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

Marijuana and the Brain¹³
- 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.¹
- 1 of every 8 traffic fatalities in Colorado are marijuana related (+32% increase).¹⁰
- Marijuana driving deaths doubled in one year after legalization in Washington.¹¹
- For every 1 marijuana-user death, .7 innocents die (pedestrians, bicyclists, passengers, etc.)⁵
- Combining marijuana with alcohol increases impairment up to 8 times.¹

Teen Use/Users
- Increases dramatically wherever marijuana is legalized.¹²
- Causes irreversible IQ loss up to 8 points and higher likelihood of Amotivational Syndrome.⁸
- 1 in 6 teens who try marijuana will become addicted.⁷
- Heavy Users are less likely to graduate.⁹
- 7x increase in suicide attempts.⁹
- 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:⁴
- 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.⁶

Heavy marijuana use is linked to downward social class mobility, anti-social behaviors, and relationship conflict.\(^7\)

Less than 1% of all state prisoners are in jail for simple possession.\(^17\)

### Physical Health Impacts

**LUNGS:** Smoke from marijuana contains 4-5x the toxins, irritants & carcinogens as tobacco smoke; 20 times more ammonia.\(^9\)

Increases likelihood of HEART ATTACK

**IMMUNE SYSTEM** is weakened

Negatively impacts REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM\(^6\)

**DEATH RATE** 4x higher than non-users.\(^13\)

### Butane Hash Oil (BHO)

- Increases THC potency to 90+%\(^{11}\)
- 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.**\(^8\)
- 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.\(^2\)
- Cost of law enforcement increases, not decreases with legalization.\(^16\)
- CA already has 50,000 illegal cultivation sites that supply 60% of marijuana to the US.\(^3\)

### Marijuana is NOT Earth-Friendly\(^10\)

- 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.\(^15\)
- Carbofuron is illegal but commonly used at grow sites - 1/8 t can kill a 300 lb. bear.\(^15\)

### 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).

### 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)\(^5\)
- 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).\(^14\)

### Crime

- 50% of men and 30% of women arrested for any crime test positive for marijuana.\(^3\)
- 70% of inmates are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.\(^1\)
- Guns and other weapons are common at both large and home cultivation sites.

### Sources