Marijuana

Jed Magen, DO MS
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Psychiatry
College of Human Medicine
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Michigan State University
No Conflicts of Interest
DON’T LET MICHIGAN MISS THE MARKET.

$1.53 BILLION:
The amount the national legal marijuana market is worth.

$10.2 BILLION:
The estimated amount the national legal marijuana market will be worth in five years.

States and their marijuana laws

- Legal medical and recreational marijuana
- Legal medical marijuana

Responsible consumption by adults shouldn’t be a crime.

migreen.org
"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me."

Hunter S. Thompson
Public discussion about legalization is less informed by what we know than by what people wish and believe

or…..
Neurobiology of substance use and abuse

Why do people take drugs anyway?
Transitions to chronic substance use

• voluntary use in search of a hedonic experience
• loss of control over this behavior
• habitual and compulsive behavior
Rewards! increase dopamine levels in nucleus accumbens
Anything that causes pleasure elevates dopamine levels
Adolescents and Adult Brains are Different
Estimated age-specific risk for first use of selected drugs.
Data from the U.S. National Comorbidity Survey, 1990-92.

Wagner F and Anthony J. From First Drug Use to Drug Dependence: Developmental Periods of Risk for Dependence upon Marijuana, Cocaine, and Alcohol Neuropsychopharmacology (2002) 26 479-488
Response to reward choices

What’s in mariuana anyway?

D9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

cannabidiol (CBD)

and a lot of other stuff....
Does marijuana cause psychosis?

THC = bad
CBD = good, maybe
Potential Medical Uses (Cannabidiol)

• control of some kinds of seizures
• pain relief
Marijuana use:
• probably not risky for periodic adult users
• a problem for any heavy user
• a potential problem for anyone under approximately 20
• a problem for individuals vulnerable to psychosis
• impairment
• gateway drug?