

## Proven Medical Benefits of Marijuana

Sunday, 08 October 2006

Last Updated Wednesday, 29 November 2006

**Proven Medical Benefits of Marijuana**  
**CANCER** Click Here To Learn More About Medical Marijuana & Cancer  
 Marijuana can stimulate the appetite and alleviate nausea and vomiting, which are common side effects of chemotherapy treatment. Texas Department of Health's (TDH) Cancer Registry reports 140,000 cancer cases annually from 450 health facilities in Texas.

**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS** Click Here To Learn More About Medical Marijuana & M.S.  
 Marijuana can limit the muscle pain and spasticity caused by the disease, as well as relieving tremor and unsteadiness of gait. (Multiple sclerosis is the leading cause of neurological disability among young and middle-aged adults in the United States.) The National Multiple Sclerosis Society estimates that 400,000 people are living with MS in the U.S. The number of Texans afflicted is unknown. **A.I.D.S.** Click Here To Learn More About Medical Marijuana & A.I.D.S.  
 Marijuana can reduce the nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite caused by the ailment itself and by various AIDS medications. In June 2003, 44,540 Texans were living with A.I.D.S. according to Texas Department of Health's statistics. That number increases every quarterly report. **EPILEPSY** Marijuana can prevent epileptic seizures in some patients. About 380,000 Texans have epilepsy. An estimated 14,000 new cases are diagnosed in Texas each year. **CHRONIC PAIN** Click Here To Learn More About MMJ & Chronic Pain  
 Marijuana can alleviate the chronic, often debilitating pain caused by numerous disorders and injuries. It's impossible to say how many Texans have chronic pain but according the American Chronic Pain Association, there are 86 million Americans suffering with chronic pain. **GLAUCOMA** Marijuana can reduce intraocular pressure, which relieves the pain of the disease, and can sometimes slow or stop the progression of the condition. About 15 million Americans have glaucoma, a group of eye diseases that are responsible for about 12,000 new cases of blindness each year.

Each of these medical marijuana applications has been deemed legitimate by at least one court, legislature, and/or government agency in the United States. Many patients also report that marijuana is useful for treating arthritis, migraine, menstrual cramps, alcohol and opiate addiction, depression and other debilitating mood disorders. Marijuana could be helpful for millions of patients. However, its use is illegal for everyone except the seven people who still have special permission from the federal government in the Compassionate Use program. Often times legal medical options have proven unsafe or ineffective for people who suffer from these conditions. Therefore two options remain:

- Continue to suffer from the ailment; or
- Illegally obtain marijuana -- and risk suffering consequences such as:
  - an insufficient supply due to the prohibition-inflated price or scarcity; impure, contaminated, or chemically adulterated marijuana; arrests, fines, court costs, property forfeiture, incarceration, probation, and criminal records.