

The “Potency” Driven Market A Cannabis Farmer’s Perspective

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Potency & Intoxication

“Potency” or “THC concentration” not linearly correlated with intoxication

Potency: strength of an intoxicant or drug, as measured by the amount needed to produce a certain response

The “response” will be impacted by:

- The tolerance & metabolism of end user.
- The entourage effect:
 - Other phytocannabinoids such as CBD, CBDA, CBN, CBG, THCB,
 - Terpenoids such as limonene, myrcene, a-pinene, linalool, etc.

Cannabis use not independently associated with psychosis

- Cause-and-effect relationship remains unproven.
- Recent study controlling for the effect of multiple relevant co-variables did not find a relationship between cannabis and psychotic experiences.
- Data shows a multi-directional association between cannabis & psychiatric illnesses.
- Those predisposed to psychosis or other disorders may be at higher risk for adverse events.

Additional research needed in regulated markets



Why the Emphasis on THC

- **Lack of consumer education & awareness**
 - Separation between farmer & consumer
 - Quality control, packaging & labeling regulations
 - Absence of universally recognized sustainability certification



Taxing or Limiting Potency Concerns

- Further emphasis on THC as a proxy for quality
- Encourage use of diluents and cutting agents
- Impact on medical patients and consumers
- Lack of standardization and confidence in Washington's laboratories
- Traceability system issues



How to Reduce Emphasis on THC

- **Improving consumer education & awareness**

- Restore farmer & consumer relationship with direct sales
- Modify quality control, packaging & labeling regulations to allow for multiple tests per harvested lot and allow THC & CBD concentration to be reported as a range
- Implement WSDA certified cannabis program established in [ESSB 5131](#) in 2017



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