

RODNEY ATKINS – "I've Been Watching You, Dad"

Driving through town, just my boy and me

**With a happy meal in his booster seat
Knowing that he couldn't have the toy
Till his nuggets were gone
A green traffic light turned straight to red
I hit my brakes and mumbled under my breath
As fries went a flying and his orange drink covered his
lap
Well, then my four year old said a four letter word
That started with "s," and I was concerned
So I said, "Son, now where did you learn to talk like
that?"**

**He said, "I've been watching you, dad, ain't that cool?
I'm your buckaroo, I wanna be like you
And eat all my food, and grow as tall as you are
We got cowboy boots and camo pants
Yeah, we're just alike, hey, ain't we dad?
I wanna do everything you do
So I've been watching you."**

**We got back home, and I went to the barn
I bowed my head, and I prayed real hard
Said, "Lord, please help me help my stupid self."
Then this side of bedtime later that night
Turning on my son's Scooby Doo night light
He crawled out of bed, and he got down on his knees
He closed his little eyes, folded his little hands
And spoke to God like he was talking to a friend
And I said, "Son, now where'd you learn to pray like that?"**

**He said, "I've been watching you, dad, ain't that cool?
I'm your buckaroo, I wanna be like you**

And eat all my food, and grow as tall as you are
We like fixing things and holding mama's hand
Yeah, we're just alike, hey, ain't we, dad?
I wanna do everything you do
So I've been watching you."

With tears in my eyes, I wrapped him in a hug
Said, "My little bear is growing up."
He said, "But when I'm big, I'll still know what to do."

"'Cause I've been watching you, dad, ain't that cool?
I'm your buckaroo, I wanna be like you
And eat all my food, and grow as tall as you are
Then I'll be as strong as Superman
We'll be just alike, hey, won't we, dad?
When I can do everything you do

'Cause I've been watching you." **Writer/s: Brian White, Rodney Adkins, Steve Dean**

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North Dakota has held a Double Trophy for many years, of which I take no pride. One may be legal, while the other is not!

According to *The American Health Rankings*:

The 2019 Trend for % of adults Excessive Binge Drinking in the last 30 days: North Dakota @24% vs United States @19%

In 2020 Adult Binge Drinking in ND got aced out of the #1 spot. US=18.6%; ND 23.6%; WI=23.9%; District of Columbia =27.2%

The 2020 binge drinking rate among North Dakota teens remains among the highest in the nation. A recent study found 15.6 percent of North Dakota high school students had five or more drinks in one sitting within the past 30 days. The national average for binge drinking was 13.5 percent.

YES, 😊
WE HAVE
CANNABIS

Get chu' some
good good!

Teens May Be More Likely to Use Marijuana After Legalization for Adult Recreational Use. Mallie J. Paschall 510-883-5753 paschall@prev.org

PISCATAWAY, N.J., **Feb. 15, 2021** /PRNewswire/ -- Adolescents who live in California may be more likely to use marijuana since adult recreational marijuana use was legalized in 2016, according to a new report in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

The apparent increase in marijuana use among California adolescents after recreational marijuana legalization for adult use in 2016 is surprising given the steady downward trend in marijuana use during years before legalization," says lead researcher Mallie J. Paschall, Ph.D., senior research scientist at the Prevention Research Center of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Berkeley, Calif.

Paschall and colleagues analyzed data from over three million 7th, 9th, and 11th graders who participated in the California Healthy Kids Survey from 2010-2011 through 2018-2019 school years. The adolescents provided information on their grade, sex, ethnicity, race and lifetime and past-30-day marijuana use.

The researchers observed significant increases in the prevalence of lifetime and past-30-day marijuana use among nearly all demographic groups from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 school years, after legalization of adult recreational use: an 18% increase in the likelihood of lifetime use and a 23% increase in past-30-day use. These numbers may reflect greater use of vaping products, and the overall increase was even more likely among those in demographic groups with historically lower rates of marijuana use.

I was somewhat surprised to see relatively greater increases in the prevalence of marijuana use among younger adolescents (7th graders) relative to 9th and 11th graders, among females versus males, among non-Hispanic versus Hispanic youth, and among Whites versus youth in other racial groups," says Paschall. **"In other words, there were greater increases in marijuana use prevalence after recreational marijuana legalization among youth in 'low-risk' groups, which is concerning."**

Paschall says he can only speculate as to the reason, but that the greater increases in these normally low-risk groups may be attributed to marijuana use becoming more normative due to legalization, along with relatively greater overall declines in marijuana use among youth in historically 'high-risk' groups during the study period.

The study also indicated greater increases in the frequency of past-30-day marijuana use among older adolescents, males, African American and Asian youth who were regular users. There were notable increases in marijuana use frequency among adolescents in 2018-2019, which may reflect national increases in the use of vaping products.

The researchers suggest that recreational marijuana legalization may present increased opportunities for adolescents to obtain marijuana and that the increasing availability of non-smoking products such as edibles may prove appealing as well.

Paschall and his colleagues also write that states and communities that have legalized adult recreational marijuana use and sales could benefit from implementing both stricter controls on the availability of marijuana to adolescents and evidence-based prevention programs

Madam Chair, committee members, please give up your fear of a referendum by a minority of the voters of ND.

I suggest we stand our ground, hold fast to our principles.

Let us, for the sake of our youth, our future,

create a Meadow in the Forest of Recreational Marijuana states that surround us.

Let us create a climate that people will desire, will choose to
relocate their families here. Please be proactive, protective.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR BEST CHOICE TO HB 1420, DO NOT PASS

THANK YOU for your attention and I will stand for any questions.