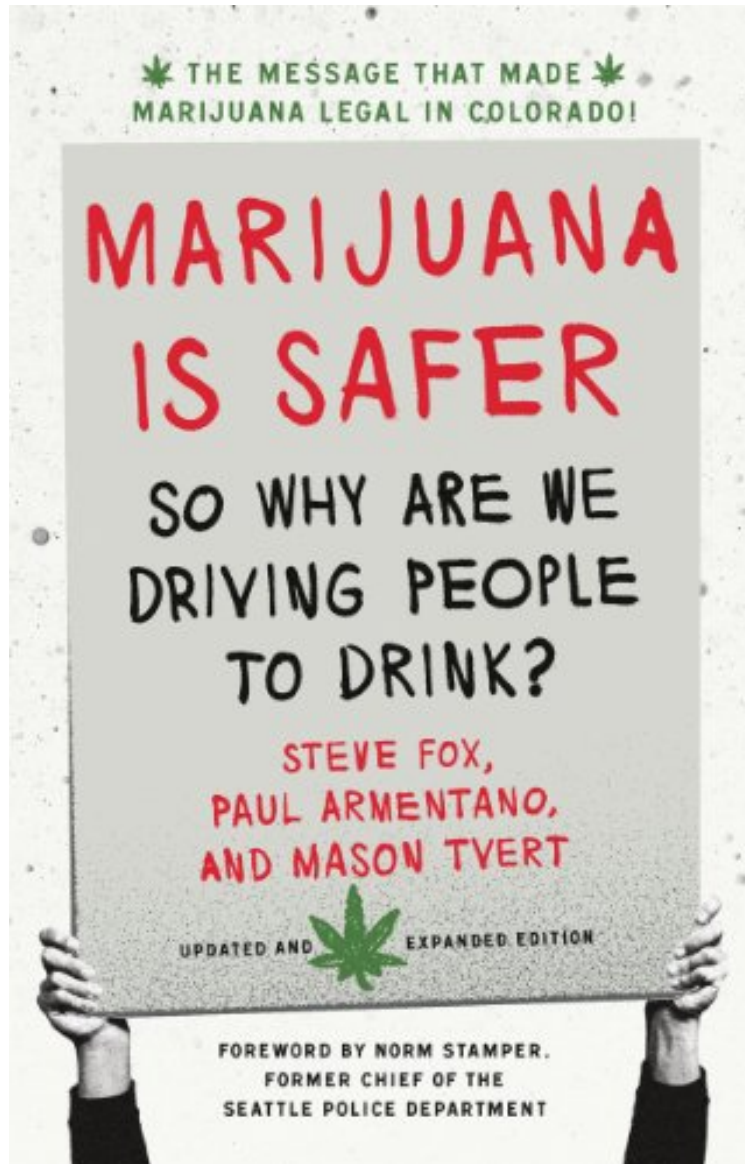


## Marijuana is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink? 2nd Edition

*Steve Fox, Paul Armentano, Mason Tvert*  
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**Steve Fox, Paul Armentano, Mason Tvert : Marijuana is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink? 2nd Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marijuana is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink? 2nd Edition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Read!By Steve ZantoAs 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!8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Finally, the facts instead of the negative propaganda.By Armand J. MinnieThis 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.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Revised edition of required readingBy BobI bought copies of this book for my legislators, and encourage others to do the same. Perhaps enough of them will help to end the insanity of the drug war for all.

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.

From Booklist\*Starred \* If Americans could legally smoke marijuana, would it reduce alcohol abuse and the attendant violence and aggression that go along with it? That is a social experiment worth trying, according to pot-decriminalization advocates Fox, Paul Armentano, and Mason Tvert. At this pivotal time of a national shift in thinking on the double standard in law and social attitudes, the authors offer a commonsense perspective on the relative threat of and social response to marijuana versus alcohol. After detailing how the government, media, and beer and liquor companies often collude in demonizing pot and drive Americans to drink instead, the authors cite statistics and combat myths regarding marijuana, from the hysteria of the film *Reefer Madness* to the assertion that legalization will only sanction another vice. Focusing on the successful legalization campaign in Colorado, the authors concede they have an uphill battle in their effort to educate the public on the comparisons between pot and alcohol as they assert the positive benefits of legalization, taxation, and regulation of pot, including more revenue, less crime and mayhem, and fewer health problems. Given the changing political landscape and widespread use of pot, whatever a reader's perspective on marijuana, this book is a well-researched, thoughtful look at a controversial issue. --Vanessa Bush Kirkus s- "It's not rocket science: Alcohol puts more people in the hospital or graveyard than marijuana. If our laws are meant to prevent harm to others, then what harm are we trying to prevent by the illegalization of marijuana? In fact, making marijuana illegal absurdly inflates its value and encourages violent crime to command its distribution. The sources of marijuana's illegalization are vile, rather easily traceable to bigoted attitudes toward Mexicans and African-Americans. Certainly, there are moments in this otherwise thoughtful and policy-driven initiative that veer perilously close to demonizing alcohol in the same manner that marijuana has been demonized. Regardless, the authors' argument that marijuana is the safer of the two recreational intoxicants is rock solid, and one can see that this everyday, common-sense comparison would be an effective tool in changing public perception, manipulated as it has been by everyone from Nancy Reagan to the great brewing concerns. The authors end with a workable proposal for a grass-roots response, complete with talking points and ready answers to FAQs, to bring the issue to the ballot. A well-designed initiative to redress the villainization of marijuana."Starred , Booklist- "If Americans could legally smoke marijuana, would it reduce alcohol abuse and the attendant violence and aggression that go along with it? That is a social experiment worth trying, according to pot-decriminalization advocates Fox, Paul Armentano, and Mason Tvert. At this pivotal time of a national shift in thinking on the double standard in law and social attitudes, the authors offer a commonsense perspective on the relative threat of and social response to marijuana versus alcohol. After

detailing how the government, media, and beer and liquor companies often collude in demonizing pot and drive Americans to drink instead, the authors cite statistics and combat myths regarding marijuana, from the hysteria of the film *Reefer Madness* to the assertion that legalization will only sanction another vice. Focusing on the successful legalization campaign in Colorado, the authors concede they have an uphill battle in their effort to educate the public on the comparisons between pot and alcohol as they assert the positive benefits of legalization, taxation, and regulation of pot, including more revenue, less crime and mayhem, and fewer health problems. Given the changing political landscape and widespread use of pot, whatever a reader's perspective on marijuana, this book is a well-researched, thoughtful look at a controversial issue." nbsp; nbsp; nbsp;About the AuthorSteve Fox, principal at Marijuana Strategies, is one of the leading figures in the movement to create a legal, regulated marijuana market in the United States. He is a cofounder of the National Cannabis Industry Association, which currently represents more than 250 state-legal businesses, and serves as a strategic advisor to the organization. While at the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) from 2002mdash;2013, Steve lobbied Congress and guided numerous ballot-initiative campaigns, including the Amendment 64 campaign in Colorado, which made personal possession and cultivation of marijuana legal, while establishing a regulated market for adults. In 2005, Steve conceptualized and cofounded (with coauthor Mason Tvert) Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) in Colorado for the express purpose of educating the public about the fact that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol. The goal, eventually realized, was to change the mindset of voters in order to make marijuana legal through a ballot initiative. He now serves as an independent consultant, advising individuals and organizations on marijuana policy- and industry-related issues. Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML (The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) and the NORML Foundation. A recognized national expert in marijuana policy, health, and pharmacology, he has spoken at dozens of national conferences and legal seminars and has testified before state legislatures and federal agencies. He appears regularly on Drew Pinsky's nationally syndicated radio show, *Dr. Drew Live*, and his work has appeared in over 500 publications. Armentano is the 2008 recipient of the Project Censored Real News Award for Outstanding Investigative Journalism. He currently lives in California with his wife and son. You can visit the NORML Foundation online at [norml.org](http://norml.org). Mason Tvert is the cofounder and executive director of Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) and the SAFER Voter Education Fund. He appears frequently in the news and travels the country promoting the "Marijuana Is Safer Than Alcohol" message. He resides in Denver, where he serves on the city's Marijuana Policy Panel, appointed by Mayor John W. Hickenlooper. Read Mason's blog on The Huffington Post at [www.huffingtonpost.com/mason-tvert](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mason-tvert).