

SB 5 Articles/Recreational Use of Marijuana:



Top 10 Reasons to Legalize and Regulate Cannabis

- 1. A country that values liberty should not be punishing adults for using cannabis.** Cannabis is far safer than alcohol, tobacco, and many medications. In a nation dedicated to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” the government should not be tearing families apart over a plant that is safer than alcohol.
- 2. Prohibition wastes public resources, while legalizing and taxing cannabis brings in much-needed revenue.** An estimate by the Congressional Research Service projected that replacing cannabis prohibition with taxation and regulation could yield \$6.8 billion in excise taxes alone. In Washington State, taxes on cannabis sales brought in \$600 million in 2020.
- 3. Arresting cannabis offenders prevents police from focusing on real crime.** In 2019, the FBI reported 663,367 cannabis arrests and citations — more arrests than for all violent crimes combined. Meanwhile, FBI data showed that police only cleared 33 percent of rapes, 31 percent of robberies, and 14 percent of burglaries by making an arrest. Data published in *Police Quarterly* showed a higher percentage of some crimes were solved after legalization in both Colorado and Washington.
- 4. Prohibition sends an incredible number of Americans through the criminal justice system, ruining countless lives.** According to the FBI, there have been more than 15 million cannabis arrests in the U.S. since 1995. While cannabis consumers who were not convicted have gone on to be president or Supreme Court justice, a criminal conviction can stand in the way of securing a job, getting housing, or receiving a professional license, student loan, food assistance, driver’s license, or firearms permit.
- 5. Cannabis laws are disproportionately enforced.** According to the ACLU, Black individuals are more than 3.5 times as likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white individuals nationwide, despite similar rates of use.
- 6. Replacing prohibition with regulation creates barriers to teens accessing cannabis.** A 2012 survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found 40% of high schoolers reported knowing a student who sells cannabis at school — while under 1% know a peer who sells alcohol. Regulated cannabis businesses check IDs and aren’t allowed to sell to or employ minors.

7. Cannabis prohibition breeds violence. As was the case during alcohol prohibition, driving this lucrative market underground results in violence. Both buyers and sellers are vulnerable to assault.

8. Only regulation allows for control. Prohibition guarantees that cannabis will not be tested for purity and potency, creating the risk of contamination by dangerous pesticides, molds, bacteria, or even lacing.

9. Prohibition is bad for the environment. Illicit cannabis growers sometimes use banned pesticides, divert waterways, and leave hazardous waste in state and national parks. Regulated cannabis businesses are monitored to ensure compliance with zoning and environmental laws.

10. Cannabis is safer than alcohol. Researchers have consistently concluded that cannabis is less toxic than alcohol, it has less potential for addiction, and it is less likely to contribute to serious medical problems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that every year more than 50,000 Americans die from the health impacts of chronic alcohol consumption, with 2,200 additional deaths from acute overdose. Cannabis has not been shown to increase mortality, and there has never been a verified cannabis overdose death in history. It makes no sense for the law to steer consumers to the more dangerous substance.

<https://www.mpp.org/issues/legalization/top-ten-reasons-to-end-marijuana-prohibition/>



Why We Should Not Legalized Marijuana?

There is not enough support to use marijuana or cannabis medically in in the America and across the globe. There has been lots of debating about whether marijuana should be legalized or not. Below are 10 powerful reasons which explain why marijuana should never be legalized.

Why Marijuana Should Not Be Legalized?

Don't know why marijuana is illegal? Here are 10 reasons that will make all your confusion disappear.

1. Damage Your Health

Smoking any substance will have a negative and potentially life-threatening effect on your respiratory health. Marijuana use can affect a person's memory, IQ, judgment, and problem-solving skills. There are many cases, linking the use of marijuana to the increased chance of forming a mental illness, although there is little scientific evidence to prove this. For example, some people who have smoked marijuana

have later been diagnosed with psychosis or schizophrenia. Another notable point is that the strains of cannabis in circulation now are much stronger than they once were.

2. Endanger Public Safety

Marijuana use, like the use of alcohol, can cause impairment in the user. This means if a person is driving whilst under the influence, they may be more prone to having a collision and potentially harming a pedestrian or fellow road user. There is also a chance that marijuana use during work will reduce your ability to perform your job efficiently, which can be potentially dangerous for certain professions, such as pilots, doctors, care providers, etc.

3. Lack of Support for "Medical Marijuana" Claim

There is clear evidence that smoking marijuana is harmful. The FDA, which has the right to approve all prescription medicine, stated on marijuana that "there is currently sound evidence that smoked marijuana is harmful". And there is just no or not enough medical support for using marijuana medically.

4. Jeopardize Young People

Why marijuana should not be legalized? It's because it can harm the young people who are the hope and future of human kind. Marijuana may affect the development of the brain if smoked at a young age. This is not only harming the future of young people, but also the future of our country and the world. If marijuana was legalized, then it would become more easily accessed by younger generations, with fewer stigma attached to its consumption. Like alcohol, the responsibility must lie with the dispensaries and the parents.

5. Marijuana Legalization Will Become the New "Big Tobacco"

Like everything in a corporate world, the legalization of marijuana is bound to be controlled by big, for-profit corporations (similar to the pharmaceutical industry). Much like the claims that big tobacco companies once had, there are fears that these big conglomerates are trying to market their product to younger generations to increase sales and profit and create lifetime cliental, a devious tactic indeed.

6. Use of Marijuana Will Increase After Legalization

Another reason "Why marijuana should not be legalized?" is that legalization may increase its abuse. The most widely used drugs in society are legal ones. Alcohol is perhaps the most common, with cigarettes being a close second, marijuana being the third most widely used recreational drug. The legalization of cannabis will lead to a rise in its use and consumption because it is more accessible. Besides, the price of marijuana is dropping.

7. Marijuana Can Affect Your Sex Life

Smoking can lead to impotence in males, which means those who smoke marijuana have an increased chance of becoming impotent and infertile. Smoking marijuana will also make your breath smell really bad, which will definitely affect your sex life. What's more, there are even studies that link marijuana use with the occurrence of testicular cancer in young men.

8. It Has Been Linked With Dangerous Narcotics

Due to drug laws in America, marijuana, the naturally grown leaves and flowers of the hemp plant, has been listed as a narcotic along with heroin, cocaine, meth and other dangerous substances. Marijuana is often described to be a gateway drug, meaning users who take cannabis are more likely to take harder, more dangerous drugs.

9. Lower Your Quality of Life

Marijuana affects users differently: Some smokers of marijuana find themselves unable to look for work due to lack of motivation; and some fail to carry out normal tasks, such as cleaning the house. This means that they can't support themselves or their families properly.

10. Cost, Not Yield, Tax Dollars

The last reason "Why marijuana should not be legalized?" is about the cost. The consumption of drugs always poses the risk of adding burdens to the public funds. Alcohol alone is believed to cost society fifteen times more than the revenue gained by its taxation. This is due to the increased chance of road accidents whilst intoxicated, as well as treating the physical damage that alcohol does to your body. If cannabis was legalized, it is theorized that the same could be true.

<https://www.newhealthadvisor.org/Why-Marijuana-Should-Not-Be-Legalized.html>