

Cannabis Information Booklet



All of the sources for the information in this booklet
can be found at crainn.com

What is Cannabis?

Cannabis is a genus of flowering plant originating from Asia, first domesticated around 12,000 years ago. Humans have cultivated the plant for a variety of purposes such as medicinal, commercial and industrial products such as textiles, animal feed, medicinal oils and tinctures.

Cannabis is made up of over 100 compounds which are known as cannabinoids.

The most well understood of these cannabinoids are cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

CBD is non-psychoactive and has been shown to have many medical uses. It causes no "high".

THC is the main psychoactive component. It is responsible for the "high" most associate with cannabis.

Cannabis can be used via inhalation, taken orally, applied topically or taken sublingually.

Arguments for Prohibition

'Legalising cannabis will increase young people using it.'

FALSE.

Studies from U.S States observed no increase in underage use, and some have actually seen a reduction.

A legal market makes it harder for people without ID to purchase.

'Cannabis is a gateway drug.'

FALSE.

Cannabis is NOT a gateway drug.

Cannabis has been proven to reduce opiate use in some states. This myth was invented in order to make cannabis 'appear' harmful, since the effects of the drug itself weren't enough.

'Cannabis is illegal for a good reason.'

FALSE.

Cannabis was made illegal against the advice of medical professionals.

Prohibition causes further harm such as an unregulated and unsafe market.

Medical Cannabis



Medical Cannabis is currently legal in 45 countries around the world, 37 states in the USA and is prescribed for a variety of ailments including:

- Chronic Pain.
- Sleep disorders.
- Epilepsy.
- Multiple Sclerosis, primarily spasticity
- Improving symptoms of PTSD.
- Improving symptoms of Anxiety.
- Depression.
- Nausea.
- Neuropathic Pain.
- Restless Leg Syndrome.

What about Ireland?

Ireland legalised medical cannabis in 2016, known as the Medical Cannabis Access Program (MCAP). The program is extremely limited in scope, available only to patients with multiple sclerosis, severe epilepsy and Intractable nausea associated with chemotherapy. Reform of this program is vital to offer patients the medicine they need. Access can be acquired via ministerial license although it is costly and not guaranteed.

Cannabis Facts

- Medical Cannabis was first brought to the western world by a Limerick man named William Brooke O' Shaughnessy after learning of it's medical benefits in India in the 1830s.
- The Legal EU cannabis market is estimated to be worth €3.2 billion by 2025.
- The state of Arizona in America topped €1 billion in cannabis sales in it's first year of legalization 2021.
- According to an EU report, 27.9% of Irish adults have taken cannabis, with 18% taking cannabis in the past 12 months.
- Cannabis was made illegal by a racist department in the U.S. with the goal of criminalising minority groups.
- Industrial hemp can be used to sustainably produce over 50,000 products.
- 72% of personal possession of drug cases in Ireland are for Cannabis.

Ireland's Opportunity

- Cannabis (Hemp) is proven to grow and thrive in Irish soil. It was grown in Kerry in the 1960's by what is now Teagasc.
- A report by **Prohibition Partners** found Ireland's medical cannabis market could be valued at €1 billion by 2028.
- A report by **Uplift** highlights the benefits of development of a cannabis industry to supply domestic cannabis and for export to act as a revenue stream for rural communities.

What is Crainn?

Crainn is Ireland's largest cannabis community with over 30,000 members across our network. Crainn's goal is to combat misinformation about cannabis, educate about cannabis, build a community and advocate for drug reform.

We engage in activism work by engaging with TDs, creating educational material, debates in colleges and are members of the European Cannabis Activist network, working for EU wide reform.

To find out more visit our website, Twitter, Instagram, Subreddit or Discord.