

SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana

preventing another big tobacco

Mission & Vision



LCPN supports Smart Approaches to Marijuana. We are professionals working in mental health and public health. We are bipartisan. We are medical doctors, lawmakers, treatment providers, preventionists, teachers, law enforcement officers, parents, and others who seek a middle road between incarceration and legalization. Our commonsense, third-way approach to marijuana policy is based on reputable science and sound principles of public health and safety.

SAM's Mission & Vision

Smart Approaches to Marijuana envisions a society where marijuana policies are aligned with the scientific understanding of marijuana's harms, and the commercialization and normalization of marijuana are no more. Our mission is to educate citizens on the science of marijuana and to promote health-first, smart policies and attitudes that decrease marijuana use and its consequences.

We:

- believe in an approach that neither legalizes, nor demonizes, marijuana.
- we understand that marijuana use and the policies surrounding it are not black and white—such as “incarceration versus legalization”— and require multi-layered solutions based on reputable science and sound principles of public health and safety.
- champion smart policies that decrease marijuana use — and do not harm marijuana users and low-level dealers with arrest records that stigmatize them for life and in ways that make it even harder for them to break free from cycles of substance dependence.

How is SAM organized?

SAM is an alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to a health-first approach to marijuana policy.

Four Pillars Approach

1. To inform public policy with the science of today's marijuana
2. To have honest conversation about reducing the unintended consequences of current marijuana policies, such as lifelong stigma due to arrest
 - Possession of small amounts of marijuana should be civil offenses with referrals to treatment and social services if needed
 - Fair and proportionate penalties for production, distribution, dealing and sales of marijuana
 - Keeping roadways safe for drivers – any traces found in someone's system results in misdemeanor (no level of marijuana impairment has been determined)
 - Increased education and prevention
 - Increase Brief Interventions and treatment
3. To prevent the establishment of big marijuana that would market marijuana to children-and to prevent big tobacco from takin over big marijuana
4. To promote research of marijuana's medical properties and produce pharmacy-attainable medications

Four Pillars Approach

1. To inform public policy with the science of today's marijuana
 - Marijuana use directly affects the brain- specifically the parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning, attention and reaction time
 - Science confirms that the adolescent brain is not fully developed until the early to mid20's. Developing brains are especially susceptible to all of the negative effects of marijuana and other drug use.
 - Particularly the part of the brain that regulates planning for complex cognitive behavior, personality expression, behavior and social behavior
 - Marijuana contains about 500 components, most of which we know little about
 - Marijuana has shown to be harmful to the heart, lungs, mental health and pregnancies.
2. To have honest conversation about reducing the unintended consequences of current marijuana policies, such as lifelong stigma due to arrest
 - Possession of small amounts of marijuana should be civil offenses with referrals to treatment and social services if needed
 - Fair and proportionate penalties for production, distribution, dealing and sales of marijuana
 - Keeping roadways safe for drivers – any traces found in someone's system results in misdemeanor (no level of marijuana impairment has been determined)
 - Increased education and prevention
 - Increase Brief Interventions and treatment
3. To prevent the establishment of big marijuana that would market marijuana to children-and to prevent big tobacco from taking over big marijuana
4. To promote research of marijuana's medical properties and produce pharmacy-attainable medications
 - Rapid expansion of research into the components of the marijuana plant for delivery via non-smoked forms
 - Establishment of an emergency or research FDA investigational New Drug program that allows seriously ill patients to obtain non-smoked components of marijuana before final FDA approval.
 - The end of "cannabis clubs" and so-called "dispensaries" that are fronts for marijuana stores and do not follow appropriate standards of medical care.

<https://learnaboutsam.org>