

# MARIJUANA: MAN-MADE DISASTER

## Gateway to Other Drugs

- Marijuana – a powerful neurotransmitter – works on the same receptor system in the brain as heroin.<sup>2</sup>
- Marijuana primes the brain to seek stronger drugs.<sup>2</sup>
- Marijuana users are more likely than non-users to use heroin and abuse pharmaceutical opioids.<sup>14</sup>



Think Marijuana is harmless? You don't know POT!

## Marijuana and the Brain<sup>13</sup>

- Causes and exacerbates: **Addiction, Depression, Psychosis, Schizophrenia, Hallucinations**
- Psychotic breaks / Violent acts / Anxiety
- Loss of memory, perception, motor skills
- Mental degeneration



## Drugged Driving

- Driving tests show marijuana impairs reaction times, divided-attention tasks, lane-position variability (weaving), peripheral vision, cognitive function & coordination.<sup>1</sup>
- **1 of every 8 traffic fatalities** in Colorado are marijuana related (+32% increase).<sup>10</sup>
- Marijuana driving deaths doubled in one year after legalization in Washington.<sup>11</sup>
- For every 1 marijuana-user death, .7 innocents die (pedestrians, bicyclists, passengers, etc.)<sup>5</sup>
- Combining marijuana with alcohol increases impairment up to 8 times.<sup>1</sup>



## Teen Use/Users

- Increases dramatically wherever marijuana is legalized.<sup>12</sup>
- Causes irreversible IQ loss up to 8 points and higher likelihood of Amotivational Syndrome.<sup>8</sup>
- **1 in 6 teens who try marijuana will become addicted.**<sup>7</sup>
- Heavy Users are less likely to graduate.<sup>9</sup>
- **7x increase in suicide attempts.**<sup>9</sup>
- Big Marijuana's goal – teen users today become lifetime consumers tomorrow.

## Fetal Risk

Marijuana use during pregnancy crosses the placental and blood/brain barrier and increases the baby's susceptibility to:<sup>4</sup>

- Lower birth weight
  - Addiction later in life
  - Birth defects & cancers
  - Problem solving, attention and learning difficulties later in life
- Studies show genetic changes in offspring of heavy users.<sup>6</sup>



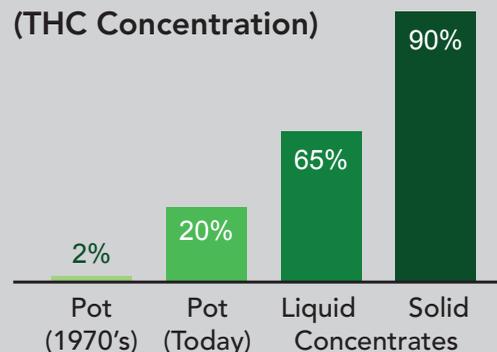
## POTENCY:

Marijuana (a.k.a. Cannabis) today is

**10-40x stronger** than 40 years ago

THC (the mind-altering chemical in marijuana that gets a user high) is a hallucinogenic drug. It is stored in fat tissue and is slowly released back into the blood stream keeping that THC in the body for many days, even weeks after the pot is used. This THC continues to negatively affect memory and emotional processing, organs and bodily systems.<sup>3</sup>

## TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC Concentration)



[www.AALM.info](http://www.AALM.info)

916-708-4111 • 619-990-7480

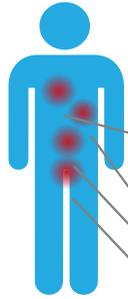
Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana

Email [CarlaDLowe@aol.com](mailto:CarlaDLowe@aol.com) for Print-Ready PDF



Heavy marijuana use is linked to downward social class mobility, anti-social behaviors, and relationship conflict.<sup>7</sup>

Less than 1% of all state prisoners are in jail for simple possession.<sup>17</sup>



## Physical Health Impacts

**LUNGS:** Smoke from marijuana contains 4-5x the toxins, irritants & carcinogens as tobacco smoke; 20 times more ammonia.<sup>9</sup>  
Increases likelihood of **HEART ATTACK**  
**IMMUNE SYSTEM** is weakened  
Negatively impacts **REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM**<sup>6</sup>  
**DEATH RATE** 4x higher than non-users.<sup>13</sup>

## Crime



- **50%** of men and **30%** of women arrested for any crime test positive for marijuana.<sup>4</sup>
- **70%** of inmates are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.<sup>1</sup>
- **Guns** and other weapons are common at both large and home cultivation sites.

## Butane Hash Oil (BHO)

- Increases THC potency to 90+%<sup>11</sup>
- Causes severe "high."
- As dangerous to make and consume as meth.
- Easily causes **explosions and fires** in neighborhoods where it is cooked.
- AKA *dabs, wax, budder, shatter, and solid THC concentrate.*



## Marijuana is Big Money (but not for the community)

- One plant can bring \$2,000 to \$4,000 annually to a grower/distributor.
- **Black Markets still thrive after legalization.**<sup>8</sup>
- Tax revenues from pot sales do NOT cover **increased** crime, health care or addiction services. Revenues are projected to be less than .003% of total CA state tax revenue.<sup>2</sup>
- Cost of law enforcement increases, not decreases with legalization.<sup>16</sup>
- CA already has 50,000 illegal cultivation sites that supply 60% of marijuana to the US.<sup>3</sup>

## Edibles / Vaping

- THC liquid concentrate is used in "Vaping" devices (aka *e-cigarettes*); creates a cancer-causing aerosol with no smell.
- Candy, brownies, soda, gummies, etc. containing THC can be very potent; cookies with 1000mg of THC each are available.
- Vaping and Edibles are **favorite ways for youth to ingest marijuana** (THC).
- Neither THC liquid nor solid concentrates (BHO) are overseen by any regulatory body – no quality controls, no limits on potency, or limits on contaminants (pesticides, herbicides).



## Marijuana is NOT Earth-Friendly<sup>10</sup>

- 1 plant uses 6 gallons of water per day.
- Streams diverted to grow sites kill plants & animals downstream.
- Poisons and illegal fertilizers contaminate streams and forests.<sup>15</sup>
- Carbofuron is illegal but commonly used at grow sites - 1/8 t can kill a 300 lb. bear.<sup>15</sup>



## Is Marijuana really Medicine?

The Federal Food and Drug Administration confirms that whole plant marijuana and THC oils are NOT medicine.

- Components may have medicinal value, i.e. CBD (Cannabidiol)<sup>5</sup>
- To protect the public, the FDA testing and approval process determines drug safety, dosing efficacy, side effects, potency, duration, interactions, etc.
- Pot shop "baristas" who recommend this psychoactive drug make medical conditions worse (e.g. PTSD, pediatric seizures, glaucoma and even pain).<sup>14</sup>

"First, Do No Harm"  
Marijuana is harmful



**14 OPPOSE MARIJUANA USE**  
American Medical Association  
American Cancer Society  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American M.S. Society  
National Eye Institute  
American Lung Association  
and others