

**MYTH
or
FACT**

Marijuana Harmless? Think Again

MarijuanaHarmlessThinkAgain.org

Myth: Our prisons are full of people convicted of simple marijuana possession.

FACT: Less than 1.4% of prisoners are in prison for marijuana drug offense only. Others are criminals guilty of trafficking, growing, manufacturing, selling, or distributing —convicted of multiple offenses that include a marijuana charge. ¹

Myth: Marijuana is not addictive.

FACT:
9% of people who use marijuana will become dependent on it.
17% of those who start using in their teens will become dependent on it.
25-50% of daily users are dependent on it. ²

Myth: Marijuana has never killed anyone.

FACT: News headlines: “Father of dead baby smoked pot next to car;” “Family in marijuana-edibles murder speak out.” Read more at: ³

Myth: Marijuana is less dangerous than alcohol.

FACT: ²

EFFECTS	Alcohol	Marijuana
Impairs judgment	yes	yes
Slows reaction time	yes	yes
Affects motor skills	yes	yes
Increases risk for accidents	yes	yes
Changes behavior and mood	yes	yes
Dependence/addiction	yes	yes

Myth: Legalized marijuana will lower crime.

FACT: Marijuana became legal in Colorado on January 1, 2014. Crime rate in Denver is up for the first six months in 2014 by 6.7% compared to the same time period in 2013. ⁵

Myth: Tax revenue from drug sales will offset increased costs to society.

FACT: Current alcohol tax revenues cover less than 10% of alcohol-related costs which equal 223.5 billion annually in health care, criminal justice and workplace lost productivity. ⁴

Myth: Legalized marijuana will reduce illegal drug trade and cartel activities.

FACT: Black market sales and growing operations, drug cartels and illegal drug trafficking are still exploding problems in Colorado. ⁵

¹ APAAC, Fischer, Daryl, Ph.D, Prisoners in Arizona: A Profile of the Inmate Population, March 4, 2010 and Office of Drug Control Policy “Who Is Really In Prison for Marijuana.” publication www.prisonpolicy.org/scans/whos_in_prison_for_marij.pdf

² NIDA.gov

³ <http://marijuanaharmlessthinkagain.org/true-stories/>

⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/features/alcoholconsumption/>; Taxpolicycenter.org; <http://www.ttb.gov/pdf/budget/2012bib.pdf>

⁵ Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Report: Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado the Impact, Volume 2, August 2014