

10.4 – Studies of the Health Effects of Marijuana

To protect public health and safety, the Task Force recommends that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) be given statutory responsibility for monitoring the emerging science relevant to the study of health effects associated with marijuana use; **however no additional state funds shall be appropriated for these studies until the regulatory enforcement measures recommended within the report have been fully funded.** This review function would be conducted periodically by a panel of health care professionals with an understanding of cannabinoid physiology, appointed by the State Board of Health. The panel would be required to report to the Board of Health, the Department of Revenue, and the General Assembly every two years.

The panel would be charged with establishing criteria for studies to be reviewed, reviewing studies and other data, and making recommendations, as appropriate, for policies intended to protect consumers of marijuana products and the general public. CDPHE would be authorized to collect Colorado-specific data that reports adverse health events involving marijuana use. Sources of data may include, but not be limited to, the All Payer Claims Database, hospital discharge data, and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys (BRFS). The results of the Panel's work would be made available on the CDPHE website.

An additional 2-3 staff members are projected to be needed at CDPHE to coordinate this effort, support the panel, gather, review, and analyze data, and provide administrative support.