



**CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) COURSE MATERIAL**  
**Course No. CE1303P2 – Illicit Drug Abuse: Cannabis in Alaska**

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

An examination of the current use of cannabis (marijuana), including an examination of the legal and social consequences of such use, and with a comparison of the social attitudes toward its use in Alaska versus that in Europe.

**COURSE MATERIAL**

A plant thousands of years old is, increasingly, stealing the lives of our youth in Alaska. The increase, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association in a September 2000 report, revealed that adolescent admissions for treatment of marijuana grew by 155 % from 1993-1998. In Alaska, dependence upon marijuana is 1% of the urban population. In “Bush” Alaska, this marijuana dependence swelled by an astonishing 150% or 2.5% of the population. When 30.7 percent of Alaska High School age children are currently using marijuana, the future does not bode well in terms of education, health, and employment for our young people.

**INTRODUCTION**

Marijuana is one of the most controversial drugs in American society today. Many believe it to be a menace to society, while others assert that it is no more harmful than an occasional drink of alcohol. Still others view marijuana use as something in-between.

Marijuana is by far the most widely used controlled substance in the United States. The use of marijuana by children and adolescents has increased dramatically over the last three years. According to the National High School Senior Survey, lifetime use by high school seniors is growing by almost four percent a year. This increase of use shows a crossover use to other harmful controlled substances, i.e., cocaine and heroin.

Marijuana has been for years (since the early 1970’s) labeled a “gateway” drug. Research shows that the earlier a person starts using a drug like marijuana, it increases the likelihood that it will lead to other drugs experimentation. Additionally, when young people start using marijuana on a regular basis, these adolescents lose interest in many facets of life and are less motivated to attend and complete school assignments (Drug War Facts).

**HISTORY**

Cannabis sativa (marijuana) is not a new drug. The first written records date marijuana to four thousand (4,000) years ago in China, where Emperor Shen Nung advocated marijuana use as an all purpose medication and sedative (Stephen Bogan). America’s history with marijuana starts much later around 1620, when the religious idealists, who were persecuted in England, landed at Plymouth Rock.

A time line for modern marijuana use is the following:

**1600-1890s**

Domestic production of hemp encouraged. American production of hemp was encouraged by the government in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for the production of rope, sails, and clothing. (Marijuana is the mixture of dried shredded flowers and leaves that come from the hemp plant.)



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In 1690 the Virginia Assembly passed legislation requiring every farmer to grow hemp. Hemp was allowed to be exchanged as legal tender in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. Domestic production flourished until after the Civil War, when imports and other domestic materials replaced hemp for many purposes. In the late nineteenth century, marijuana became popular in many medicinal products and was sold openly in public pharmacies.

#### 1909

The passing of the Pure Food and Drug Act required labeling of any cannabis contained in over-the-counter remedies. During this time, Mexican immigrants introduced the recreational use of marijuana to the American culture. The drug became associated with these immigrants, and the fear and prejudice about the Spanish-speaking newcomers became associated with marijuana.

#### 1930s

With the Great Depression came massive and devastating unemployment, which increased the fear of Mexican immigrants, and an associated escalating concern about marijuana. The paranoia associated with marijuana led to research which ultimately linked marijuana with violence, crime and other socially deviant behaviors, primarily committed by “racially inferior” or “under classed” communities. By 1931 twenty-nine states had outlawed marijuana. 1932 saw the passing of the Uniform State Narcotic Act due to the concern about the rising use of marijuana and its link with crime and other social problems. In 1937 the Marijuana Tax Act was passed criminalizing marijuana, restricting possession of the drug to individuals who paid an excise tax for certain authorized medical and industrial uses. During the early forties, the New York Academy of Medicine issues an extensive report declaring that, contrary to popular belief, the use of marijuana did not induce violence, insanity, or sex crimes, or lead to addiction or other drug use.

#### 1951-1956

In this time frame, saw the passing of stricter sentencing laws with the enactment of the Boggs Act (1952) and Narcotics Control Act (1956), which set mandatory sentences for drug-related offenses, including marijuana. A first time marijuana offense (possession) carried a minimum sentence of 2-10 years with a fine of up to \$20,000.00.

#### 1960s

With a changing political and culture climate, marijuana use became popular in the counter culture of America. This was reflected in a more lenient attitude toward marijuana, and saw widespread use in the white middle and upper classes. Reports commissioned by both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson found that marijuana use did not induce violence nor lead to heavier drug use. It was during this period that policy toward marijuana being involved in medicinal use became apparent.

#### 1970-present

From the creation of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD), which later became the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), there came repeals for most of the mandatory penalties for drug related offenses, due to the fact that the mandatory stiff penalties surrounding the possession and use of marijuana did nothing to eliminate or reduce marijuana use. The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act in 1971 categorized marijuana separately from other narcotics and eliminated mandatory federal sentences for possession of small amounts of marijuana. In the 1980s, there was a reversal of these laws, seeing the federal mandatory sentences return, creating marijuana laws tougher than in those passed in the 1950s. Possession of 100 marijuana plants received the same federal penalty as



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possession of 100 grams of heroin. 1996, California voters passed Proposition 215 allowing for the sale and medical use of marijuana for patients with AIDS, cancer, and other serious and painful diseases. This law, however, even today stands in tension with federal laws prohibiting possession of marijuana (PBS Online and WGBH/Frontline).

### **CANNABIS USE AS A HEALING TOOL IN ALASKA BY NATIVES**

Contradiction between traditional native beliefs and those of Christianity have been given little direct attention. Many Alaska natives consider themselves to be staunch supporters of Christianity, yet also hold other beliefs that they know Caucasians (Westerners) don't share and are cautious about discussing them with outsiders.

One becomes a Shaman generally by heredity or selection, and through a rigorous, sometimes difficult (even dangerous) training and initiation. Most shamanism traditions are practiced in secrecy and are not available to outsiders or curiosity seekers. It is highly unlikely that a true initiate will go on the workshop circuit.

Keeping secrecy in mind, it becomes difficult to determine whether or not cannabis was used as a healing tool or in religious ceremonies by the various tribes within Alaska.

There are ten (10) identifiable Bureau of Indian Affairs recognized tribes in Alaska. These tribes are: Inupiaq, Yupik, Cupik, Athabascan, Aleut, Alutiiq, Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian. Anthropologists believe that the original Native peoples crossed from Siberia to North America over the Bering Land Bridge that connected the two continents. There has been some documentation of cannabis use in religious practices by the natives of Siberia. However, Alaska Natives have their own belief system about origin, taught from generation to generation concerning who they are as peoples.

### **INUPIAQ**

Many beliefs and myths center around spirits of animals as the controlling factor in an Inupiat's life. The individual Inupiat's perception of the universe was one in which the various supernatural forces were largely hostile towards human beings. By means of ritual and magic, the Inupiaq could influence the supernatural forces toward a desired end, i.e., influencing weather and food supplies, ensuring protection against illness or curing illness when it struck. The power to influence these events came from the use of charms, amulets, magical formulas, observance of taboos, and the practice of sorcery.

### **EYAK, TLINGIT, HAIDA, TSIMSHIAN**

As with the Inupiaq, these tribes heavily surrounded their culture around animals. From the panhandle or Southeast area of Alaska, these four tribes shared the commonality of the use of Totem Poles in their culture. Within these tribes were sub-tribes, identified by various animal names. The main ceremony within these tribes is known as "Potlatch." Potlatches were held for the following occasions: a funeral or memorial potlatch where the dead are honored or remembered; the witness or validation that a debt had been paid; the naming of an individual or child; when a new Totem Pole was erected; or to rid the host of the Potlatch of shame. Potlatches always center on the plentiful sharing of food and traditional dancing. While native plants found in the forests surrounding the living area of these tribes, all were used for food vitamin supplement, healing mosses and herbs. No indication could be found that marijuana was involved in any aspect of life among these tribes.



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### **ALEUT, ALUTIIQ**

In Aleut and Alutiiq cultures, the winter was a time for elaborate celebration and ceremonies. Singing, dancing, and feasting took place as a part of these rituals. These festivals began in the fall after all necessary food items had been harvested for the coming winter. These festivals were held in large communal houses called qasgiq and generally fell into two types. One was Spiritual in nature, which was necessary to guarantee continued good hunting and fishing, and the second was for social celebrations, such as marriages. Members of these tribes have tattoos and would use body paints during certain dancing ceremonies.

### **YUPIK, CUIPIK**

Found on the Southwest coast of Alaska, these tribes enmeshed themselves with good and evil shamans in their cultures. Good shamans would heal, search out animal spirits for the hunters, and ask for survival necessities such as driftwood and good weather. The bad or evil shamans battled the good shamans for power, placed curses on people, generally made life miserable for others and could even kill. Even today, some Yupik and Cupik people practice and claim to use shamanistic powers.

### **ATHABASCAN**

Athabascans traditionally lived in Interior Alaska, living along five major river ways, the Yukon, Tanana, Sustina, Kuskokwim, and Copper River drainages. Athabascans were highly nomadic, traveling in small groups to fish, hunt, and trap. The Athabaskan people call themselves "DENA" or "THE PEOPLE." In traditional and contemporary practices, Athabascans are taught respect for all living things. Genealogy has closely placed the Athabascans with the Navajo Tribe in the lower 48, who call themselves "DINEH" or "FIRST PEOPLE." (Alaska Native Heritage Center)

A common thread among the various tribes is the use of various songs, charms, dances, and magical incantations, along with the animal spirits to ensure the desired end. With the exception of the Inupiaq, these other tribes used smoke as a purification practice during any ceremony. The use of smoke involved the use of sweet grasses or sage. (Norman Chance) However, contrary to the belief by some, there is an absence of substantial evidence which shows that mind altering or hallucinogenic drugs were traditionally used in Alaska Native way of life.

### **POPULATION USE BREAKDOWN IN ALASKA**

Estimates of marijuana incidence, or the number of new marijuana users during a given year, provide important information on use patterns with the state of Alaska. To judge or receive a clear perspective, information from a nationwide view is added as a measurement base. Additionally, the statistics will cover a 10-year span from 1990-1999. The numbers will represent the number of new users per 1,000 individuals.

During the 1990-1999 reporting period, nationwide, the rate of new users was 8.5 in 1990 and increased to 16.8 new users in 1996 and decreased to 13.6 new users per 1,000 in 1999. In this same time period, the new users of marijuana incidence rate by race/ethnicity revealed a troubling pattern for American Indians/Alaska Natives. Starting at 10.2 new users per 1,000 individuals in 1990, there was an increase to 21.2 per 1,000 in 1996, and to an alarming rate of 46.5 new users per 1,000 in 1999. Another troubling statistic is age of first use. In 1990, the age of first time users for this same group was 19.3 years of age. By the end of the decade, 1999, the age of first time users had dropped to 14.1 years of age. (SAMHSA)



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To gain a greater perspective on use patterns in Alaska, The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which is a national survey developed by the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was conducted in 1995, updated in 1997 and another survey was conducted in 1999. In Alaska, 53 school districts were used as the sample with a combined enrollment of 37,271 middle and high school students.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 28% of the sample in 1995 reported current marijuana use. In 1999, this increased to 30.7%
- In 1995, by age 13, 13.2% of boys and 10.3% of girls reported having tried marijuana for the first time. In 1999, 18.8% of boys and 14.7% of girls report having tried marijuana for the first time.
- Some drug use occurs on school property. Even though the use of marijuana is lower than alcohol, more Alaska students use marijuana than alcohol on school property.

1995		1999	
Alcohol	5.9%	Alcohol	6.3%
Marijuana	9.2%	Marijuana	9.0%

- Among Alaska high school students, 39.6% of the boys and 27.9% of the girls have been offered, sold, or were given illegal drugs on school property in 1995. In 1999, 31.8% of boys and 24.9% of the girls were involved. (YRBS)

**PERVASIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE USE OF CANNABIS IN EUROPE**

In looking at attitudes in Europe towards the use of cannabis/marijuana, a place to start is the Netherlands.

Liberal drug laws have been in force in the Netherlands for twenty-five years. Hard drug addicts are treated as patients and personal use of cannabis/marijuana has been decriminalized. This liberal policy by the government of Netherlands accepts that drugs are a part of their society/culture and that a "WAR ON DRUGS" will not make these illegal drugs disappear from Dutch culture (Arjan Schippers).

As with the Dutch, Belgium just called it quits with their war on drugs, and has legalized the personal use of cannabis/marijuana. While this liberation of policy has decriminalized personal use, cultivation of cannabis still remains illegal; however, anyone over the age of eighteen is able to consume cannabis/marijuana without fear of legal repercussions.

Europe as a whole seems to be reconsidering the whole approach to illegal drug use after years of harsh laws and tougher law enforcement that has yet to make any headway in the demand for these mood/mind-altering drugs. Like the Netherlands and Belgium, Italy, Spain, and Portugal are considering similar decriminalization of cannabis/marijuana possession and use.

As the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey was being conducted in the United States, a comparison study was also being conducted. This multinational study of tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana use, compared the differences between 10<sup>th</sup> grade high school students in thirty European countries and the United States (Thor Bjarnason), and found the following:



## KEY FINDINGS

- *Cigarette smoking in past thirty days:* Twenty six percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in the United States had smoked at least one cigarette in the past thirty days. Thirty seven percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in the 30 participating European countries had smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days.
- *Alcohol use in past thirty days:* The study found that forty percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in the United States had consumed alcohol in the past thirty days. In Europe, sixty one percent of the 10<sup>th</sup> graders had consumed alcohol in the past thirty days.
- *Lifetime use of Marijuana/cannabis:* In 1999, forty one percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in the United States have used marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime. With the 30 reporting European countries, seventeen percent of 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported using marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime.
- *Use of any illicit drug other than marijuana/cannabis:* Six percent of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the 30 European countries had used some illicit drug other than marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime. In the United States, twenty three percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students had some illicit drug use other than cannabis/marijuana.
- *Lifetime use of specific illicit drugs other than marijuana/cannabis:* The study found that sixteen percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in the United States have used amphetamines, ten percent have used LSD or other hallucinogens, eight percent have used cocaine, six percent have used ecstasy, and four percent have used crack. The 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the European countries reported that two percent have used amphetamines, two percent for LSD or other hallucinogens, one percent for cocaine, one percent for ecstasy and one percent for crack.

## PERVASIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE USE OF CANNABIS IN ALASKA

Marijuana is available throughout the state. Demand for Alaskan-grown marijuana continues to be high as a result of its potent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. Because Alaskan produced marijuana is extremely potent, Alaska is a marijuana exporting state. Extremely sophisticated indoor growing operations have been identified primarily in the areas around Anchorage. In some parts of the state, the local economy is directly affected by the influx of money from the illegal production of marijuana. Proceeds from marijuana production are used for many purposes, including growing equipment and building materials (Alaska State Troopers).

The 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse asked respondents, ages 12-17 how much they think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they use illicit drugs. Respondents (23 million) were asked about the risk from using marijuana, LSD, cocaine, and heroin once or twice a week:

- 13 million (57%) perceived great risk from smoking marijuana once or twice a week.
- Females were more likely than males to perceive great risk from using marijuana once or twice a week.

Percentages of youth ages 12-17 Reporting Perception of Great Risk From Using Marijuana Once or Twice a Week by Race/Ethnicity ((SAMHSA):

- White 58.5%



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- Asian 63.3%
- Black 49.6%
- Hispanic 52.8%
- American Indian/Alaska Native 45.6%

In November of 1998, nearly 60 percent of Alaska's voters approved a statewide initiative that would give residents the right to use marijuana to ease the symptoms of certain illnesses. The measure also called for the state to maintain a registry of medical marijuana users, but did not require patients to register (Join Together Online)

In July of 2001, the state Department of Law has disapproved a ballot initiative that would have asked voters to decriminalize marijuana. The petition would decriminalize marijuana and mandate a system to regulate it (Kenai Peninsula Online)

### **LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS FOR POSSESSION/USAGE OF CANNABIS IN ALASKA**

The risk of being arrested for marijuana smoking and or possession is far greater in some states than others. A person in Alaska or New York for example is three times more likely to be arrested than a marijuana possessor in Pennsylvania, North Dakota, or Hawaii.

In Alaska, possession of marijuana is a criminal offense. Possession of less than eight (8) ounces of marijuana is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to ninety (90) days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.00. Possession of less than one (1) pound of marijuana is also a misdemeanor punishable by up to one (1) year in jail and a fine up to \$5,000.00. Possession of one (1) pound or more of marijuana is a felony punishable by up to five (5) years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.00.

Possession of less than 25 plants is protected under the Alaska Constitution's right to privacy (See *Ravin v Alaska*). Possession of 25 or more marijuana plants is MISCONDUCT INVOLVING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN THE FOURTH DEGREE, and is punishable by a fine up to \$50,000.00 or five (5) years in prison. Any possession within 500 feet of school grounds or a recreation center or possession on any school bus is a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine up to \$50,000.00.

The sale of marijuana of less than one-half ounce and sale, delivery or manufacture of an amount from one-half ounce up to one (1) ounce is a misdemeanor and is punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000.00. For amounts of one (1) ounce or greater, the crime is a felony which can be punished with a sentence of up to five (5) years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.00. Maintaining any structure or dwelling, including vehicles, to use for keeping and distributing marijuana is a felony offense and punishable by up to five (5) years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.00 (NORMAL).

### **SOCIAL RAMIFICATIONS OF POSSESSION/USING CANNABIS IN ALASKA**

In the major cultures of Alaska, life is centered around the nuclear and extended family. These relationships are continually re-enforced by patterns of mutual aid and reciprocal obligations. The prevalent use of cannabis by adults and children, continue to stretch and more often than necessary, tear the nuclear and extended family apart.

Violence associated with marijuana and its use is generally associated with and among cannabis growers. These growers who cultivate cannabis outdoors sometimes place booby



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traps in and around grow sites, primarily targeting thieves and animals, rather than law enforcement (Dakai).

As reported in the last section, Alaska's marijuana is valued for its high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. It is this complex chemical that produces most of the psychoactive reactions experienced by marijuana users. The level of THC determines the potency of the drug. In the 1960s and early 1970s, the level of THC found in most marijuana ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 percent. In 2002, the percentage of THC has risen to 8.0 to 20.0 percent with some THC level as high as 29.8 percent.

Marijuana is highly fat soluble and absorbed readily, accumulating in the brain, liver, lungs, and reproductive organs. Due to the storage capacity of THC within the body, marijuana effects may persist for several days or even weeks depending on level of use.

Marijuana also produces the inability to complete psychomotor tasks; driving performance is impaired due to altered perception of time, with reduced ability to make quick decisions. Marijuana use interferes with skills such as communication, recalling verbal or graphic material from short-term memory banks. The degree of impairment is dependent on the dose and level of THC, the individual's tolerance, and complexity of the task (NIDA).

As with alcohol, doctors advise pregnant women not to use any drug due to the harmful effects they have on the fetus. Researchers have found the effects of marijuana mirror the features of fetal alcohol syndrome, with the indication that the central nervous system is damaged in children whose mother's smoked marijuana (FAS Project).

## **CONCLUSION**

The threat to the residents of Alaska, both adolescent and adult, lies primarily in marijuana's widespread availability and lackadaisical attitude towards its hazards.

Common perceptions among users and the general population are that marijuana is not as harmful as other drugs and that the use of marijuana carries little social stigma.

The largest threat however, comes from the ever-decreasing age of first time users across America and particularly, Alaska. This decrease from an average age of 19 in 1990 to 14 in 1999 indicates and substantiates this conclusion. The fact that over 30 percent of children fewer than 13 years of age reported trying marijuana for the first time does not bode well here in Alaska.

Mitchell Rosenthal in the book, *Marijuana Alert*, published in 1985, stated that the focus of his concern was the drug's potential interference with the maturation process and its capacity to induce regression and, in some instances, irreversible immaturity (Stephen Bogan).

Since no evidence was revealed that indicated use of marijuana by the Alaska Native Tribes in their religious and social ceremonies, it is likely that marijuana, like alcohol, was imported by Westerners, which has greatly impacted the indigenous peoples of Alaska.

While there may be some benefits for medical use of cannabis, the decriminalization of general possession and use is likely to cause harmful consequences to the youth of Alaska and the rest of America.



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If the trend in Europe continues and spreads, the war on drugs may become as archaic and irrelevant as the mania for alcohol prohibition that infested the globe a century ago (Civil Liberty). The comparison study of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the United States and Europe seem to indicate that a lighter or relaxed attitude towards the use of cannabis/marijuana and other illicit drugs seems to debunk the notion of cannabis/marijuana being the evil gateway drug.

The legalization of marijuana does not negate the fact that when smoked, cannabis/marijuana - with today's high THC content - has devastating effects on the growing minds of youth.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READING**

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This course material was prepared by Steven H. Dakai, a graduate student and candidate for the Master of Arts in Addictive Disorders degree from Breining Institute. Mr. Dakai resides in and provides addiction counseling services for the residents of Kotzebue, Alaska, the largest village within the Northwest Arctic Borough. Breining Institute has edited the original material for the purpose of presentation in this course.



**CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) EXAMINATION QUESTIONS**  
**Course No. CE1303P2 – Illicit Drug Abuse: Cannabis in Alaska**

You are encouraged to refer to the Course Material when answering these questions. Choose the best answer based upon the information contained within the Course Material. Answers which are not consistent with the information provided within the Course Material will be marked incorrect. A score of 70% correct answers is required to receive Continuing Education credit. GOOD LUCK!

**QUESTIONS**

**This is an eleven-question examination. Answer Questions 11 through 21 for full CE credit in this course. Questions 1 through 10 have been omitted.**

11. Marijuana has been labeled a “gateway” drug, which means:
  - a. That use of marijuana increases the likelihood that its use will lead to experimentation with other drugs.
  - b. The chemical THC in marijuana “opens” the mind of the user.
  - c. Both A and B above.
  - d. Neither A nor B above.
  
12. The Course Material identifies circumstances where the domestic production of hemp was encouraged, and includes which of the following statements:
  - a. American production of hemp was encouraged by the government in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for the production of rope, sails, and clothing.
  - b. In 1690 the Virginia Assembly passed legislation requiring every farmer to grow hemp.
  - c. Both A and B above.
  - d. Neither A nor B above.
  
13. Which law categorized marijuana separately from other narcotics and eliminated mandatory federal sentences for possession of small amounts of marijuana?
  - a. The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1971.
  - b. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) Act of 1956.
  - c. Proposition 215.
  - d. None of the above.
  
14. Regarding the traditional use of cannabis for medicinal reasons and in religious ceremonies by the various tribes within Alaska:
  - a. It is clear that cannabis has been an important component of traditional ceremonies in the majority of the ten recognized tribes.
  - b. It is difficult to determine with certainty whether cannabis has been broadly used as a healing tool or in religious ceremonies by the tribes in Alaska.
  - c. Cannabis has been used exclusively by the Alaskan tribes for medicinal purposes.
  - d. None of the above.



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15. Within the Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian tribes, an important ceremony utilized by these tribes is known as "Potlatch," which are held for all of the following reasons except:
- A funeral or memorial potlatch where the dead are honored or remembered.
  - The witness or validation that a debt had been paid.
  - To celebrate a successful crop of cannabis.
  - The naming of an individual or child.
16. A common thread among the various tribes is the use of:
- Songs.
  - Charms.
  - Dances.
  - All of the above.
17. A survey showed that the age of first use of marijuana by American Indians/Alaska Natives in 1990 was 19.3 years, and:
- Increased to 19.7 years by 1999.
  - Decreased to 14.1 years by 1999.
  - Remained the same throughout the decade.
  - None of the above.
18. A study comparing drug use in the United States and in thirty European countries showed that alcohol use (within the previous 30 days) by 10<sup>th</sup> grade students:
- Was virtually the same in both the US and Europe, with 10% of the students using alcohol in that time period.
  - Was different, with the US students at 40% and the European students at 61% who consumed alcohol within the previous 30 days.
  - Was different, with the US students at 41% and the European students at 17% reportedly consuming alcohol in that time period.
  - None of the above.
19. A study comparing drug use in the United States and in thirty European countries showed that lifetime use of marijuana/cannabis by 10<sup>th</sup> grade students:
- Was virtually the same in both the US and Europe, with 10% of the students reporting use of marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime.
  - Was different, with the US students at 40% and the European students at 61% who reported use in their lifetime.
  - Was different, with the US students at 41% and the European students at 17% reportedly using marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime.
  - None of the above.
20. Alaska's marijuana is valued for its high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content, which is a complex chemical that produces most of the psychoactive reactions experienced by marijuana users. In the 1960s and early 1970s, the level of THC typically found in marijuana ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 percent. In 2002, the percentage of THC has reportedly:
- Risen to 8.0 to 20.0 percent, with some THC level as high as 29.8 percent.
  - Been dramatically reduced, but has retained the psychosomatic properties which makes the marijuana even more lethal.
  - Both A and B above.
  - Neither A nor B above.



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21. Researchers have found the effects of marijuana:
- a. Are helpful to pregnant mothers who are nervous or unduly expectant about their pregnancy.
  - b. Mirror the features of fetal alcohol syndrome, with the indication that the central nervous system is damaged in children whose mother's smoked marijuana.
  - c. Both A and B above.
  - d. Neither A nor B above.



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**CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) ANSWER SHEET**

**SECTION 1.** Please type or print your information clearly. This information is required for CE Course credit.

First Name																								
Middle Name																								
Last Name																								
Address (Number, Street, Apt or Suite No.)																								
City																								
State (or Province)															USA Zip Code									
Country (other than USA)															Country Code									
Primary Telephone Number (including Area Code)										Facsimile Number (including Area Code)														
E-mail Address																								

**SECTION 2.** Credit Card Payment Information (if paying by credit card): Circle type of card: **VISA** or **MasterCard**

Credit Card Number															Expiration Date									
Full Name on Credit Card																								

Authorized Signature **Breining Institute is authorized to charge Twenty-nine dollars (\$29.00) to this card.**

**SECTION 3.**  
Course Title: **CE-1303P2 – Illicit Drug Abuse: Cannabis in Alaska**

- Answers (circle correct answer):
- |            |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. A B C D | 8. A B C D  | 15. A B C D |
| 2. A B C D | 9. A B C D  | 16. A B C D |
| 3. A B C D | 10. A B C D | 17. A B C D |
| 4. A B C D | 11. A B C D | 18. A B C D |
| 5. A B C D | 12. A B C D | 19. A B C D |
| 6. A B C D | 13. A B C D | 20. A B C D |
| 7. A B C D | 14. A B C D | 21. A B C D |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Answer Sheet, with \$29 Continuing Education examination fee, by mail or facsimile to:  
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