

Propaganda versus Science

Alcohol

Cannabis

Propaganda: Addictive & Health-Damaging
Science: Alcohol *can be* addictive and health-damaging but not all individuals who consume alcohol will become addicted and not all consumption will cause negative health outcomes. There are mixed findings surrounding the possible benefits to consuming small, regular amounts of some types of alcohol.

Propaganda: Non-Addictive & Healing
Science: Δ -9 THC has psychoactive effects which can be addictive. There is evidence that many different types of cannabinoids can have health benefits and many studies are being conducted to research specific cannabinoid-related health outcomes. To date, three different forms of cannabinoid-based products are FDA approved for medical use: Epidiolex, Marinol, and Syndros, as well as Cesamet which has a chemical structure similar to THC.

Propaganda: Depressant
Science: Depressant

Propaganda: Anti-Depressant
Science: Hallucinogen. Some cannabinoids are also classified as: Anxiolytic, Anti-Inflammatory, or Antiemetic

Propaganda: Causes cancer
Science: Can cause cancer (specifically to the liver)

Propaganda: Cures cancer
Science: Limited research currently. Studies underway to examine the possible effects of CBD on preventing cancer growth and the effects of Δ -9 THC and other cannabinoids on slowing cancer growth.

Propaganda: 1,000,000 + Annuals Deaths
Science: 1,000,000 + Annual Deaths

Propaganda: Zero deaths. Ever!
Science: In San Diego County (and others where cannabis is legal for recreational use), just beginning to collect data about cannabis' role in causing death. Statistics available only on a county-by-county basis.

Propaganda: Costs (Wastes) billions
Science: Raises billions in tax revenue but costs billions more in health care costs, property damage, regulation (e.g., ABC, ATF, etc.), enforcement (e.g., law enforcement for DUI, underage drinking, etc.) and associated legal costs, and social costs (vocational, familial)

Propaganda: Saves billions! Wastes nothing!
Science: Will likely raise billions in tax revenue but will likely costs billions more in regulation, enforcement (e.g., law enforcement for DUI, underage use, etc.), property damage, and associated legal costs, already costs millions in health care costs and social costs (vocational, familial)

Propaganda: Deaths due to overdose daily
Science: Deaths Due to Alcohol Poisoning and Alcohol-Related Injury/Medical Condition Daily

Propaganda: Overdose is physically impossible!
Science: Cannabis-poisoning physically possible and death due to cannabis poisoning recorded as well as deaths due to cannabis-related injury/medical condition. National statistics currently unavailable.

Propaganda: Destroys brain, liver, & other cells
Science: Continuous or regular exposure over time can cause damage to brain, liver, and other cells. Fetal exposure to alcohol can cause lifelong brain damage and psychological effects.

Propaganda: Protects, grows, & repairs cells!
Science: Continuous or regular exposure over time can cause damage to the brain with associated memory, intelligence, motor-coordination, and negative mood implications. Fetal exposure to cannabis can cause brain damage, stillbirth, and neonatal complications. Some cannabinoids may help to protect, grow, and/or repair cells – research is currently ongoing in this area.

Propaganda: Accidentally flammable
Science: Accidentally flammable

Propaganda: Intentionally combustible
Science: Intentionally combustible (why is this good?)

Propaganda: Toxic
Science: Toxic and can be used to sterilize/clean.

Propaganda: Reparative
Science: Δ -9 THC can be toxic. The reparative possibilities of Δ -9 THC and other cannabinoids currently under investigation.

Propaganda: Hangover & pain
Science: Possible hangover and/or pain after use if dehydration occurs

Propaganda: Restful Sleep
Science: Some cannabinoids have been shown to help with initial insomnia. Research indicates that individuals may develop tolerance to anti-insomnia effects.

Propaganda: Vomiting & nausea
Science: Vomiting and nausea possible when intoxicated or experiencing alcohol poisoning

Propaganda: Laughter & "The Munchies"
Science: Cannabinoids shown to improve appetite and are FDA approved for this purpose. Some individuals experience euphoric state when using Δ -9 THC; but Δ -9 THC intoxication and/or poisoning can also cause psychosis with paranoia or cyclical vomiting syndrome (scomiting)

Propaganda: Causes Domestic/Public violence
Science: Intoxication may cause euphoria, emotional numbing, or exuberance. Intoxication may also cause sadness, depression, or aggression which can lead to relationship, sexual, or physical violence or self-harm

Propaganda: Causes DVD Rentals/Pizza Orders
Science: Intoxication can cause euphoria, decreased anxiety, or calmness. Intoxication may also cause panic, paranoia, psychosis, or agitation. For those who experience anxiolytic effects during inebriation, they often experience rebound anxiety once the effects have worn off.

Propaganda: Legal
California Law: Legal for use in individuals over the age of 21. Illegal for use in individuals under the age of 21. Social Hosting Laws apply. Driving restrictions - .08 BAC considered DUI in adults, zero tolerance in those under the age of 21. Open container laws, public intoxication laws, and ramifications for service industry if they allow an individual known to be intoxicated to drive. FDA regulated, and alcohol by volume must be labeled on all containers for retail sale. Most workplaces have policies and procedures about working while intoxicated on alcohol, and may terminate an employee for alcohol intoxication on the job. Employees may be subject to pre-employment health examinations or random UA screens to determine eligibility for work.

Propaganda: Finally Legal in California!
California Law: Legal for use in CA Residents over the age of 21. Illegal for use in individuals living in CA under the age of 21. Illegal Federally. Social Hosting Laws apply. Driving restrictions – currently an "impairment-based" protocol, if the officer can demonstrate impairment in someone at any age, the person can receive a DUI and all current DMV DUI laws apply as with alcohol. Public intoxication laws. Not-FDA regulated, so no quality assurance or control over dosing or labeling. Many workplaces have zero tolerance drug policies and procedures which include cannabis, and may terminate an employee for intoxication on the job or failing a random drug screen. Employees may be subject to pre-employment health examinations to determine eligibility for work. Cannabis may not be consumed in any fashion in HUD Housing or Veterans Housing, doing so may cause eviction and make the person ineligible for future housing. Smoked cannabis subject to all laws regulating cigarette smoking/vaping (e.g., not in public buildings, in school zones, smoke-free housing/offices, restaurants, etc.).