



Think Pot's No Problem? Think Again!

MYTH

FACT

"Smoking pot makes me smarter. I do so much better when I'm high!"

Marijuana affects short term memory, thinking and concentration. It can make learning and problem solving difficult for days or even weeks. Think about it: If learning isn't captured in the short term it never gets to the long term memory! It's as if it never happened at all!

"Weed's just a plant? How can it be bad if it's natural?"

Poison ivy and anthrax are natural too but you wouldn't smoke them. Would you?

"Smoking pot's better for you than smoking tobacco!"

Marijuana contains 50-70 percent more, not less, cancer causing agents than tobacco, and pot smokers typically inhale more deeply and hold their breath even longer than tobacco smokers do.

"Pot is less harmful than alcohol."

Both marijuana and alcohol harm the body, but differently. Alcohol affects the brain, liver, heart and bones. Marijuana harms the brain, throat, heart, lungs, and both the immune and reproductive systems.

"Marijuana is not addictive."

Research has shown that marijuana is addictive. 65% of teens in drug treatment are there for marijuana dependence.

"Getting caught with weed is no big deal."

Possession of small amounts of marijuana has been decriminalized, but it's still illegal. You won't go to jail but you may have to pay up to \$500 in fines and lose your driver's license for 60 days. Even if you don't yet have your license, you won't be getting it any time soon. Will you risk your keys and your parent's trust?

<p><i>“Smoking pot improves my driving. I know I’m high so I’m even more careful.”</i></p>	<p>Marijuana affects spatial perceptions (how close other cars are to you, for example) and reaction time, severely impairing dealing with the unexpected.</p>
<p><i>“No one’s ever died from smoking pot.”</i></p>	<p>Drivers under the influence of marijuana are twice as likely to get into a fatal car crash. For teen/inexperienced drivers, the risk is even higher.</p>
<p><i>“If doctors can prescribe marijuana it must be good for you.”</i></p>	<p>Marinol, a prescription drug approved by the FDA, is a medicine. Smoked marijuana is not. Smoked marijuana contains more than 400 chemicals and increases multiple risks, including risks to brain and lung health.</p>
<p><i>“Marijuana has medical benefits.”</i></p>	<p>So called “medical marijuana” does not cure disease. It is intended for people with terminal conditions. Think again; Are you on your death bed?</p>
<p><i>“Synthetic marijuana is legal so it must be okay to smoke.”</i></p>	<p>“K2” or “spice” are sold as incense and clearly labeled “not for human consumption.” They have never been tested on humans and side effects include hallucinations, seizures, and even death. Think again: Do you want to spend your life as a lab rat?</p>



P.O. Box 897
Deep River, CT 06417

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