

Marin IJ Readers' Forum for Dec. 20, 2020

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By [Letters to the editor](#) |

December 19, 2020 at 6:52 p.m.

Pot store ban will help protect health of youth

In the Dec. 13 Readers' Forum, "front line cannabis activist" Samuel Janovici urges Sausalito not to rush into opening a cannabis retail storefront. Instead, he suggests Sausalito officials look to Denver for guidance. Having recently returned to Marin after 20 years in Denver, I am compelled to share my experience with cannabis there. It isn't a pretty one, particularly when it comes to youth.

Colorado kids rank No. 1 in the nation for marijuana use. That's no surprise given there are more cannabis shops than Starbucks and McDonald's combined. Decades of research from the alcohol and tobacco industries shows that neighborhood retail outlets are related to higher rates of youth use.

Even more disturbing is the Colorado adolescent use of high potency cannabis concentrates with 60% to 99% THC. Recent Healthy Kids Survey data reveals 53% of Colorado high schoolers using cannabis in the last month "dabbed" these vaporized concentrates. Why are dabs all the rage? Dabbing gives an immediate rush with the intense high of one dab lasting five to seven hours. This isn't the same 3 to 5% THC marijuana of years past. The health effects are more intense as well, addicting youth to daily use more quickly and leading to increasing instances of cannabis-induced psychosis. In 2019, Colorado emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to marijuana exceeded the combined total of all the other illicit drugs.

As to Janovici's suggestion to consult cannabis lobbying groups for legislation advice, didn't we learn about that mistake from Big Tobacco?

Raising a son in Denver's cannabis culture was challenging. I think we have a good thing going sticking with delivery-only services in Marin. Let's prioritize the health and safety of our youth over corporate profit when crafting town cannabis ordinances.

— *Elizabeth O'Donnell, Mill Valley*