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## Public Health Action in Addressing the Michigan Medical Marihuana Law

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## **Public Health Action in Addressing the Michigan Medical Marihuana Law**

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In November 2008 a ballot initiative passed which provided for the medicinal use of marihuana for some Michigan residents. Since that time, several consequences have emerged in local communities with a variety of responses from both Townships and Cites. Michigan communities have come to three decisions regarding the Michigan Medical Marihuana Law:

1. Allow open exchange, growing and distribution of marihuana within the parameters of the law,
2. Observe federal drug law which prohibits all marihuana use, or
3. A combination of these two views.

The most public discussions on the Michigan Medical Marihuana law relate to zoning and growing marihuana for medicinal use. However, a large gap exists across Michigan as to how the Michigan Marihuana law affects public health. We will explore what is really happening to Michigan communities as it relates to views and attitudes about marihuana use, community norms surrounding use, public safety, school impact, illegal drug use, drug availability, multi-unit housing and family and community drug education.

This program will provide a brief overview of zoning and the resources that currently exist for cities and townships. However the bulk of the program will provide details about

the actual Michigan Medical Marihuana Law, marihuana use in public and multi-unit housing, medicinal use of Marihuana, the consequences of the Law on Drug addiction and use, School and law enforcement consequences, recommended changes to the Michigan Medical Marihuana Law, discussion on the Michigan Medical Marihuana Law.