

# Top 10 Marijuana Legalization Issues\*

## Top 10 Messages Against Legalization

### 1. Marijuana legalization will usher in America's new version of "Big Tobacco."

- x Already, private holding groups and financiers have raised millions of dollars to promote businesses that will sell marijuana and marijuana-related merchandise.
- x Cannabis food and candy is being marketed to children and are already responsible for a growing number of marijuana-related ER visits. Edibles with names such as "Ring Pops" and "Pot Tarts" inspired by common children candy and dessert products
- x Several, profitable vending machines containing products such as marijuana brownies are emerging throughout the country
- x The former head of Strategy for Microsoft has said he wants to "mint more millionaires than Microsoft" with marijuana and that he wants to create the "Starbucks of marijuana."

### 2. Marijuana use will increase under legalization

- x Because they are accessible and available, our legal drugs are used far more than our illegal ones. According to recent surveys, alcohol use is used by 52% of Americans and tobacco is used by 27% of Americans. Marijuana is used by 8% of Americans.
- x When RAND researchers analyzed California's 2010 effort to legalize marijuana, they concluded that the price of the drug could plummet and therefore marijuana consumption could increase

### 3. Marijuana is especially harmful to kids and adolescents.

- x Marijuana contributes to psychosis and schizophrenia for 1 in 6 kids who ever use it once and reduces IQ among those who started smoking before age 18.
- x According to data from the 2012 National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse, alcohol and cigarettes were the most readily accessible substances for youth 12 to 17 with 50% and 44%, respectively, reporting that they could obtain them within a day. Youth use



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<sup>1</sup> Alface, I. (2013, May 27). Children Poisoned by Caking Marijuana Products. Nature World News Retrieved from <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/16/>

<sup>2</sup> Low, R. (2013, 28 May). Laxer marijuana laws linked to increase in kids' accidental poisonings. CBS News Retrieved from [http://www.cbsnews.com/83204\\_16257586408/laxer-marijuana-laws-linked-to-increase-in-kids-accidental-poisonings/](http://www.cbsnews.com/83204_16257586408/laxer-marijuana-laws-linked-to-increase-in-kids-accidental-poisonings/)

<sup>3</sup> Gruley, B. (2013, May 9). Medbox: Dawn of the Marijuana Vending Machine. Bloomberg Businessweek Retrieved from <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-09/medbox-dawn-of-the-marijuana-vending-machine>

<sup>4</sup> Ex-Microsoft exec plans 'Starbucks' of marijuana. (2013, May). United Press International Retrieved from [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2013/05/31/VIDEX-Microsoft-exec-plans-Starbucks-of-marijuana/UP41161369985400/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/05/31/VIDEX-Microsoft-exec-plans-Starbucks-of-marijuana/UP41161369985400/)

<sup>5</sup> NSDUH, Summary of National Findings, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2012SummNatFindDetTables/NationalFindings/NSDUHresults2012.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Kilmer, B., Caulkins, J.P., Pacula, R.L., MacCoun, R.J., & Reuter, P.H. Altered State? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization