Did You Know- Marijuana

1. Marijuana can cause harmful effects to the brain like schizophrenia and depression.
2. The number of teenage and adult users will increase if marijuana is legalized.
3. There are 16.7 million regular marijuana users; this would increase if marijuana were legal.
4. More people driving on weekend nights were under the influence of marijuana (8.3%) than alcohol (2.2%).
5. A study revealed 28,000 high school seniors admitted to at least one accident after using marijuana.
6. A stoned worker is a safety hazard.
7. Businesses with marijuana-impaired operators take a greater chance of injuries to their workers, their shipments, and the traveling public.
8. Contrary to popular belief, pot is addictive.
9. Increased potency is leading to higher emergency room visits and admissions to drug treatment programs.
10. Marijuana smoke contains 50% to 70% more cancer-causing agents than smoked tobacco.
11. Marijuana samples tested at the University of Mississippi have levels of THC exceeding 30%.
12. In 2011, of emergency room visits, 374,000 people were there because of a primary marijuana problem.
13. Marijuana intoxication is being listed as the cause of death by some medical examiners.
14. Pot is not safe, especially for patients with heart conditions.
15. If I am in the room with someone who is smoking pot, I have no choice but to inhale it.
16. The first 5 years after establishing a “medical” marijuana program, California saw nearly a 100% increase in fatal crashes where the at-fault driver tested positive for marijuana.
17. In Colorado, more than 10% of vehicle fatalities involved a driver that tested positive for pot.
18. Over 130 people were killed in the last 3 years in Colorado from a marijuana impaired driver.
19. Marijuana smoke contains ammonia up to 20 times greater than cigarette smoke.
20. Known cancer causing chemicals contribute to respiratory diseases found in marijuana smoke.
21. Regular cannabis users that start in adolescence strip away their IQ’s.
22. Would you want someone who is high driving you, taking care of you or putting your life in their hands?
23. Marijuana can cause permanent brain injury.
24. Marijuana can cause cancer.
25. Marijuana can change your DNA and your baby’s DNA too.
26. Marijuana can lead to addiction.
27. A heart attack risk is 5 times more than normal in the first hour of smoking marijuana.
28. More children are ending up in the ER departments after unintentionally ingesting pot-laced edibles.
29. Pot deposits 4 times more tar in the lungs than tobacco.
30. “Medical” marijuana will not be available in pharmacies like real medicine, but instead will be sold from “pot shops.”
31. Doctors can’t prescribe “medical” marijuana because it hasn’t been approved by the FDA.
32. The top medical associations in the nation say “NO” to marijuana as medicine, you should too.
33. Pot can cause harm to a developing fetus.
34. Marijuana is a Schedule I labeled drug which means there is currently no accepted medical use and it has a high potential for abuse.
35. Pot smoke has more cancer causing chemicals than cigarette smoke.
36. The dosage for smoked marijuana cannot be regulated, making it is an ineffective medicine with an unhealthy delivery method.
37. Teenagers are at risk for depression, suicidal thoughts and aggression if they smoke marijuana.
38. Marijuana use is linked to mental health problems.
39. 1 in 10 adults and 1 in 6 adolescents who try marijuana will become addicted to it.
40. Marijuana use among Colorado teens is currently the 5th highest in the nation. This is 50% above the national average.
41. Being high on pot increases your risk of having a car accident. Don’t drug and drive!
42. The AMA strongly states that marijuana in smoked form is unsuitable as medicine.
43. Smoking pot can leave you impaired for several days to weeks after the “high” wears off.
44. Residents of states with “medical” marijuana have marijuana abuse dependence rates almost twice as high as states without such laws.
45. Surveys say high school seniors who said they don’t currently use marijuana would try it if it became legal.
46. In states with “medical” marijuana, adolescent marijuana use has increased because of the decreased perception of harm and the easy accessibility.
47. Marijuana is unregulated and contains pesticides, fungi, fertilizers and other harmful contaminants.
48. There were 985 calls to U.S. poison centers for unintentional marijuana exposure in children ages 9 and younger between 2005 and 2011.
49. As more states pass legislation to legalize medical and recreational marijuana, the expected rate of marijuana exposures in young children will continue to increase.
50. The younger a user starts, the longer the negative effects of marijuana last.
51. Legalizing marijuana means your neighborhood will be filled with pot smokers bringing exposure to your children and family.
52. The mind altering chemical found in marijuana is called THC. This amount can vary from low to very high concentrations because there are no regulations.
53. In 2011, 7.8% of Colorado’s high school seniors reported using marijuana 40 or more times per month.
54. Only 5% of medical marijuana users are elderly and less than 10% have cancer or HIV/AIDS.
55. 90% of people registered for medical marijuana are treating “pain.”
56. Medical marijuana in Florida would allow teenagers to get pot without their parents’ consent.
57. There are already a few FDA approved marijuana-derived drugs used to treat symptoms of cancer and multiple sclerosis.
58. The amount of THC, the substance in marijuana that makes you high, has steadily increased over the past decade.
59. Today’s marijuana is not the same as the marijuana smoked at Woodstock in the 70’s; it’s much more potent.
60. Marijuana use is associated with a higher likelihood of dropping out from school.
61. Marijuana use negatively effects motivation, memory, AND learning.
62. Adolescents that heavily use pot while their brains are still developing can have as much as an 8 point decline in their IQ’s.
63. Pot shops will sell marijuana to anyone with a recommendation for something as mild as a headache or back pain.
64. Pot farms on public lands have been linked to wildlife deaths including bobcats, mountain lions, minks & fishers.
65. Marijuana grow sites have been linked to pesticide run-off into the streams and rivers and other negatives effect on the environment.
66. In 2011, Colorado ER data indicated that marijuana-related incidents accounted for 26% of the total emergency room visits.
67. The typical medical marijuana users in CA and CO are 32-year-old white males with a previous drug habit.
68. Marijuana use doubles the chance of stillbirth risk.
Marijuana legalization will create dependency and could open the door to the use of other drugs.

Memory, judgment and perception are all impaired with marijuana use.

California, a national leader in medical marijuana use, saw treatment admission rates for marijuana dependence more than double over the past decade.

Within just a few minutes of using marijuana, a person’s heart rate begins beating more rapidly; this may be fatal for some.

Job performance will suffer with long-term use of marijuana because it robs the user of the skills needed to complete normal duties.

People may experience a withdrawal syndrome when they stop using marijuana which may lead to continued use and eventually addiction.

People who smoke marijuana have some of the same breathing problems as those who smoke tobacco.

The risk of using cocaine or other hard drugs is much greater for those who have tried marijuana.

Marijuana is a plant and there is no way to know how much or exactly what chemicals a person is getting each time they use it (unlike with a pill or shot).

Marijuana food and candy products entice children and are already responsible for a growing number of marijuana-related ER visits.

Several, profitable vending machines containing products such as marijuana brownies are emerging throughout the country, normalizing it to children.

Marijuana contributes to psychosis and schizophrenia.

People are not in prison for small time marijuana use.

25% of all drug-related fatal car accidents in the U.S. involve marijuana.

Drug cartels and the black market sales would continue to function under legalization.

Neither Portugal nor the Netherlands provide successful examples of legalization; the Dutch are even reversing their course.
85. The American Cancer Society does not advocate the use of inhaled marijuana or the legalization of marijuana.
86. American Glaucoma Foundation does not recommend marijuana for the treatment of glaucoma at this time.
88. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) believes that, “any change in the legal status of marijuana, even if limited to adults, could affect the prevalence of use among adolescents.”
89. National Survey on Drug Use and Health reports that almost two-thirds of new drug users reported that marijuana was the first drug they tried.
90. Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug.
91. One in every 15 high school seniors smokes pot daily.
92. If pot is legalized under the guise of medicine in Florida, employers could experience increased law suits over employee “rights” to their medicine.
93. Most high school students that use other drugs have a history of using marijuana, alcohol and tobacco.
95. In 2011, 55 % of CO’s youth had tried marijuana at least once by the time they reached 12th grade.
96. Marijuana dispensaries are not pharmacies they are actually “pot shops” with legal permits.
97. One study found that marijuana users had 85% more injuries at work than non-users.
98. A marijuana “grow house” presents a danger to neighboring homes because of the toxic materials and high volume of electricity used to grow marijuana.
99. “Medical” marijuana dispensary owners will steadily gain from a mega-cash business not regulated by the government.
100. Dispensaries are easy marks for criminal activities because of valuable marijuana crops and large amounts of cash.
101. Marijuana grow operations are criminal enterprises and frequently have links to organized crime.
102. Chemicals used in marijuana grow operations are typically dumped into the surrounding soil, causing unknown contamination.
103. Marijuana is in the same category as heroin, LSD and Ecstasy. Legalizing any of these drugs will not improve society!
104. Among 12- to 17-year-olds in Florida, the mean age of first marijuana use was 13.9 years.
105. Smoked marijuana does not meet the standards of modern medicine. It’s untested, unregulated and unsafe!
106. Treatment and addiction rates would skyrocket with the legalization of “medical marijuana.”
107. Injuries and deaths from impaired driving would increase with the legalization of “medical marijuana.”
108. Accidents, liability and insurance rates for employers would increase with the legalization of “medical marijuana.”
109. Pot shops will be popping up in places in your community like near your child’s school or in your neighborhood if marijuana is legalized.
110. Marijuana cultivation causes environmental damage.
111. Black market sales and diversion would increase with legalization of marijuana as a so-called medicine.
112. Fires at California marijuana grow sites have been confirmed and have caused thousands of acres in damage and millions spent in damage control.
113. A study showed those testing positive for marijuana were absent from work 75 times higher than non-users.
114. Ads promoting marijuana products, such as cookies and candy bars, will be in magazines and newspapers as well as on radio and television if marijuana becomes legal.
115. Colorado media recently reported a marijuana dispensary’s phone ads were soliciting kids.
116. Even though marijuana is a naturally occurring plant, it has the potential to be very harmful just as plants such as belladonna.

117. The claim that smoked marijuana is “medicinal” is a tactic to legalize marijuana for any purpose and to eventually legalize other drugs for personal use.

118. The percentage of Florida youths perceiving no great risk of using marijuana once a month increased from 2008 to 2012.

119. Key receptors in the brain that regulate anxiety have been stimulated by marijuana use, but overuse can end up causing more anxiety in the user.

120. In September 2009, pot smoke was added to the list of “chemicals known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity” by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

121. In the U.S., more teen drivers admit to driving under the influence of marijuana than alcohol.

122. Heavy marijuana users generally report lower life satisfaction, decreased physical health and more relationship problems.

123. Medical marijuana efforts are typically funded by wealthy lawyers who spend millions on advertising rather than doctors and medical associations.

124. Legalizing marijuana will directly affect our economy in a negative manner.

125. Our society could become dumber, lazier and fatter if marijuana were legalized.

126. Marijuana dispensaries are not pharmacies, none of the substances sold are regulated.

127. Medical marijuana can be dispensed for “serious conditions” like athlete’s foot and overall aches and pains.

128. Drug dealing and sales to minors are major problems with marijuana dispensaries or “pot shops.”

129. Vending machines in states where marijuana is legal are stocked with items that look like children’s snack foods!
130. There is no known interaction with marijuana and any other drugs, either over-the-counter or prescription, because it has not been FDA approved. You won’t know the risks until it’s too late!

131. The legalization of marijuana will promote another “Big Tobacco” industry that will not encourage a healthy environment for the future generations.

132. In California, a medi-pot state, more drivers test positive for marijuana than alcohol.

133. Marijuana smoke has significantly more carcinogens than tobacco smoke.

134. A pill containing marijuana’s most active ingredient is available at pharmacies. The known beneficial ingredients are being studied and used but are not recommended in smoking form.

135. Frequent or long term marijuana use may significantly increase a man’s risk of developing the most aggressive type of testicular cancer.

136. Responsible conversations about marijuana need to be had with our children, with our medical community and with our law enforcement officials to reduce the harmful effects of this drug.

137. Marijuana can produce a temporary psychotic reaction like hallucinations and paranoia in some users.

138. Many large studies have consistently showed a link between marijuana use and the later development of psychosis.

139. Pregnant mothers that smoke pot can cause harm to the developing fetus. Consequences for the child may include problems with attention, memory, and problem solving.

140. Marijuana contributes to the risk of injury or death while driving a car because it impairs judgment and coordination.

141. Marijuana users are less likely to keep a stable job.

142. The impairment of smoked marijuana can last up to 24 hours.

143. As with alcohol and cigarettes, there is no “safe” amount of marijuana during pregnancy.

144. The potency of marijuana, as detected in confiscated samples over the past 30+ years, has been steadily increasing.

145. Marijuana use may produce anxiety, fear, distrust, or panic.
146. Don’t be a dope, performance is affected by marijuana use.
147. Marijuana smoke consists of hundreds of toxins that can significantly damage the lungs irreparably and even cause cancer.
148. One study found that extra sick days used by frequent marijuana smokers were often because of respiratory illnesses.
149. Smoking marijuana can expose others to second hand smoke which can cause damaging side effects similar to cigarette smoke.
150. Long-term marijuana use can lead to addiction!
151. Marijuana accounts for 4.5 million of the estimated 7.1 million Americans dependent on or abusing illicit drugs.
152. Marijuana addiction is linked to a withdrawal syndrome similar to that of nicotine withdrawal, which can make it hard to quit.
153. Someone who smokes marijuana daily may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time.
154. Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school.
155. Currently, no medications are available to treat marijuana abuse.
156. Marijuana is the most common illegal drug involved in auto fatalities.
157. Marijuana stores in body fat so regular users always have pot in their systems.
158. Heavy use of marijuana has been linked to decreased fertility in both men and women.
159. Very few high school students use other illegal drugs without first trying marijuana.
160. Someone who is using marijuana is likely to be in contact with other users and sellers of other drugs, increasing the risk of peer pressure.
161. When eating marijuana, the effects take longer to show up, making a potential overdose more likely.
162. Marijuana’s effects on attention and memory make it difficult to learn something new or do complex tasks that require focus and concentration.
163. Teenagers who use marijuana and then have children later on still may pass on harmful effects to their children, even if they stop using during pregnancy.

164. Doctors are not covered by insurance for recommending a non-FDA approved drug like marijuana and could be sued for malpractice.

165. Smoking marijuana has never been proven to treat glaucoma better than other FDA approved medicines, with far less harmful side effects.

166. Naturally grown herbs and plants are not always safe and marijuana is one of them.

167. Marijuana smoking can increase cough, sputum production, airway inflammation, and wheeze.

168. “Medical” marijuana is more about legalizing pot for recreational use more than for the health benefits.

169. Most of the dispensaries operating in California are little more than dope dealers with store fronts.

170. Only FDA approved medications can be prescribed. “Medical marijuana” cannot be prescribed.

171. Smoking or ingesting marijuana damages the immune system.

172. In cases of Multiple Sclerosis, studies show that spasticity is made worse, not better by marijuana use.

173. In states with medical marijuana laws, few users are terminally ill, (less than 10%).

174. Marijuana dispensaries claim to operate as nonprofits, but they have been tied to organized crime gangs and are often multi-million dollar profit center.

175. Animals in their natural habitat are being poisoned by chemical pesticides used in marijuana grows.

176. By the time they graduate high school, about 44% of U.S. teens will have tried marijuana at least once in their lifetime.

177. Today’s teens have come to view marijuana as less dangerous than before which is actually not true; it’s even more potent and addictive than in the past decade.
178. Labeling marijuana as medicine does not make it safe.
179. Even small amounts of alcohol, when combined with marijuana use, can be very dangerous—more so than either one alone.
180. A Columbia University study shows that four out of ten teens say they can get marijuana within a day, the longer it takes the less likely a teen is to use.
181. Because marijuana affects the developing brain, adolescents that use may be limiting their brain function.
182. Brain imaging studies like MRI’s, show consistent alterations in chronic marijuana users.
183. It is unknown if chronic marijuana users could restore lost brain functions and abnormalities caused by the drug if they stopped using. They might have permanent impairment.
184. Within a few minutes of inhaling marijuana smoke, blood pressure and heart rate increase, reducing the blood's capacity to carry oxygen.
185. Smoking marijuana can have increased risks for those that have cardiovascular problems.
186. If you are prone to mental illness, marijuana can cause personality disorders.
187. Marijuana is abused more than pain relievers, cocaine, tranquilizers, hallucinogens, and heroin combined.
188. Sixty percent of teens admitted to drug treatment, cite marijuana as their primary substance of abuse.
189. In 2011, approximately 872,000 Americans 12 or older reported receiving treatment for marijuana use, more than any other illicit drug.
190. The earlier young people start using marijuana, the more likely they will become addicted to marijuana or other drugs later in life.
191. Marijuana cigarettes are more toxic than tobacco cigarettes because the marijuana smoke is not filtered.
192. Marijuana is a gateway drug to harder more dangerous drugs like cocaine and heroin.
193. Marijuana makes you lazy at work and at play.
194. The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) found adolescents who smoke pot are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than their non–pot smoking peers.

195. Depressed teens are twice as likely as normal teens to use marijuana and other illicit drugs.

196. Teens who smoke marijuana at least once a month are three times more likely to have suicidal thoughts than non-users.

197. Memory, speed of thinking, and other cognitive abilities get worse over time with continuous marijuana use.

198. NIDA found that people who smoked marijuana had changes in the blood flow in their brains even after a month of not smoking.

199. Marijuana was involved in 455,668 ER visits, second only to cocaine, in 2011.

200. Babies born to marijuana users tend to weigh less and have smaller heads than other infants, both of which are linked to increased risk of problems with thinking, memory, and behavioral problems in childhood.

201. Heavy marijuana use has been found to contribute to gum disease and poor oral health.

202. Bullous lung disease occurs in marijuana smokers 20 years earlier than tobacco smokers. This is caused by holding a long inhalation followed by a long exhalation.

203. Bladder cancer is a risk for marijuana smokers just like cigarette smokers.

204. Smoking four cannabis joints has the same amount of toxic chemicals as a whole pack of cigarettes.

205. Because marijuana can be contaminated with a range of fungal spores, smoking it increases the risk of respiratory exposure from infectious organisms.

206. Marijuana use narrows arteries in the brain which explains some of the loss of impaired memory and brain function.

207. Adults who were early marijuana users are 5 times more likely to become dependent on any drug, 8 times more likely to use cocaine, and 15 times more likely to use heroin.
208. Healthcare workers, legal counsel, police and judges indicate that marijuana is a typical precursor to methamphetamine.

209. Marijuana use is strongly associated with juvenile crime.

210. Young people who use marijuana are more likely to be arrested for many different crimes.

211. Research on teen crime shows that the instances of physically attacking people, stealing property, and destroying property increase in direct proportion to the frequency with which teens smoke marijuana.

212. Marijuana negatively impacts communities when users commit crimes or cause crashes on the highway.

213. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that marijuana significantly impairs one’s ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

214. Federal marijuana investigations and prosecutions usually involve hundreds of pounds of marijuana. Few defendants are incarcerated in federal prison for simple possession of marijuana.

215. Nearly half (45 percent) of teens say the music they listen to makes marijuana seem cool and almost half (47 percent) agree that movies and television shows make drugs seem like the thing to do.

216. Marijuana harms society by causing lost productivity in the workplace, limiting educational growth, and by contributing to illnesses and injuries that put more strain on the health care system.

217. THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) affects the nerve cells in the part of the brain where memories are formed.

218. Marijuana can be laced with substances such as PCP, formaldehyde, or codeine cough syrup without your knowledge.

219. Marijuana deposits 4 times more tar in the lungs than tobacco.

220. Marijuana joints are un-filtered and often more deeply inhaled than a cigarette which is what makes them more harmful.

221. There are 33 cancer causing chemicals contained in marijuana.

222. A study in Denver, Colorado revealed that 39% of inmates arrested for violent crimes and 34% for domestic crimes tested positive for marijuana.
Marijuana, not alcohol, is the number one reason why adolescents are admitted for substance abuse treatment in the U.S.

Marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug detected in impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims.

Denver now has more marijuana dispensaries than liquor stores or licensed pharmacies.

Driving high is NOT safer than driving drunk! Neither is a safe way to drive!

The reason that smokable marijuana hasn’t been developed as a medication is because its benefits don’t outweigh its harm.

The amount of THC in marijuana determines its strength or potency and ultimately its effects on the body.

The number of Washington State drivers found to be impaired by marijuana use increased 28% from 2008 to 2010.

Drivers who test positive for marijuana or self-report marijuana use are more than twice as likely as other drivers to be involved in motor vehicle crashes.

Scientists continue to investigate safe ways that THC and other marijuana ingredients can be used as medicine.

Marijuana use affects judgment, which can lead to risky behaviors.

Marijuana users who began using in adolescence had substantially reduced connectivity among brain areas responsible for learning and memory.

Smoking marijuana during pregnancy can cause symptoms in babies similar to fetal alcohol syndrome.

Until new regulations come into effect in late 2014, Colorado’s retail marijuana is not required to be tested for contaminants.

Getting high and getting behind the wheel of a car will get you arrested for a DUI – this law hasn’t changed with the legalization of marijuana in some states.

The percentage of marijuana-using 12th-graders living in states with medical marijuana laws say that one of the ways they obtain the drug is through someone else’s medical marijuana prescription. (2013 Monitoring the Future Survey)
238. If a substance has impaired your ability to operate a motor vehicle it is illegal for you to be driving, even if that substance is prescribed or legally acquired such as medical marijuana.
239. While taxing marijuana could generate some revenue, research suggests that the societal costs associated with use of the drug could outweigh any tax benefit gained.
240. The existing black market for marijuana will not simply disappear if the drug is legalized and taxed.
241. It is illegal to consume marijuana on any public roadway.
242. You can literally lose your mind smoking pot!
243. Marijuana is bad for business- employee marijuana use increases absences, tardiness, accidents, workers’ compensation claims and high job turnover.
244. Marijuana use does not make you smarter or more motivated; it zaps IQ-points and makes you lazy!
245. The younger a person uses marijuana, the more at risk they are for both physical and mental harm.
246. Marijuana candy has been passed out in a Colorado middle school with some children unknowingly being exposed to its toxic effects.
247. Kids, Cars and Marijuana-can be a deadly combination!
248. Weekly (or more frequent) marijuana use doubles the risk of developing depression and triples the incidence of suicidal thoughts among youth.
249. You can’t get away from the impacts of marijuana legalization, especially in your own neighborhood, if “pot shops” and “drug dealers” are allowed to do business in front of your children and family.
250. Marijuana use during pregnancy is associated with increased risk of neurobehavioral problems in babies.