

CASA GRANDE ALLIANCE BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING A PROPOSED RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA

- Marijuana, like cigarettes, is addictiveⁱ
- Recent use of marijuana by teens has been on the rise in Arizona since 2007ⁱⁱ
- Marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movementⁱⁱⁱ
- Teens who smoke marijuana regularly can see an 8 point drop in IQ by the time they reach 38 putting a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the IQ range^{iv}
- Marijuana use can lead to poorer academic performance in high school and enrollment gaps in college^v
- Teens who use marijuana heavily are more likely to develop mental illness such as schizophrenia^{vi}
- Marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, impaired coordination, and can cause difficulty with thinking, problem-solving and difficulty with learning and memory^{vii}
- According to the 2012 Arizona Youth Survey,^{viii}
 - 2012 was the first time in Arizona's history that past 30-day use of marijuana by teens surpassed their use of cigarettes; and
 - Marijuana is one of only two substances whose use is on the rise among Arizona teens; and
 - The perception of marijuana's risks by Arizona's youth - both users and non-users of marijuana - is decreasing and their use is increasing
- If non-medical marijuana were legalized an additional 32,000 high school students in Arizona would be more likely to use marijuana.^{ix}

REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

- ⁱ “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.
For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- ⁱⁱ “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012; p. 32.
For quick reference, see “Arizona Youth Survey 2012: Marijuana Data Brief.”
- ⁱⁱⁱ “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.
For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.
- ^{iv} Meier, Madeline H.; Caspi, Avshalom, *et. al.*, “Persistent Cannabis Users Show Neuropsychological Decline From Childhood to Midlife,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 109 no. 40; October 2, 2012.
Calkins, Kathryn, “Early Onset, Regular Cannabis Use Is Linked to IQ Decline,” National Institute on Drug Abuse; August 13, 2013.
Accompanying video presentation by Dr. Madeline Meier, located at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJXnxHYapbE&feature=youtube_gdata.
- “Marijuana’s Lasting Effects on the Brain,” National Institute on Drug Abuse; March 2013.
“Heavy marijuana users have abnormal brain structure and poor memory,” Science Codex; December 6, 2013.
- ^v “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012; p. 58.
“Two New Studies Conclude Marijuana Use Connected to College Failure,” Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America; March 28, 2013.
- ^{vi} “Is there a link between marijuana use and mental illness?” National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.
MacDonald, Ann, “Teens who smoke pot at risk for later schizophrenia, psychosis,” *Harvard Health*; March 7, 2011.
Bergland, Christopher, “Heavy Marijuana Use Alters Teenage Brain Structure,” *Psychology Today*; December 16, 2013.

^{vii} “Research Report Series: Marijuana,” National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; July 2012.

For quick reference, see “Drug Facts: Marijuana”: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse; January 2014, available at:
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.

^{viii} “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.

For quick reference, see “Arizona Youth Survey 2012: Marijuana Data Brief.”

^{ix} This prediction by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is an extrapolation based on the date included in the “Arizona Youth Survey: State Report,” Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2012.