy Brief

Recommendations for Policy Makers



IPHI does not take a position on legislation



Drew on 'lessons learned' from other states



Referred to the most recent and robust research and data available re: utilization and health impacts



Convened broad group of Illinois stakeholders to build a framework that protects public health and promotes equity

Health and Equity Concerns

- » Extensive research on potential health harms of marijuana use, especially for youth
- » The war on drugs and disparate enforcement and sentencing have had a very negative impact on communities of color





Primary Goals with our Policy Brief

- ✓ Promote equity and public health frame
- ✓ Minimize the health and social harms of marijuana use
- ✓ Maximize social equity through:
 - Criminal justice reform
 - Resource allocation
- ✓ Inform decisions about revenue allocation
- ✓ Insure proper regulatory protections are in place

1. Protect Vulnerable Populations and Minimize Health Harms

Children, youth under 21, pregnant and breastfeeding women, people recovering from addiction, immigrants, and others must be protected

- » Limit marketing (require marketing regs)
- » Limits on product types, at least initially
- » Limit dispensary density (1 per 20,000 or # of licenses)
- » Strong labelling requirements, including warning labels



2. Ensure that Social and Economic Benefits of Legalization Promote Health and Equity

Legalization should reduce the social harms of the historic war on drugs

- » Strong support for sponsors' goals of directing economic benefits of legalization to communities most impacted by the war on drugs
- » Strong support for Governor & sponsors' goals on expungement of records (should be as automatic as possible)



3. Create a Strong Public Health Leadership and Regulatory Scheme, Including Local Control

- » Public health must have a strong leadership role in legalization and implementation; building on the current regulatory framework for medical marijuana is good
- » Local communities must be allowed to adopt regulation that are more stringent than the state law
- » Legalization should avoid creation of a powerful new tobacco-like industry
- » Need a strong public health surveillance and reporting scheme



Opportunities for Local Control

As currently drafted, units of local government may:

- » Enact reasonable **zoning ordinances** or resolutions (but cannot prohibit home cultivation and use)
- » Enact ordinances that **govern the time, place, manner, and number** of cannabis establishment operations, including distance limitations between establishment and locations it deems sensitive
- » Designate a **local regulatory authority** that is responsible for processing applications submitted for a license to operate a cannabis establishment
- » Impose a cannabis **purchaser excise tax** upon purchasers; imposed in 0.25% increments, not to exceed 3%

Opportunities for Local Control



- » Limit time, place, manner in a way as to not appeal to youth
 - » Point-of-sale public education requirements:
 - » Require education in multiple languages
 - » Require additional health and legal risk warning signs/information
 - » Adopt stricter marketing limitations in and around dispensing organizations (???)
 - » Do not allow beverages, flavored combustibles (flavored rolls, inhalables, etc.), candies that are known to attract youth (???)
- » Tax to highest rate possible (deters youth use)
- » Use local revenue for public health and equity interventions

Opportunities for Local Control



- » Set strict density limits:
 - » 1 in 20,000 inhabitants
 - » Limits within 1000 feet of schools, parks, recreation centers, colleges/universities, etc.
 - » Limit # of licenses allowed in county/municipalities
- » Utilize local health departments and other substance use prevention organizations in county to support public education about health risks of cannabis use
- » Track local public health surveillance data on the impact of legalization in your county
- » Consider innovative ways to promote equity in local control



Summary and Conclusion

Local units of government can make a difference!

- » Marketing and density limitations can protect youth and vulnerable populations
- » Strongest public health protections can come from local innovation
- » Local revenues can promote health and equity interventions

Getting it Right From the Start – Model local ordinance (CA): <https://www.gettingitrightfromthestart.org/our-model-ordinances>

Illinois Public Health Institute



Elissa Bassler, CEO

Illinois Public Health Institute

310 S. Peoria Street; Suite 404

Chicago, IL 60607

Elissa.bassler@iphionline.org

312.850-4744 (wk) 773. 316.4929 (cell)

www.iphionline.org