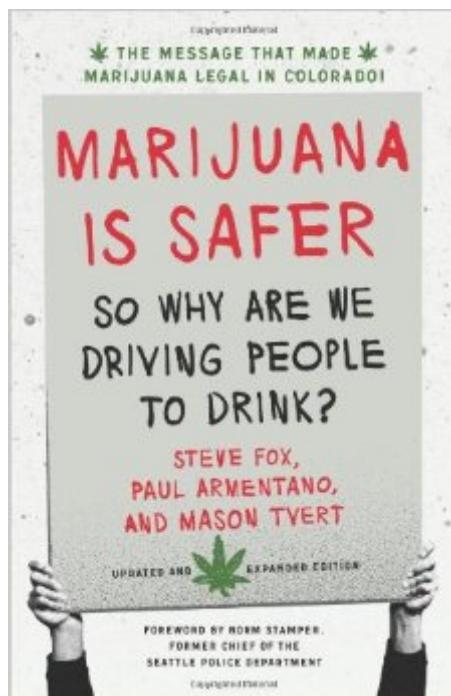


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# Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People To Drink? 2nd Edition



## **Synopsis**

In 2012, voters in Colorado shocked the political establishment by making the use of marijuana legal for anyone in the state twenty-one years of age or older. In the wake of that unprecedented victory, nationally recognized marijuana-policy experts Steve Fox, Paul Armentano, and Mason Tvert revisit the "Marijuana Is Safer" message that contributed to the campaign's success--as the first edition of this book predicted it would in 2009. In this updated and expanded edition, the authors include a new chapter on the victory in Colorado and updates on a growing mountain of research that supports their position. Through an objective examination of marijuana and alcohol, and the laws and social practices that steer people toward the latter, the authors pose a simple yet rarely considered question: Why do we punish adults who make the rational, safer choice to use marijuana instead of alcohol? For those unfamiliar with marijuana, *Marijuana Is Safer* provides an introduction to the cannabis plant and its effects on the user, and debunks some of the government's most frequently cited marijuana myths. More importantly, for the millions of Americans who want to advance the cause of marijuana policy reform--or simply want to defend their own personal, safer choice--this book provides the talking points and detailed information needed to make persuasive arguments to friends, family, coworkers, elected officials and, of course, future voters.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a very interestingly written look at where we are and how we got here regarding marijuana.

The title pretty much says it all but it is worth reading for new-to-me facts from research studies and the verbal ammunition for combating those myth-driven opinions from folks who parrot it back.

This may be the most important book on weed you may ever read. It compares the benefits and risks of alcohol versus marijuana and argues that the latter is much safer if one is to choose one or the other. It argues also that our current marijuana laws are literally causing people to drink more than they would if marijuana were legal, and most important, that this is the argument that is most likely to win people over in the fight for legalization. They even show how this argument was instrumental in the successful battle for legal weed in the state of Colorado. I believe it, I buy into these arguments. All of them. However I feel that the authors glossed over the issue of whether people might possibly or even frequently partake of BOTH, at the same time, if both were legal. I personally know many people who have been stoned and drunk at the same time. I would have wanted to see more data showing that this is not a big issue. I really think that is a small issue, in other words, marijuana is more of a substitute for rather than a supplement to alcohol. The arguments in favor of MJ if it is mostly a substitute are indeed persuasive, alcohol directly kills many people quickly, marijuana kills none, alcohol can make you violent, MJ makes you docile, if anything, marijuana is less addictive, alcohol causes more car crashes, the list goes on. And the book does cite some interesting examples of substitution at work, in particular a World Cup soccer match where the officials announced a hands off policy on weed, and as a result, a lot of people smoked rather than drank at the game, and there was no violence. My overall view is still 5 stars, no question. If you want to raise the roof about the marijuana laws in your state (unfortunately, mine is NC), this is your manual.

The book is very informational and it needs to be read by everyone. People need to be more aware of this controversial topic

If only more people would read this book they would understand how these unjust laws are killing us (literally) so the alcohol companies (and the politicians that get money from the lobbyist of alcohol companies) can get wealthier. The human toll from alcohol is astounding in regards to violence, disease, and death. There has been NO deaths directly attributed to cannabis use. I have also never seen anyone get high and start a fight. I HAVE seen people get drunk and want to fight everyone in the bar. This is a must read for you, your friends, parents, and children.

As long as the reader understands that this book is biased towards marijuana legalization, this is an excellent book and gives a good historical review as well as a review of current available data. I think that a great follow-up read is Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know. After reading both and doing a bit of online research, I believe that the federal government should turn the matter of legalization or at least decriminalization over to the states. At the same time, the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) should either remove marijuana from the Drug Schedule or at least lower its current position as a Schedule 1 drug. Even cocaine and methamphetamine along with ritalin are in Schedule 2. (There are 5 schedules with drugs deemed the most dangerous and having no medical use put into Schedule 1.) As it now stands, both nicotine and alcohol have caused more dependency and/or addiction than marijuana, neither have shown any better medical uses than marijuana, **AND NEITHER IS EVEN ON THE DEA DRUG SCHEDULE!**

I read the first edition of this book; it's outstanding. I wish everyone would read this and understand how public policies, cultural tradition and ignorance are steering people towards alcohol while demonizing the far safer choice cannabis. Whether you call it recreational use or medicinal, this is an amazing plant with healing qualities we're just beginning to understand. It's not for everyone, but it is lifesaving for some, and promotes relaxation and enjoyment for others -- also components of good health.

This book is amazing, it gives accurate and valid opinions and facts about pot. Before reading it i thought i knew the facts because I've used marijuana. I was wrong about almost everything. From dependency to cancer, i had it all wrong. this book is like a stoners bible. everyone should read it even if your against marijuana at least read the facts before making a decision on voting. Pot isn't for everyone and i understand that but dont jail people who use a safer recreational substitute for alcohol. The quote that realy stuck out to me was in the forward. The forward of this book is written by a guy named Norm Stamper, who is known for being the former Seattle chief of police. In that forward he writes, "I've frequently asked police officers throughout the U.S. (and Canada) two questions. First: " when's the last time you had to fight someone under the influence of marijuana?" My colleagues pause; they reflect their eyes widen as they realize that in their 5, 15 or even 30 years on the job they have never had to fight a marijuana user. I then ask, "when's the last time you had to fight a drunk?" They look at their watches. It's telling that the booze question is answered in terms of hours, not days or weeks." This has to be my favorite quote in the entire book. It really made me take a step back and think. So buy this book its woth every cent.

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