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**Every Brain Matters Community Newsletter** 

April 2022

*Every Brain Matters* is a community of support, advocacy, and science. *Join us*, as we call for a cultural change with the widespread use of our logo, which unites us and symbolizes both *"freedom from marijuana"* and optimal brain and environmental health. The public has been deceived and misled regarding the effects of marijuana products, leading us to a public health crisis. No matter what decisions are made or how much the drug culture expands, we will "Keep On Keepin On", because we wholeheartedly know that *Every Brain Matters*.

Every Brain Matters is grateful to announce that we will have a booth at the upcoming <u>RX Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit</u>, April 18-20, in Atlanta, GA. Our booth will focus on how marijuana has contributed to the drug culture expansion, including opioid use disorders and the overdose crisis. Please read the article and ad below featuring Michelle Leopold and her son, Trevor. We are inspired by Michelle's courage and her willingness to share her son with all of us. Stop by our booth (#136) and say hello!

We are also excited to attend the <u>SAM Summit</u> along with other families in the Every Brain Matters community. This conference will feature the latest effects of marijuana normalization on public health and safety. Our Director, Aubree Adams, and Debbie Berndt, Director of <u>Parents</u> <u>Movement 2.0</u> will be presenters. Their session is titled, Marijuana Education and a Perspective on Teen Substance Use for Parents. It's not too late to join us. Click the image below to register.



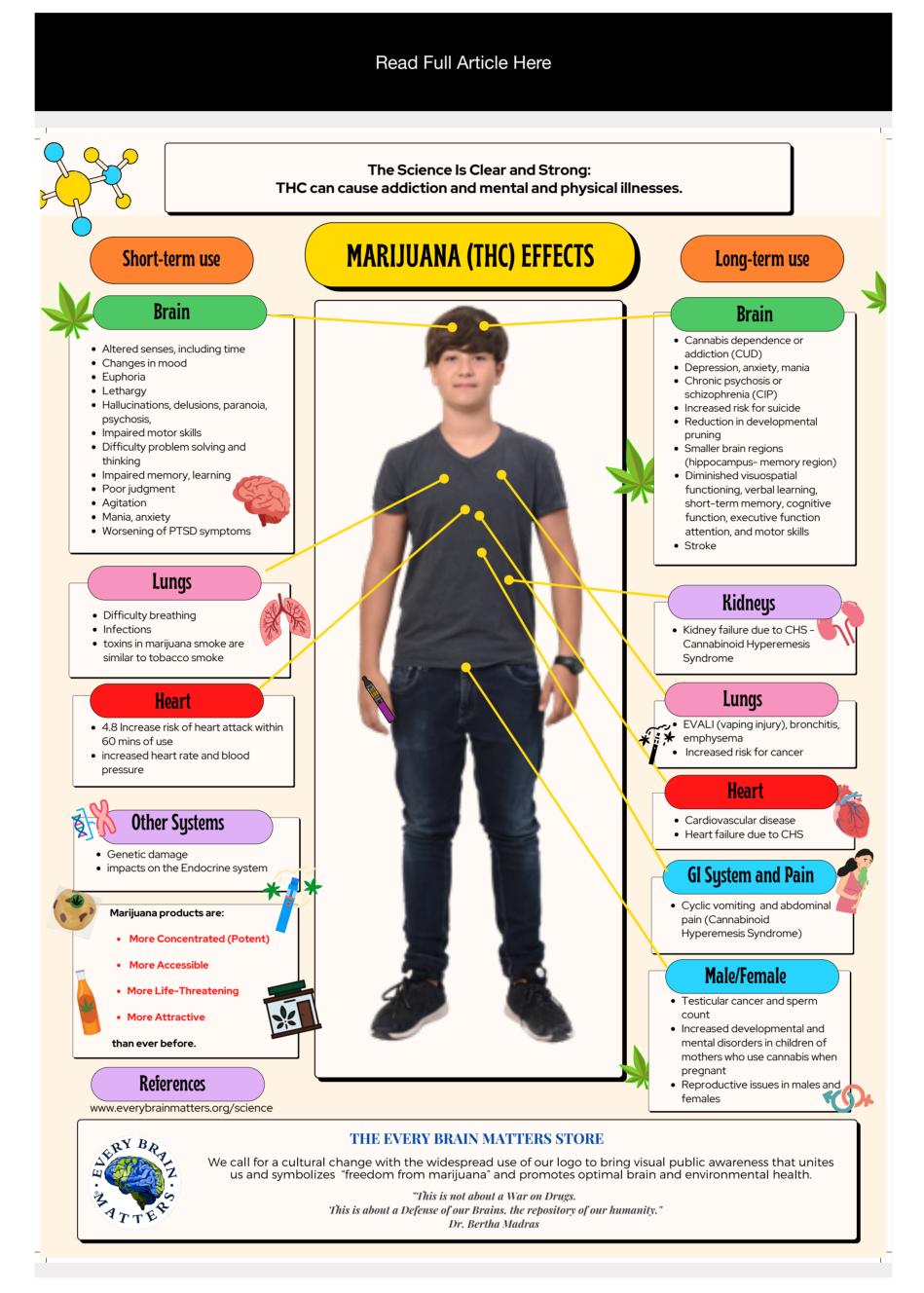
Spotlight: Marijuana to Opioids



Is marijuana REALLY a safer alternative to prescription painkillers and the solution to the opioid epidemic? From the beginning, supporters of expanded cannabis legalization have promised that marijuana could save lives by replacing other, more dangerous drugs.

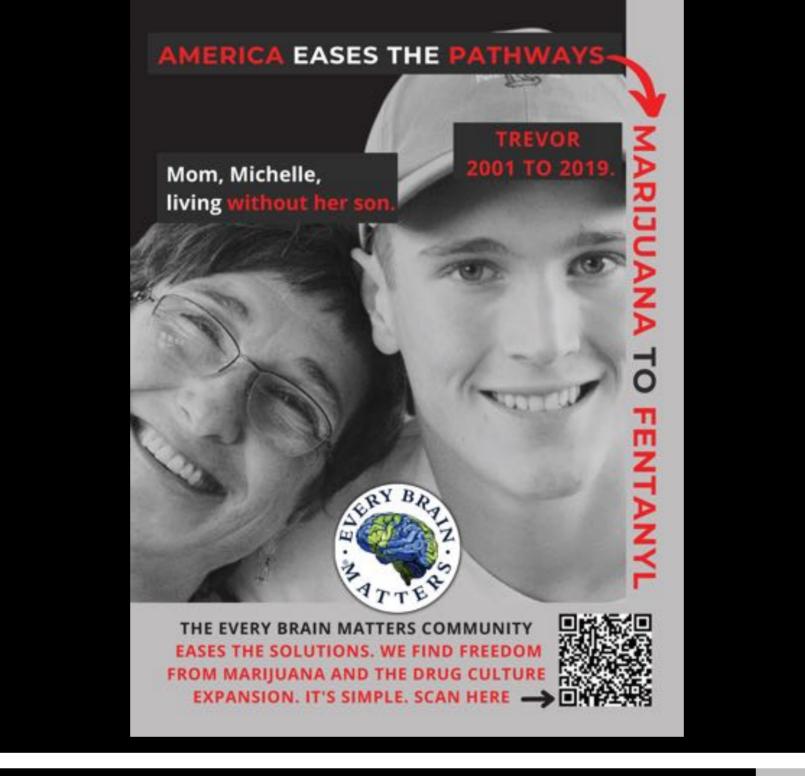
But like so many other claims about marijuana's supposed benefits, that assertion doesn't quite hold up. Despite that promise, legal medical and recreational marijuana play a significant role in the still-worsening opioid overdose crisis in America.

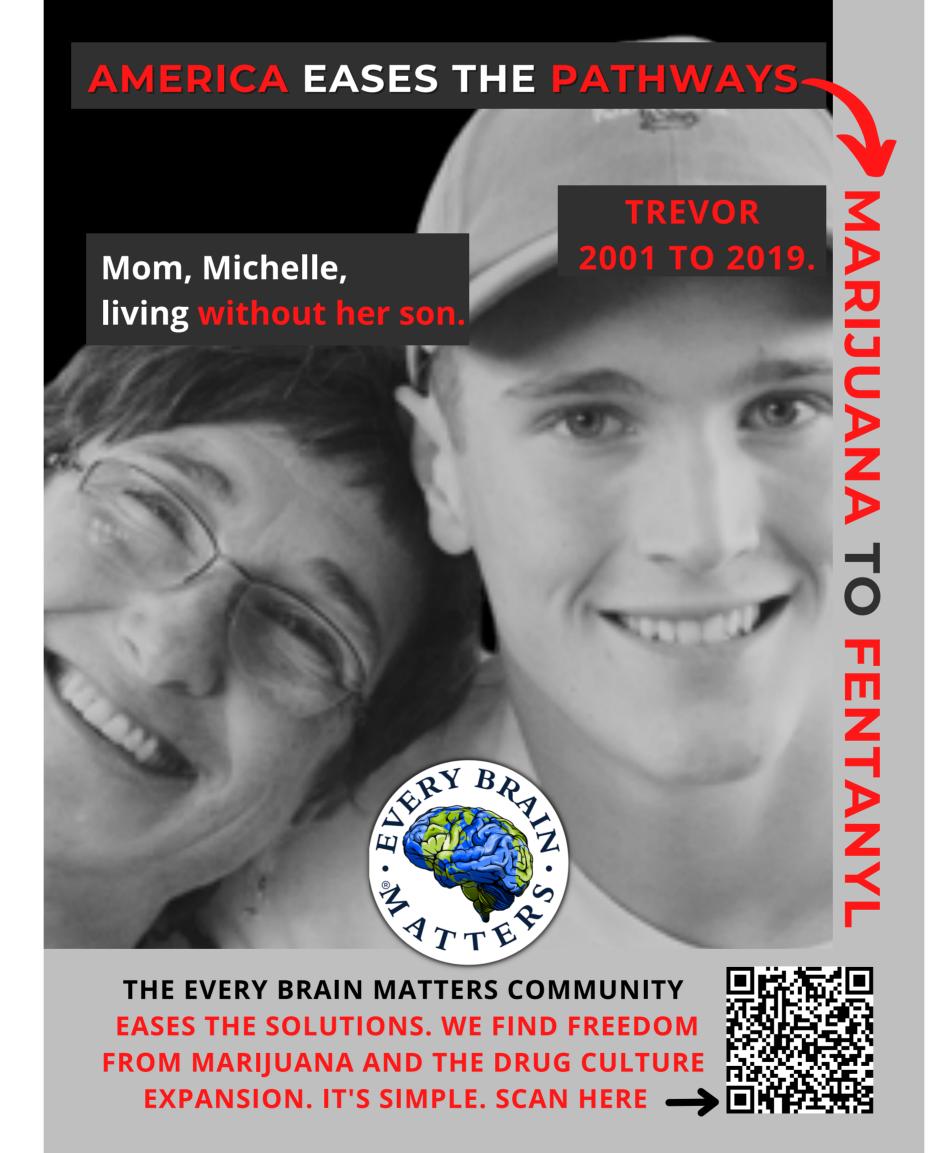
Let's take a closer look at what science and statistics have to say.



### Marijuana to Fentanyl, and Other Opioid Deaths

Ad for the Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit







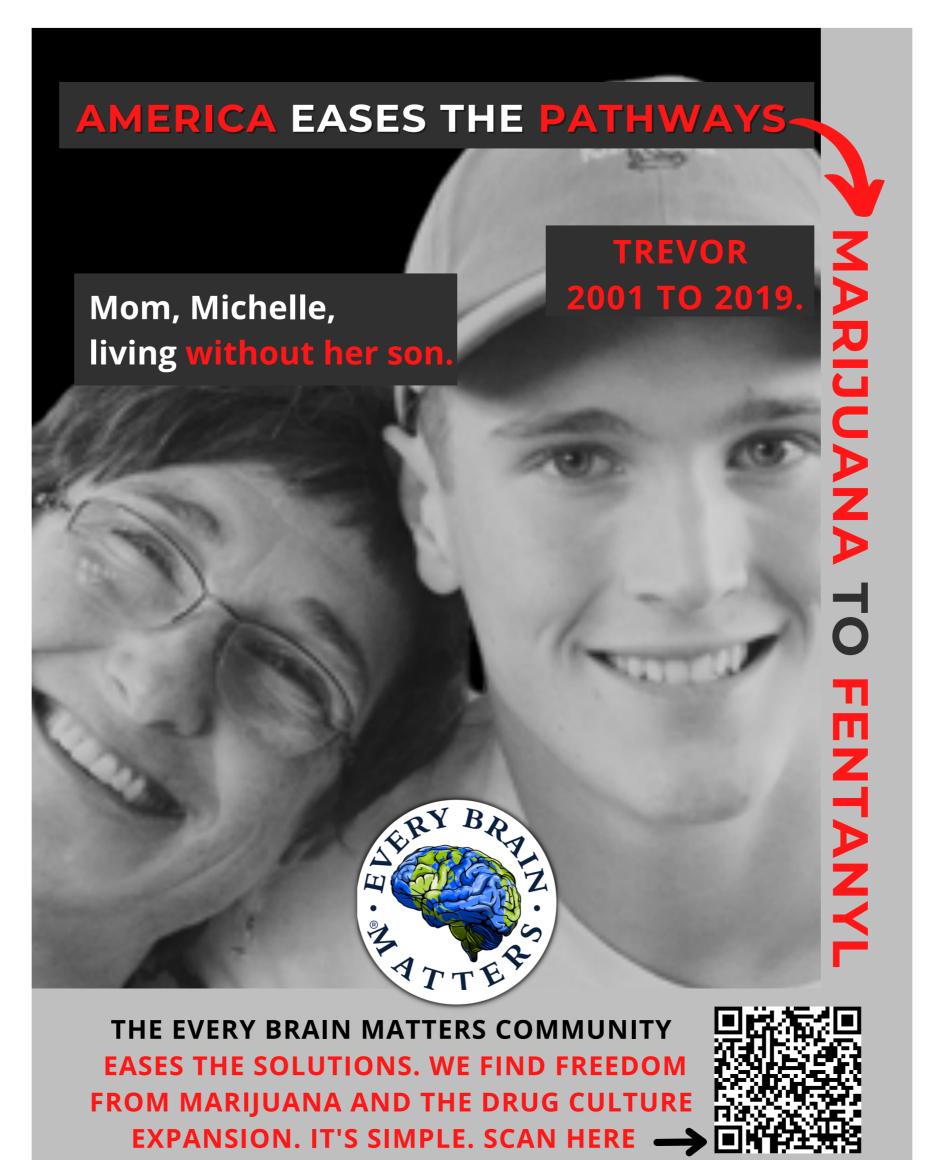
Almost All Opioid Users Started With Marijuana

My name is Juli Shamash, and my son Tyler suffered from addiction and ultimately died at age 19 from ingesting fentanyl. Tyler, and almost all opioid users, started with marijuana.

Learn More

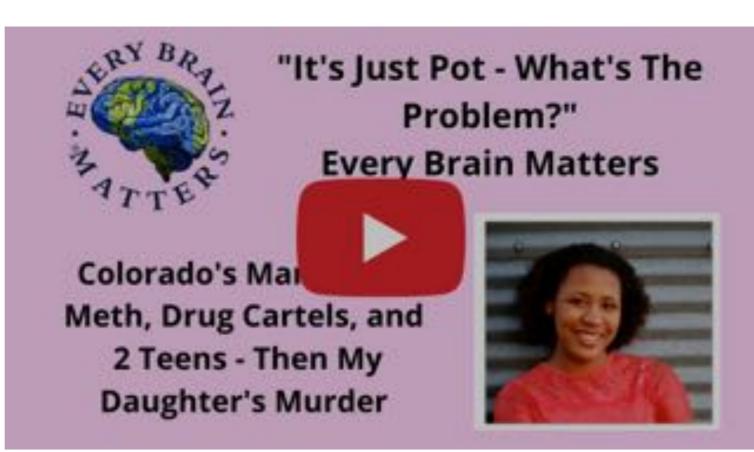
Other stories from EBM: Matt Klosowski, Dean Gray

To share your testimony with Every Brain Matters, please click this link.



# It's Just Pot, What's The Problem Podcast

Shari Howard McMinn shares her story of tragedy, inspiration, and hope. Colorado's marijuana, drug cartel, and teenagers lead to her daughter's addiction and murder.



# A Moment of Science

<u>Geographical variation in hospitalization for psychosis associated with</u> <u>cannabis use and cannabis legalization in the United States: Submit to:</u> <u>Psychiatry Research</u> -Jan. 4, 2022

There was a significant correlation between the cannabis legality score and proportion of hospital discharges for psychosis associated with cannabis use (r = 0.67, p<0.05). In conclusion, we observed a higher proportion of hospital discharges for psychosis associated with cannabis use in areas with more liberal cannabis legalization laws.

Dr. Aaron Weiner's Tweet: "Someone is hospitalized due to a cannabis-induced psychotic episode EVERY 4 MINUTES in the United States, according to discharge data. This is data from 2017 - it's almost certainly even higher today. 353 people per day, over 129,000 over the whole year."

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35016118/

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGALISATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Evidence from Colorado New research by Tse-Chun Lin and Runtong Lin identifies recreational marijuana use as an emerging risk factor of domestic violence. Their study provides the first plausible causal evidence that recreational marijuana use causes an 13.2% increase in domestic violence rate in Colorado. Such an effect is particularly prominent in Denver city where more than half of marijuana retail stores in Colorado are established. https://eeavirtual.org/media-briefings/recreational-marijuana-legalisation-anddomestic-violence-evidence-colorado

Fine Particulate Matter Exposure From Secondhand Cannabis Bong Smoking -March 30,2022 Cannabis bong smoking in the home generated 4 times greater PM2.5 concentrations than cigarette or tobacco hookah (waterpipe) smoking.

### **Advocacy Action**

Every Brain Matters is a nonpartisan organization, and we are happy to advocate and educate at any convention or conference.

The Republican delegates and legislators of Kansas welcomed us with open arms and were grateful to receive the facts about marijuana harms and the drug culture expansion. Thank you to Tom Maffei, his lovely wife Jane Casullo, amazing mom, Carla Maffei Prest, and to all the supporters who sponsored us to come! This family is passionate about not expanding marijuana use in their state due to the tragic loss of their son, who was killed by a marijuana impaired driver.

We were happy to meet Dr. Eric Voth, President of International Academy on Science and impacts of Cannabis.

If you're on TikTok, check out @aubreeadamsebm to see Dr. Voth's and Tom Maffei's videos.





### **On The Calendar**

**Advocacy Meetings** 

<u>Every Brain Matters Advocacy Meeting</u> - 2nd Friday of every month, 1pm Central Time. Send an email to everybrainmatters@gmail.com if you would like to be a part of the EBM Advocacy team. Join one of committee and make a difference.

Support and Recovery Meetings

# **Monthly Speakers Meeting**

Living The 12-Steps - Recovery From The Loss Of My Son

May 6 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm CST



#### Sarah Emes

Sarah Emes was born and educated in England. This included learning a respect for Christianity from an early age through musical service in the church. According to societal expectations at the time, she graduated from university, started working at an internationally known financial institution in the City of London, and was married by the time she was 26.

With a strong desire to see the world, Sarah accompanied her American husband on several overseas assignments in the oil business, ending up in Houston, Texas where they both found good jobs. Sarah has spent the last 28 years working for a global chemical company while based in Houston and traveling for business frequently. She retired in January 2022.

Her career, and many friends made through music and faith-based networks, have supported her through the birth of her only son, a difficult divorce, single-parenthood, her son's cancer treatment, and the challenges of co-parenting with an ex-spouse with untreated childhood and Vietnam-era PTSD and substance use disorder. Through her son's disease of addiction, she learned the hope that comes from working the 12-steps and grew significantly as a result of being in a parent-driven recovery program with him over a period of nearly 4 years.

After his death in 2017, Sarah has continued to work a 12-step program for her codependency and shares her story in the hope that it will help people whose loved ones are using mind-altering substances wake up quicker. By focusing on self-improvement, she found new and effective ways of approaching what was going on for her son and saw how he responded positively to those efforts.

Not "Just Pot" Anymore - Q & A with Bart and Aubree - open forum to fellowship. Meetings are the first Monday every month.

**<u>EBM Climbers Meeting</u>** - interactive education group for family members to bring issues and questions and receive direct feedback from a counselor and other families.

**<u>EBM Speakers Meeting</u>** - First Friday of every month. See above if you missed last month's meeting and to see upcoming speaker.

Mar-Anon - support and hope for those affected by another's marijuana use.

A Moment of Silence

Remembering and honoring the people that we lost due to the normalization and commercialization of marijuana.

April Remembrance:

Deputy Jeffery Trevillyan - April 30, 2019

April Heavenly Birthdays:

Benjamin Lee - April 6, 1999

<u>David Childs - April 14, 1999</u>

<u> Charles Aubrey Rogers - April 26, 1995</u>

<u>Jolo Alonzo-Talay - April 12, 1996</u>

April Marijuana Related Impaired-Driving Deaths:

<u> April 29, 2017 - Hailey Abbott, 15. Indiana.</u>

April 4, 2018 - Ysorel Levin, 21, and Elisheva Kaplin, 20. New York.

April 30, 2017 - Andrew Brunsman, 30. Ohio.

April 20, 2021 - Nathanael Madison, 22, and Dallas Colburn, 22,. Illinois.

April 14, 2020 - <u>Cori Lynn Shearing, 20. New York.</u>

April 26, 2015 - Richard Tom, 47, and Joseph Marshall, 17. Vermont.

April 11, 2021 - Frances Poole, 67. Illinois.

April 29, 2015 - Enrique Moreno. Illinois.

To memorialize and honor your loved one in the Every Brain Matters community, please click this link.

# **The Every Brain Matters Store**

We call for a cultural change with the widespread use of our logo to bring visual public awareness that unites us and symbolizes "freedom from marijuana", and promote optimal brain and environmental health.

Click the item to see colors, sizes, and other variations.



Click here to see all available merchandise at the Every Brain Matters Store.

Join And Support The Every Brain Matters Community Here



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Our mailing address is: P O Box 2462 Merrifield, VA 22116-2462 Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe</u>

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