

Dear XXXX,

Thank you for contacting ONDCP.

What constitutes safe and effective medicine should continue to be based upon reviews of the appropriate science by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Medical evidence does not support the efficacy of smoked marijuana for medical purposes. ONDCP will continue to work closely with other stakeholders to review law, science, and medicine to refine the Administration's marijuana enforcement policy.

Following is some specific information and resources concerning medical marijuana:

On April 20th, 2006, the FDA issued an advisory concluding that no sound scientific studies have supported medical use of smoked marijuana for treatment in the United States, and no animal or human data support the safety or efficacy of smoked marijuana for general medical use. There are alternative FDA-approved medications in existence for treatment of many of the proposed uses of smoked marijuana. For example, a prescription drug, Marinol, is currently available to anyone with a doctor's prescription. Marinol contains THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and has been approved for some of the same uses as medicinal marijuana.

To learn more about "medical marijuana," please visit the following Web sites:

Medical Marijuana Reality Check

[http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/marijuana\\_fs.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/marijuana_fs.pdf)

Inter-Agency Advisory Regarding Claims That Smoked Marijuana Is a Medicine

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01362.html>

Medical Marijuana - Marinol

<http://www.dea.gov/ongoing/marinol.html>

Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base

<http://books.nap.edu/html/marimed/>

Marijuana Studies/Articles from the National Institute on Drug Abuse

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/marijuana.html>

Marijuana Research Report

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/ResearchReports/Marijuana/default.html>

The DEA Position on Marijuana

[http://www.dea.gov/marijuana\\_position.html](http://www.dea.gov/marijuana_position.html)

The principal purpose of ONDCP is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the Nation's drug control program as is mandated by Congress. The goals of the program are

to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences. Because ONDCP is devoted to drug policy dealing with illicit (illegal) drugs, alcohol is not specifically addressed in ONDCP's policy. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is the Federal government agency that provides leadership in the national effort to reduce alcohol-related problems.

You can access the NIAAA Web site at: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov> for additional information about the efforts of this agency. If you would like to contact NIAAA about their policies or campaigns, you can do so using the following Web form: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/ContactUs.htm>

In addition, the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) is the Federal clearinghouse that has alcohol resources available for distribution. You can reach NCADI at 1-800-729-6686. You can view some of the alcohol-related materials that have been developed by the Federal government by visiting NCADI's Web site: <http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov/>

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Keri

Content Specialist  
ONDCP Clearinghouse

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

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MethResources.gov Visit ONDCP's MethResources Web site -

<http://www.methresources.gov> - for information about methamphetamine, its effects and hazards, upcoming meth-related events, policies and legislation, programs, and publications and research.

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Disclaimer: The enclosed response may include referrals to non-Federal Government resources. The resources, and the information contained therein, are only as reliable and complete as their originating source. Responsibility for the quality/accuracy of the information rests with the original source.