

**Gateway Theory Does Marijuana make you want other substances?** NO! This has been one of the government's foremost excuses...and biggest lies. In each and every report issued on Marijuana since the 1890 Indian Hemp Commission, the Gateway theory has been shown to be false. The latest report to once again prove that is the Institute of Medicine report of 1999. How then does one explain that many junkies first smoked pot? Since Marijuana is illegal, unscrupulous sellers might try to "Bait and switch" new users into trying a chemical drug. Were Marijuana safely and legally available, contacts such as this would be minimal.

One also has to ask: Did they *first* do Marijuana before any other substance? Many first smoked tobacco or drank alcohol. Almost every junkie first drank milk and ate sugar before ingesting illegal substances. Does it sound preposterous that if one drinks milk one will end up doing heroin? Not any more preposterous than to assume smoking Cannabis will cause one to take a needle drug.

The government's evidence on the Gateway theory is anchored in casual observation without taking into consideration other significant factors. So if the government can use casual (Anecdotal) evidence about the Gateway theory, why will they not accept the observed phenomena surrounding the medical use of Marijuana? Hypocrisy comes quickly to mind.

**Addiction** You can not be physically addicted to Marijuana. Period. Just as with many things in life, you can become habituated, or psychologically dependent on Marijuana. The scientific criteria for physical addiction is that a distinct set of withdrawal symptoms occur and that animals will self administer a substance. While deer and rabbits will eat the young shoots of Cannabis, they will not bother the plants once the psychoactive resins start to flow. Withdrawal symptoms such as delerium tremors, cold sweats, convulsions etc. do not occur when Marijuana use is stopped.

The addiction myth is most widely pushed by government agencies who are ignorant of the truth, or by hospitals and "Drug treatment" programs who have vested (Monetary) interests in "Curing" a Marijuana addiction. In truth, Marijuana addiction does not exist.

**Overdose** is not possible with Marijuana. The absolute worst thing that will happen if you smoke too much is that you will fall asleep. The rating of LD 50 means that overdose can only be estimated. In lay terms, you would have to smoke 15 pounds of Marijuana in 15 minutes, or take a pound and a half in a single hit. It is just plain not possible to do that.

**Democracy** It's been nearly 80 years since we've been able to decide what we can put into our own bodies, regardless of whether that substance is good for us or bad for us. We lost this freedom because we as Americans chose to trust our government without question. We didn't see what narrow-minded and foolish men were going to do in the name of protecting us from ourselves.

Prohibitions do not work, especially in a free society. That was proven during the prohibition of alcohol. The results of both alcohol prohibition and Marijuana prohibition is a lot of otherwise law abiding people going to jail, having their property and sometimes their families taken away from them for a peaceful past time. The end result is a great deal of misery; much more misery than was caused by the alcohol or Marijuana.

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**Norml's Policy:**

NORML supports the removal of all penalties for the private possession and responsible use of marijuana by adults, including cultivation for personal use, and casual nonprofit transfers of small amounts.

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Why isn't Marijuana Legal?  
Will pot make you crazy?  
Is Marijuana actually good for you?  
Is Pot safe?  
Can You Die From Marijuana?  
Will I become addicted?  
Will Pot make me lazy?  
Will I go on to do other substances?  
What is "Responsible Use"?  
Should I drive stoned?

## *Responsible Personal Use of Marijuana*



**Can Smoking Pot  
Be A Safe,  
Enjoyable Pastime?  
Here are the facts from  
Indiana NORML.**



# Health Cannabis/Hemp has been the world's healer for several millennia.

The ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Scythians, Chinese, Arabs and others knew well of Hemp's curative powers. In spite of lies from the United States government, Marijuana is one of the healthiest plants we know of. It greatly aids in the relief of, notably, deep bone pain as experienced by arthritics, multiple sclerosis patients and those who have been involved in serious accidents. Marijuana is well known for its help in alleviating nausea and vomiting, the results of chemotherapy in cancer, AIDS and Hepatitis patients. It's known to keep inner ocular pressures in check in glaucoma victims. As of this writing, leading edge science indicates Marijuana, in its pure, natural herbal form may cure some cancers such as cancer of the brain, breast cancer and prostate cancer.

Does Marijuana hurt you? No. While nothing on this Earth is perfect, Marijuana is safer than many of the foods we commonly eat. If you are concerned about smoking, Marijuana may be vaporized, eaten in many foods or drank as a tincture or a tea. Contrary to U.S. government propaganda, Marijuana continues to be considerably safer than many currently prescribed medicines

**for more information, see:**  
[www.inorml.org](http://www.inorml.org); [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org); [www.asa.org](http://www.asa.org)

## Driving

**Indiana NORML urges all persons to exert extreme responsibility. No law can control individual responsibility. NORML TAKES THE POSITION THAT RESPONSIBLE MARIJUANA USERS DO NOT SMOKE AND DRIVE. PERIOD.**

That being said, the body of evidence shows that drivers who have smoked Marijuana tend to be more cautious, even over those who have not smoked or drank anything. Several studies, from the University of Washington (Crancer) study of the late 1970's through various studies in the UK of the late 1990's and early

2000's show motor control, distance judgement and decision making skills are insignificantly different from those of "Straight" drivers, and considerably better than those who have drank alcoholic beverages. According to a study conducted in the Netherlands (G.W. Hobbe) "Stoned" drivers are .6% not as good as "Straight" drivers. This is considered insignificant.

Again, there are people who can not safely drive after they've ingested Marijuana. There are some who shouldn't be driving at all. If you're one of those people, please: ***Don't cause a tragedy, whether you're stoned, drunk, tired, sick or just a lousy driver!***

## Amotivational syndrome. Yes, it does exist, but Marijuana has never been shown to be a cause of it.

In the 1930's, government and industrial "Leaders," fearing competition from Hemp for fuel, paper and the new ideas of "Synthetic" fibers had to come up with reasons to turn Americans against Hemp. Their answer: Claim Marijuana, at that time smoked primarily by African-Americans and Hispanics, made a person lazy, unwilling to work. They came up with the "Amotivational Syndrome." ***NO ACCURATE, INDEPENDENT, SCIENTIFICALLY TESTED, REPLICATED AND PEER-REVIEWED STUDY HAS EVER SHOWN MARIJUANA TO AMOTIVATE ANYONE!*** Yet, the U.S. government still insists that Marijuana smoking makes you lazy. Other factors in life or lifestyle may have an effect. In a society that prevents some people from being allowed to achieve, some people will give up trying. The answer isn't to lock people up for enjoying a natural plant, but to look at the factors in society that make citizens want to give up hope.

Of course, the U.S. government is going to blame anything they can except themselves and their policies for the country's ills.

The most common thread in the body of research seems to indicate cultural factors involved in whether one is "Amotivated." In Jamaica for example, parents have been reported to give Marijuana to their children to increase their motivation for better grades in school.

Because of the cultural effects on motivation, it is very difficult to claim Marijuana causes one to not focus on future goals. The same claim could be made of poverty in the U.S. Why should one worry about the future if the future looks bleak? There is simply not enough valid, scientific evidence after close to 60 years of research to claim Marijuana makes one lazy.

## Potency

The U.S. government claims Marijuana in 2003 is 30 times more potent than the Marijuana smoked in the 1960's. This is untrue. Potency is determined by the genetics found within the seed. ***No strain or species of Cannabis can contain more than 13% of the psychoactive ingredients (Cannabinols).*** Some Marijuana available during the 1960's reached the 13% mark, particularly that grown in southeast Asia and Alaska. Among Marijuana personal users are market definitions: "Commercial" grade is Marijuana that is good, but not as good as possible. "Kind" bud is as good as it gets. The same grades are available now as 40 years ago. The argument is nothing more than a scare tactic. One thing the government failed to consider when they began to use this propaganda: Marijuana smokers tend to smoke only until their desire for a high is reached, then they tend to stop. That means that were 13% Marijuana widely available, chances are less Marijuana would be consumed.

## Dead Brain Cells

This was a study done by Dr. R.G. Heath in the late 1960's and was totally, even by Heath's own admission, false. The study included forcing Rhesus monkeys to breathe Marijuana smoke for 5-7 minutes with no oxygen included. The Marijuana was force-fed through a gas mask and was burned in a closed box. Heath then killed the monkeys and examined the brain cells and found an ample supply of them. What Heath didn't say was that depriving the brain of oxygen for three minutes or longer causes dead brain cells, or that burning anything in an enclosed space will cause carbon monoxide which will kill brain cells. The validation of any study comes from peer review and replication. Replication confirmed only those flaws that ruined the study. No other study has shown any negative effect of Marijuana on the brain.

***In short, just about everything the U.S. government has said about Cannabis Hemp/Marijuana in the last 80 years has been a lie.***