

## The Medical Truths behind Marijuana

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To:Linda Lavey <llavey@villageofpinckney.org>

Dear Linda:

I understand that your council has recently debated the expansion of a local marijuana distributor in your very quaint and beautiful village limits. I apologize for not being present at the most recent meeting, but I want to share some facts about the terrible lies we have been sold regarding marijuana.

**I am here to address the straightforward effects of marijuana on our local public health.** I am a board certified physician and surgeon and have been practicing medicine in this area since 1995. My whole career has been dedicated to improving the health of this community and thus, **I feel compelled to speak up regarding the truth about how marijuana use has and will continue to impact the health of our precious youth as well as our respected elders.**

From a 30,000 foot view of what we are debating, we have to step away and examine exactly what we are discussing. **We are debating if a for profit organization that has no vested interest in the health of our community to be able to set up shop and distribute a traditionally illegal and still federally prohibited, addictive substance with known serious negative health effects to a population of mainly young individuals with limited income, underemployed and under-appreciated population.**

As for the truth about marijuana, I would like to use a source we are all well too familiar with and one almost every single municipality, school system and healthcare system relied upon during our most recent pandemic. That is the Center for Disease Control otherwise known as the CDC. **The CDC was formed to provide unbiased, scientific knowledge to the public in order to prevent the spread of a disease. They are otherwise known as "the science"**

**All efforts in selecting the breed, planting, watering, lighting, fertilizing, harvesting and processing are directed to only one goal... increasing the amount of THC.** Traditionally this is about 3% however,

- **The CDC reported that dispensary marijuana THC concentrations were anywhere from 22% to 45% because higher THC = higher profits.**
- **This is not your dad's weed, and one 2024 marijuana joint now equals 50 joints from the Woodstock era.**
- And the worse fact is that the CDC or the FDA have absolutely no mid or long term studies on the effects of this addictive and dangerous drug because

### THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF MARIJUANA

Let's focus on the facts and see what the CDC says about this disease:

- **Brain Health-** Quoted from the CDC web site *"Marijuana use directly affects brain function — specifically the parts of the brain responsible for memory and learning."*
- **What about developing minds?-** *"marijuana use by mothers during pregnancy could be linked to problems with attention, memory, problem-solving and learning."*
- **How about our youth?** *"Using marijuana before age 18 may affect how the brain builds connections for functions like attention, memory, and learning."*
- **How about School Performance?:** *"Youth who use marijuana may not do as well in school and may have trouble remembering things."* This also
- **How about mental health?** *"Marijuana use has also been linked to depression; social anxiety; and thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal thoughts."*
- **How about more serious mental disease?** *"People who use marijuana are more likely to develop temporary psychosis and long-lasting mental health problems."*
- **Let's get serious about some serious diseases such as Cancer, Heart and Lung disease which are the top killers of our population year in and year out.**
  - **Cancer-** Although you more than likely will hear a story about someone's loved one who used marijuana to ease the pain of cancer, this is a rare occurrence.
    - Cancer drug treatment side effects such as nausea and loss of appetite can be treated with legally obtained drugs approved by the FDA
  - **Is there a link between the use of Marijuana and Cancer? - Yes** and it hits you right between the legs *"evidence of an association between marijuana use and cancer."*
- **What about Heart Disease?-** The CDC scientist say *"marijuana leads to increased risk of stroke, heart disease, and other vascular diseases. Marijuana use is also associated with high blood pressure and heart disease."*
- **What about Lung Disease?** After taking a deep breath, the CDC scientists say *"Smoking marijuana can also lead to a greater risk of bronchitis, chronic cough, and lung disease."*

### THE TRUTH ABOUT ADDICTION

The CDC now classifies marijuana officially as a disease known as **Marijuana Use Disorder** appropriately abbreviated as MUD. **Just how addictive is Marijuana?** Well, the CDC says a whopping **3 out of 10** users of marijuana have MUD. We may say that alcohol is just as bad, but the facts say different. **Only 1 in 30 alcohol users will become dependent.**

### JUST TWO MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES: DRIVING AND FURTHER DRUG USE

**What does the CDC say about Driving ? Quote** *"Studies have shown an association between acute marijuana use and car crashes."*

**IN FACT; Someone just hitting his/her vape pipe while driving home from the dispensary is 1.4 times more likely to get into a fatal car accident than someone driving drunk and the risk increases when the two are combined.**

**Now does marijuana prevent opioid deaths such as fentanyl?** Lets see what the CDC says: *"research that examines the impact of medical marijuana policies over a longer period of time indicates marijuana legalization is not associated with decreases in opioid overdose deaths and that prior research findings could be coincidental."*

So, let's summarize what "the science" says about marijuana:

**Fact #1-** The level of THC has been artificially elevated to dangerous, unregulated levels without any short, mid or long term studies on our population.

**Fact #2-** There is NO known medical benefit and only serious health risks in using marijuana

**Fact #3-** Addiction to marijuana is significantly higher than alcohol and it does not prevent opioid overdoses.

**Fact #4-** We, as a community, are at higher risk not only for cancer, heart disease, anxiety, and psychosis while lowering our school performance and endangering drivers.

***In summary, marijuana use only benefits one group. The marijuana industry.***

Finally, if anyone here feels they really need marijuana for your personal health needs, just go to your local licensed and certified health care professional and ask for a script for FDA approved and regulated Marinol or Syndros. It's that simple and we keep the community healthy and safe.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these quick facts about marijuana and I hope and pray that you make the right decision for your community based on facts, not promises. God Bless

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Happy Healing;  
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