

TITLE: Pesticide Usage in the Oregon Medical and Recreational Cannabis Industry from 2015-2017

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Policy makers at the state and local level who are interested in what types of pesticides are being found marijuana that failed pesticide testing. Industry professionals who are interested in collaborating on future Occupation Safety and Health research projects.

ABSTRACT: In 2014, the voters in the state of Oregon decided to legalize the sale of recreational cannabis. Since that time, Oregon has had to deal with the complexities of regulating an industry that is federally illegal. One of the elements that has proven difficult for Oregon state to navigate is the development and implementation of regulations for pesticide use and testing in cannabis products. It is illegal to use any pesticides on crops that are not explicitly listed on the label of the pesticide. Since no pesticide labels can list cannabis as a crop, because it is federally illegal, Oregon state agencies have had to develop pesticide usage and testing regulations specifically for Oregon cannabis crops. Oregon state agencies developed a list of approved pesticides based on pesticides not having tolerance levels, containing vague usage language, and having not failed pyrolysis tests. Subsequent testing of cannabis products has shown that cannabis growers are applying pesticides that are not approved as well as applying too much or at inappropriate times. Organophosphate, carbamate, and neonicotinoid are just some of the pesticides have all been detected in Oregon cannabis products which illustrates the need to help this new industry navigate the complexities of being legal at the state level and illegal at the federal level. These findings also highlight the need to help educate and work with individuals in the industry to ensure that employees and consumers are not being exposed to pesticides unnecessarily.

OBJECTIVE(S): Compare the different types of pesticides that are being found in failed marijuana batches from medical and recreational growers. Describe the types and concentrations of pesticides being found in the Oregon cannabis industry Discuss ways in which the Oregon State agencies, charged with overseeing the Cannabis industry, can help ensure that they farms know the rules.