Open-Air Marijuana Market

**Definition:** a location in an outdoor area with easy access in and out of the location for the sole purpose of purchasing marijuana

**Impact on Community Safety:** these markets represent a chronic disorder disrupting the quality of life and contributing to an environment marked by disorder and increased stress for those living in the community.

**Health Impact:** Can impact levels of physical activity for residents due to concerns of safety arising from the open-air market.

**Impact on Social Support & Social Capital:** Low-income communities exhibit less social cohesion; individuals with less social support are most likely to experience illness and premature death.

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**Two Tiered Strategy Address Open-Air Marijuana Markets**

1. **Restorative Practices Strategy:**
   - Restorative practices involve a circle process that is voluntary and supportive.
   - The focus of the circle is on addressing the impact of the behavior on community members who will participate in the circles.
   - During the pre-circle, dealers will be asked to invite people to the circle who will support them during the circle and in carrying out the agreement that is developed during the circle.
   - Representatives from community agencies will participate in the circle to offer guidance about local resources available to help the dealer get connected to education, training, and job placement opportunities.
   - Two trained facilitators will meet ahead of time with each person who will participate in the circle to let them know what the process is about.

2. **Stay-Away Order:**
   - Not all dealers will be receptive to restorative practices and the community must be protected from those that continue overt marijuana sales.
   - Stay-away orders have been used in numbers of cities both to address drug markets and gang activity.
   - Dealers are ordered by a court to stay away from the area where the offense occurred and can be immediately arrested and held in contempt to court if found in the area.
   - Current issue with utilizing stay-away order: the quasi-legal status of marijuana.

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**Research Questions**

1. Who are the sellers?
2. Who are the customers?
3. What is sold? In what quantities?
4. How much is spent?
5. How much income results for sellers?

**Market Activity:**
1. When is the market active?
2. How is it accessed – routes in cars or on foot?
3. How do transactions occur?
4. How/where is the money kept?

**Perceived Negative Effects:**
1. Who has these perceptions and how strong are they?
2. Is the disorder measurable?
3. How much fear/fear of what?
4. How realistic is the fear – what do objective data show?
5. What and when are neighborhood activities curtailed?
6. How much concern over recruitment? Is it realistic?

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