

## Does Marijuana Have a Role for Medicinal or Recreational Use?

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## Objectives

- At the conclusion of this presentation the attending will:
  - Understand the potential medical uses of cannabis.
  - Be able to understand what groups would be considered “high-risk” if they decide to use cannabis.
  - Articulate a Biblically-based response to the possibility of recreational marijuana use.

## Basic Info

- Pot, Weed, Grass, Ganga, Dope, 420, Herb, Blunt, Reefer, Mary Jane, Stinkweed, Doobie

Hemp	SPECIES	Marijuana
Cannabis sativa	Cannabis sativa	Cannabis sativa
0.3 percent	PSYCHOACTIVE CONTENT	10 percent
Auto parts, soap, concrete	USES	Getting high
\$452 million	ESTIMATED DOMESTIC MARKET VALUE	\$10 billion-\$120 billion

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## Effects

- Endogenous cannabinoids neurotransmitters

© Alisa Y. Chan, 2004. Adapted from Scientific American. When marijuana is smoked, its active ingredient, THC, travels throughout the body, including the brain, to produce its many effects. THC attaches to sites called cannabinoid receptors on nerve cells in the brain, affecting the way those cells work. Cannabinoid receptors are abundant in parts of the brain that regulate movement, coordination, learning and memory, higher cognitive functions such as judgment, and pleasure.

## Cannabinoids

A non-psychoactive cannabinoid found in the Cannabis species. Most abundant and widely known cannabinoid in cannabis, THC is the compound responsible for the main psychoactive effects patients are familiar with. Found in lesser quantities in Cannabis, THCV is sometimes referred to as "the diet cannabinoid." Most of the currently being researched for treatment for metabolic diabetes, as well as serving as a potential appetite suppressant. With respect to the medical potential of the cannabis, CBD may hold the most promise for many serious conditions. CBD is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid that is believed to reduce the psychoactive effects of THC. Bears structural similarity to the other natural cannabinoids, including tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabidiol, and cannabivarin, among others. A mildly psychoactive cannabinoid that comes about from the degradation of THC, there is usually very little CBN in a fresh plant.

## Ways to Consume

- Inhalation
  - Smoking
    - Joint or bowl
  - Bong
  - Vaping
  - Dabbing

HOW TO DAB: THREE EASY STEPS  
1. Use a torch to heat the oil until its boiling point.  
2. Use a small amount of extract onto the heated tip.  
3. Place your mouth against the mouthpiece and inhale.

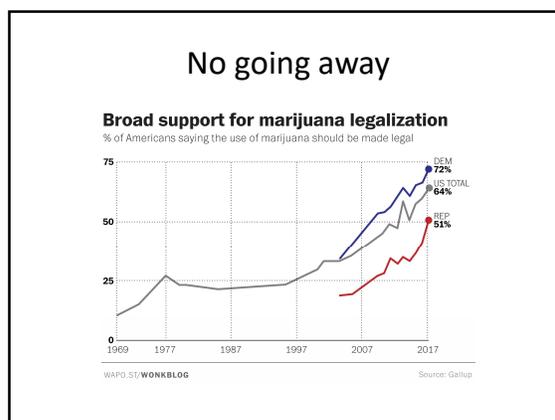
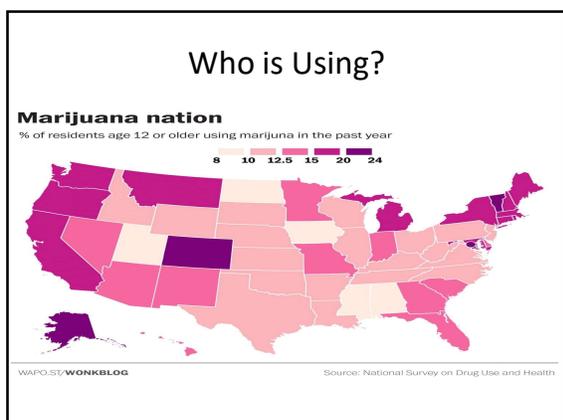
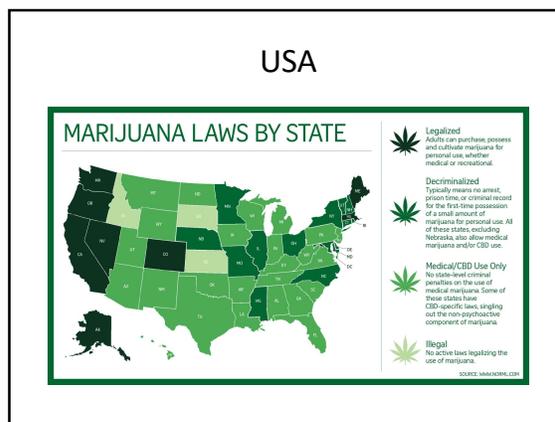
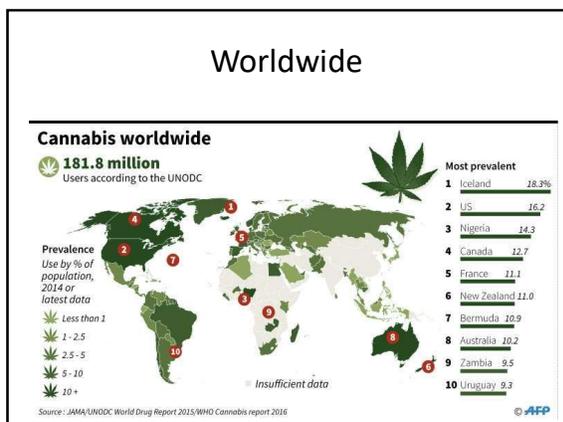
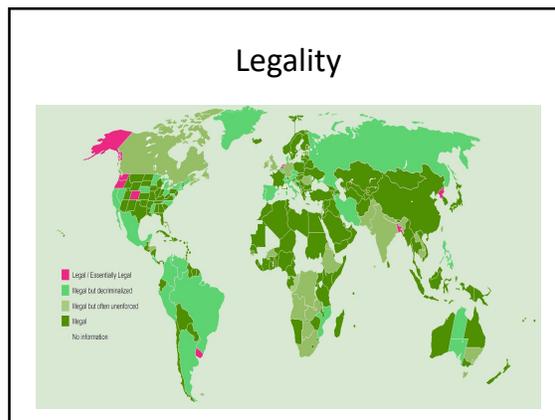
### Ways to Consume

- PO
  - Tinctures
  - Edibles/Oils
  - Beverages
  - Capsules
  - Sprays
- Topical oils

**Guide to Edibles**

Effects from digesting THC may take 30-90 mins.

1/2 g of Herb+  
1 g of Herb+  
3 g of Herb+  
4 g of Herb+



### Scripture

- 2 Peter 1:3-According as His divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hat called us to glory and virtue:
- Isaiah 40:8-The grass withereth...but the word of our God shall stand forever.

### Bible Speaks

- "Thou shalt not smoke a fat doobie."
- The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture.
- Open vs closed handed issues

### GK Chesterton

- What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition and settled upon the organ of conviction, where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. We are on the road to producing a race of men too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table.

### Previous Theology

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
  - Potlucks
- Romans 13-Obey the laws of the land
  - Its now legal

### Today

- Analogical reasoning by Cass Sunstein
  - (1) A has characteristic X
  - (2) B shares that characteristic X
  - (3) A also has characteristic Y
  - (4) Because A and B share characteristic X, we conclude what is not yet known, that B shares characteristic Y as well

### Analogical Reasoning

- A=Intoxication of alcohol
- X=Psychoactive affect
  - Changes in perception, mood, consciousness, cognition, behavior
- B=Intoxication of marijuana
- Y=Disallowed in the Bible

## Sobriety

- Ephesians 5:18-And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
- Galatians 5:21-Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1 Peter 5:8-Be sober, be vigilant...

## Sobriety

- Proverbs 23:20-21-Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh. For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.
- Proverbs 23:29-32-Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.
- 1 Corinthians 5:11-But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that I called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

## Alcohol vs. Marijuana

- 1 Timothy 5:23-Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.
- Ecclesiastes 9:7-Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.
- Psalm 104:14-15-He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and the herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengthened man's heart.

## Jesus



## Slippery Slope?

- Tobacco?
- Gambling?
- Dancing?
- Rated R movies?
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

## Big Picture

- 1 Corinthians 10:31-Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
- Romans 14
  - Weaker brother
  - Respect our consciences
- Exodus 20:3-Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

## Marijuana

- It takes very little marijuana to get high
  - 1-3 hits for “the desired effects”
  - Stays in the system for extended time periods
- Questions of health benefits
- Largely illegal for a reason
- Anecdotal evidence
  - Do not provide sufficient information for policy-making, but to rely on anecdotal evidence is not itself invalid

## Alcohol vs Marijuana

- The only thing that pot does for you-get you buzzed-is the one use prohibited concerning alcohol. When Paul tells us not to be drunk with wine, he did not mean that getting drunk with beer or scotch was acceptable. The problem is not the wine, but rather the loss of self-control. And because such mental impairment is the whole point of smoking pot, recreational marijuana use is a serious sin, from the very first toke on down. **No one smokes pot because it pairs nicely with the fish.**
  - Doug Wilson

## Medical Marijuana



## Common Theme

- We need more information...
- Medical marijuana refers to treating a disease or symptom with the whole unprocessed marijuana plant or its basic extracts.
  - The unprocessed plant and its extracts are not medication, but each may contain substances with medicinal value.
- Dronabinol and nabilone
  - Nausea for chemotherapy
  - Increased appetite caused by AIDS

## THC vs CBD

- THC
  - Psychoactive
- CBD
  - Calming or anti-anxiety effect
- Inverse relationship
- 1960's → THC 1-2%
- 2018 → THC 13%

## “Possible benefits”

- Cancer, glaucoma, HIV, Hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn’s disease, multiple sclerosis, pain, seizures
- Reduce black market
- Free up police force
- Inconsistent legal enforcement
- Raise funds via taxes

## Experts

- American Medical Association
  - Do not endorse “state-based medical cannabis programs, the legalization of marijuana, or that scientific evidence on the therapeutic use of cannabis meets the current standards for a prescription drug product.”
- American Psychiatric Association
  - “There is no current scientific evidence that marijuana is in any way beneficial for the treatment of any psychiatric disorder. In contrast, current evidence supports, at minimum, a strong association of cannabis use with the onset of psychiatric disorders.”
- American Society of Addiction Medicine
  - “Given the uncertain evidence to support the safety and efficacy of cannabis and cannabinoid-products in the treatment of medical conditions, ASAM and a number of other professional medical societies have advised that all cannabis-based medicinal products, like all other medicinal products, should be approved by FDA.”

## Results

- There is conclusive or substantial evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective
  - For the treatment for chronic pain in adults (cannabis)
  - Antiemetics in the treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (oral cannabinoids)
  - For improving patient-reported multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms (oral cannabinoids)

## Results

- There is moderate evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective for
  - Improving short-term sleep outcomes
    - Sleep disturbance associated with obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and multiple sclerosis (cannabinoids, primarily nabiximols)

## Results

- There is limited evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective for:
  - Increasing appetite and decreasing weight loss associated with HIV/AIDS (cannabis and oral cannabinoids)
  - Improving clinician-measured multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms (oral cannabinoids)
  - Improving symptoms of Tourette syndrome (THC capsules)
  - Improving anxiety symptoms, as assessed by a public speaking test, in individuals with social anxiety disorders (cannabidiol)

## Results

- There is limited evidence of a statistical association between cannabinoids and better outcomes (i.e., mortality, disability) after a traumatic brain injury or intracranial hemorrhage

## Results

- There is limited evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are ineffective for
  - Improving symptoms associated with dementia (cannabinoids)
  - Improving intraocular pressure associated with glaucoma (cannabinoids)
  - Reducing depressive symptoms in individuals with chronic pain or multiple sclerosis (nabiximols, dronabinol, and nabilone)

### Results

- Recent cannabis use (within 24 hours) impairs the performance in cognitive domains of learning, memory, and attention
- A limited number of studies suggest that there are impairments in cognitive domains of learning, memory, and attention in individuals who have stopped smoking cannabis

### Results

- Cannabis use during adolescence is related to impairments in subsequent academic achievement & education, employment & income, & social relationships & social roles
- Greater frequency of cannabis use increases the likelihood of developing problem cannabis use
- Initiating cannabis use at a younger age increases the likelihood of developing problem cannabis use

### Man Child Syndrome



### Results

- Cannabis use prior to driving increases the risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident
- In states where cannabis use is legal, there is increased risk of unintentional cannabis overdose injuries among children
- It is unclear whether and how cannabis use is associated with all-cause mortality or with occupational injury

### Results

- Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia & other psychoses
  - The higher the use the greater the risk
- In individuals with schizophrenia and other psychoses, a history of cannabis use may be linked to better performance on learning and memory tasks
- Heavy cannabis users are more likely to report thoughts of suicide than non-users

### Results

- Cannabis use does not appear to increase the likelihood of developing depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder
- For individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorders, near daily cannabis use may be linked to greater symptoms of bipolar disorder than non-users
- Regular cannabis use is likely to increase the risk for developing social anxiety disorder

## Michigan

- Approved conditions
  - Alzheimer's disease
  - Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
  - Wasting syndrome
  - Cancer
  - Chronic pain
  - Crohn's disease
  - Glaucoma
  - HIV or AIDS
  - Hepatitis C
  - Nail patella
  - Nausea
  - PTSD
  - Seizures
  - Severe and persistent muscle spasms

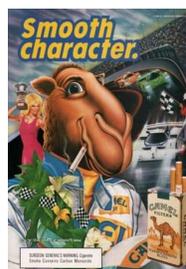
## Michigan

- 12 plants and up to 2.5 oz of marijuana at a time
- 1 ounce of marijuana yields approximately 84 joints
  - 1 joint, at minimum, results in 4 hours of intoxication
  - 84 joints x 4 hours of intoxication each = 336 hours high per ounce of marijuana
  - 336 hours = 14 days of continual high per ounce
- 6 plants
  - According to the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws (NORML), one plant yields between .4 to .54 pounds of marijuana
  - With 16 ounces per pound, that means 6 plants = 38.4 to 51.84 ounces of marijuana
  - 6 plants of marijuana = 538 to 726 days of continual high

## Plants



## My Concerns



## Money

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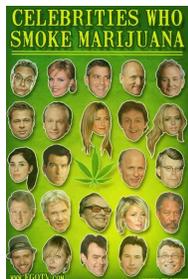
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Physician Statement and Recommendation

## Doctors



“They are doing just fine”



Media



Health

- Use before 25
  - Reduction in IQ (average 8 points)
  - There is substantial evidence of a statistical association between cannabis use and the development of schizophrenia or other psychoses, with the highest risk among the most frequent users
    - Family history
    - Past psychiatric diagnosis
- Gateway drug?
  - Nicotine
  - Alcohol

Cheeseburger vs. Snow shoveling

**BEHEMOTH BURGERS**

-  **Red Robin**  
1,381 cal
-  **Carl's Jr.**  
1,270 cal
-  **Sonic**  
1,240 cal
-  **Burger King**  
1,160 cal
-  **Wendy's**  
1,090 cal
-  **Jack in The Box**  
1,020 cal



Addictive Potential

- 9-30% of users develop some degree of addiction equaling about 3 million people
  - Users <18 are 4-7 times more likely to develop
- Withdrawal symptoms include
  - Irritability
  - Insomnia
  - Anxiety
  - Cravings

Who Is Smoking?

National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Trends in Prevalence of Marijuana/ Hashish for Ages 12 or Older, Ages 12 to 17, Ages 18 to 25, and Ages 26 or Older; 2016 (in percent)

Drug	Time Period	Ages 12 or Older	Ages 12 to 17	Ages 18 to 25	Ages 26 or Older
Marijuana/ Hashish	Lifetime	44.00	14.80	51.80	46.20
	Past Year	13.90	12.00	33.00	11.00
	Past Month	8.90	6.50	20.80	7.20

## Who Is Smoking?

Monitoring the Future Study: Trends in Prevalence of Marijuana/ Hashish for 8th Graders, 10th Graders, and 12th Graders; 2017 (in percent)

Drug	Time Period	8th Graders	10th Graders	12th Graders
Marijuana/ Hashish	Lifetime	13.50	30.70	45.00
	Past Year	10.10	25.50	37.10
	Past Month	5.50	[15.70]	22.90
	Daily	0.80	2.90	5.90

## References

- <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/marijuana>
- Can I Smoke Pot? Marijuana in Light of the Scripture
- Marijuana: The Unbiased Truth about the World's Most Popular Weed
- <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24625/the-health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids-the-current-state>