

306-020

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THE TRUTH ABOUT MARIJUANA

Marijuana is defined as a "gateway drug," because it is often the first illegal drug experienced by a young person. The Community Resource Development program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service therefore feels it is essential that parents, teachers, and community leaders be mobilized in the fight to educate potential users about risks of marijuana use.

Almost two million Americans try marijuana for the first time each year. Eighty-four percent are 17 years of age or younger. Marijuana is almost always the first illegal drug a young person ever uses. School authorities report increased usage of marijuana among elementary and middle school children.

Studies have shown that young people who avoid trying marijuana at all before the age of twenty almost never use the drug regularly or go on to other illegal drugs. Therefore, law enforcers can be most effective by targeting their drug awareness efforts to reaching the most vulnerable age groups — elementary and middle school children as well as high school students.

Increasingly, employers are requiring that workers remain drug free not only on the job but at other times as well. It is more important than ever before that young people be made aware of the dangers and consequences of using illegal drugs.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARIJUANA reviews the fact that young people need to be healthy and alert in today's competitive, fast-paced world. They need all of their physical and mental faculties to respond to educational challenges, moral decisions, and the needs of their families and friends. Law enforcers can help them stay straight by giving them the facts about marijuana.



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Suggested Uses:

To provide select audiences with accurate current knowledge of marijuana. To assist in targeting drug awareness programs. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion.

Recommended For:

Community and corporate drug prevention and rehabilitation programs. Substance abuse prevention programs and health classes, in schools, colleges, and universities.
4-H youth programs.

Producers:

Syndistar, Inc.
648 Hickory Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70123
Phone: 1-800-841-9532

DON'T LET YOUR LIFE



GO TO POT!

CONCLUSION

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARIJUANA can help concerned citizens educate their communities about the dangers posed by marijuana to physical and mental health. The police officer can also warn young people about the risks illegal drugs pose to their reputations and their future educational and employment opportunities. The Community Resource Development (CRD) Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, as a part of its crime prevention programming effort, purchased from Syndistar, Inc., and is making available **THE TRUTH ABOUT MARIJUANA**.

Detailed questions concerning any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD programs.



Community Resource
Development

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Community Resource Development

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