

What Do We Know About Marijuana?

<http://learning.cadca.org>

Message 1: IQ and Academics

If your community cares about IQ levels and academic performance, it needs to work to reduce marijuana use.

Why?

- Marijuana use, especially during adolescence, lowers IQ by up to 8 points.¹
- The more marijuana a person uses, the more likely they are to have a lower GPA and to drop out of school.²
- Marijuana negatively impacts learning, motivation, and attention.³

¹M.H. Meier, Avshalom Caspi, et al. 2012. "Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

²Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E.. University of Michigan, 2011. *Monitoring the Future Study*

³National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know." 2011. Available: www.nida.nih.gov/marijbroch/parents/001.php

Message 2: Jobs

If your community cares about jobs, it needs to work to reduce marijuana use.

Why?

- Employees who use drugs are 10 times more likely to miss work, 3.6 times more likely to be involved in on-the-job accidents, and 5 times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim.
- Target, Walmart, McDonalds, and many other employers conduct employment drug-testing.
- Alcohol taxes only cover about 6% of alcohol's cost on society.

¹The American Council for Drug Education in New York

²Dupont, Robert M.D., Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (1973-1978), "Why We Should Not Legalize Marijuana." April 2010. Available: www.cnbc.com/id/36267223/Why_We_Should_Not_Legalize_Marijuana

Message 3: Highway Safety



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If you care about highway safety in your state, your community (and state) needs to work to reduce marijuana use.

Why?

- Colorado drivers testing positive for marijuana in fatal car crashes doubled between 2006 and 2010 while all fatal accidents decreased over the same time period.¹
- Since marijuana was legalized in Colorado, 27% of the blood tests for impaired driving showed THC.²
- Driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with a 92% increased risk for crash, and a 110% increased risk for fatal crash.³

¹Colorado Department of Transportation

²Colorado State Toxicology Labs, 2013

³Asbridge, M., Hayden, JA, Cartwright, JL. Acute cannabis consumption and motor vehicle collision risk: systematic review of observational studies and meta-analysis. British Medical Journal, 2012; 344 (ePub): e536. PMID: 22323502.

Message 4: Crime and Safety

If your community cares about crime and public safety, it needs to work to reduce marijuana use.

Why?

- The societal costs (crime, health, safety) of alcohol and tobacco are very high (\$235 billion and \$193 billion). The societal costs of illicit drugs is about \$181 billion. Legalized marijuana would increase use and cost.¹

¹The National Office of Drug Control Policy, 2004. Economic Costs of Drug Abuse in the United States.

Available:

https://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/economic_costs.pdf

Message 5: Drug Use Rates

If your community cares about youth drug use rates, it needs to work to reduce marijuana use.



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Why?

- Children who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than five times as likely to abuse drugs as adults, than those who first use marijuana at age 18.¹
- Since 2009, more 12th graders smoke marijuana than cigarettes.²

¹The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) report. August 23, 2002. Available:

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k2/MJ&dependence/MJdependence.htm>

²Monitoring the Future 2013. Available:

<http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/>

Message 6: Medicine Safety

If your community cares about the safety of medicines in our country, it needs to work to reduce marijuana use.

Why?

- Marijuana-related emergency hospital admission rates have risen sharply, from **16, 251** in 1991 to over **374,000** in 2008.¹
- States with medical marijuana had an increase in marijuana use compared to states without.²

¹ SAMHSA, 2011

² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), State Estimates from the 2008- 2009 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, 2011