

Leading members of the international scientific community are nearly unanimous in cautioning policy makers against commercialization of high potency marijuana. See below for what some of the most prominent scientists from across the United States said about marijuana at a [recent Congressional hearing](#):

Dr. Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General:

- “We are conducting a massive public health experiment on our citizenry.”
- “Nearly one in five people who begin marijuana usage during adolescence will become addicted. Yes, you can become addicted to marijuana.”
- “In pregnant women, marijuana is actually the most commonly used illicit substance, between 2002 and 2017, marijuana use among pregnant women doubled. Marijuana use during pregnancy can not only affect the baby’s brain, but also can result in lower birthweight, a marker for early death and disability.”
- “...from a policy point of view, I think the lesson we should have learned was that we have to make sure that the science is leading the policy and that the tail isn’t wagging the dog, and many of the indications that people are using marijuana for are unproven. We are overstating the benefits, and in my opinion, we are downplaying the risks.”
- “We need to learn from our mistakes and be careful of normalization of behavior. One of the other dangers of marijuana usage is that we don’t know what we don’t know, and so we don’t want to conduct this experiment on our citizenry and that’s adults and young people... I don’t want anyone to mistake what I’m saying as implying that these products are considered safe for general adult usage.”

Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse:

- “Preclinical studies of THC exposure during adolescence have shown greater subsequent sensitivity to the rewarding effects of other drugs, which could be one reason why those who use marijuana at a young age are more vulnerable to addiction later in life, not just to marijuana but also to other drugs.”
- “High potency marijuana can trigger acute psychotic episodes, which is one of the main causes for emergency department visits associated with cannabis use, which are also rising. While most of these episodes are short-lasting, they can become chronic.”
- “It’s not harmless at all.”

Dr. Staci Gruber, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School:

- “Right now, the average potency across the nation from government-seized products is about 17 percent, that’s contrasted to about just under 4 percent in 1995.”

Dr. Sean Hennessy, Professor of Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine:

- “So one of the symptoms that patients in palliative care experience is chronic pain... in terms of other indications for use in the palliative care setting, I think more research is needed to be able to recommend them as effective therapies. We don’t want to recommend therapies and

offer false hope to people for therapies that end up not being effective, that in addition have side effects on their own.”