

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MARIJUANA?



You may be asking yourself this question as the State of Alaska asks its citizens to decide in November whether to repeal the current law allowing personal use of marijuana. Here are some facts about marijuana you should know:

- Marijuana has up to 50% more cancer causing "tars" than cigarettes. Frequent use of marijuana is linked to increased risk of lung cancer, bronchitis, and emphysema.
- Marijuana affects learning ability. People who are "high" have trouble paying attention, thinking clearly, and handling complex tasks. Memory is impaired.
- Marijuana users lose their ability to be active and productive. They "tune out" other people and have trouble facing and dealing with problems. Marijuana is especially harmful to young people, affecting their ability to grow into healthy, happy adults.
- Marijuana slows both physical and mental reflexes, making it dangerous to use when operating vehicles or machinery. Marijuana and alcohol are an especially dangerous combination.
- Marijuana is addictive. Frequent users find they cannot stay away from the drug, even when they know it is bad for their health, bad for school and work performance, and bad for relationships with loved ones.

Drug abuse destroys Native communities. Be good to yourself and your loved ones. Don't use drugs. Don't smoke marijuana. And don't kid yourself—personal use usually means personal abuse.