SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco

Marijuana Issues

Kevin A. Sabet, PhD, President & CEO

www.learnaboutsam.org

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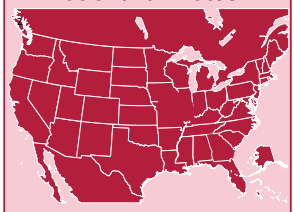
1

SAM promotes an evidence-based approach to marijuana policy that prioritizes public health

- **Non-partisan but high-profile:** founded by former Democratic Congressman Patrick Kennedy and leading Republican pundit David Frum
- **Scientific advisory board** of more than 12 leading researchers, professors, and public health/legal experts
- **Hundreds of thousands of press mentions**, including major media outlets such as:

Several state and national affiliates



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2

Groups SAM has collaborated with

- **American Medical Association**
- **American Academy of Pediatrics**
- **National Business Group on Health**
- **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
- **Other leading public health authorities**
- **Over 30 state affiliates,** including:
  - Treatment centers
  - Family Groups
  - Recovery groups
  - Prevention organizations
  - Law enforcement
  - Leading medical authorities
  - Business groups

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3

SMOKE SCREEN
KEVIN A. SABET, PH.D.
WHAT THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW
KEVIN A. SABET, Ph.D.
Foreword by REP. PATRICK J. KENNEDY
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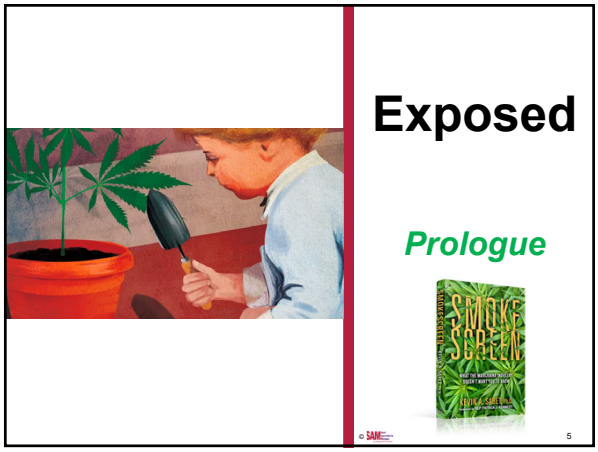
Exposed
Prologue
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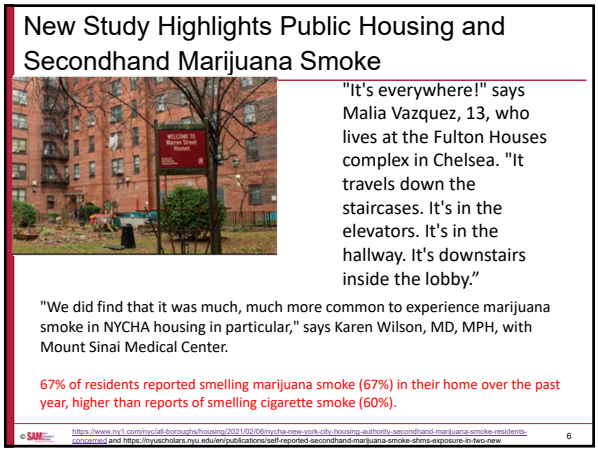
New Study Highlights Public Housing and Secondhand Marijuana Smoke
"It's everywhere!" says Malia Vazquez, 13, who lives at the Fulton Houses complex in Chelsea. "It travels down the staircases. It's in the elevators. It's in the hallway. It's downstairs inside the lobby."
"We did find that it was much, much more common to experience marijuana smoke in NYCHA housing in particular," says Karen Wilson, MD, MPH, with Mount Sinai Medical Center.
67% of residents reported smelling marijuana smoke (67%) in their home over the past year, higher than reports of smelling cigarette smoke (60%).
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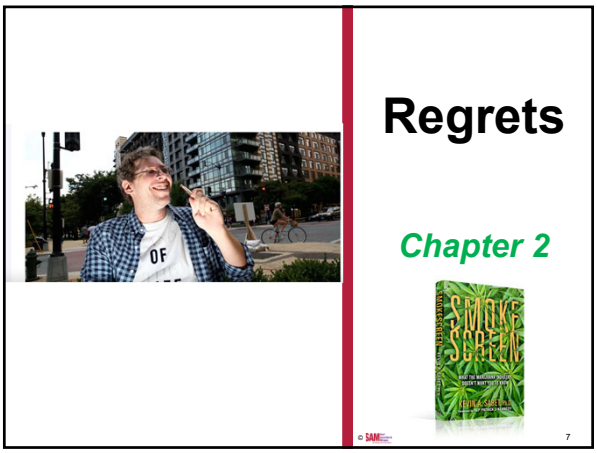
Regrets
Chapter 2
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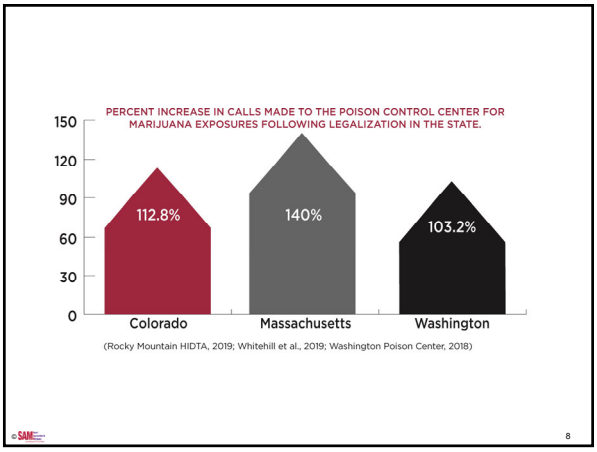
PERCENT INCREASE IN CALLS MADE TO THE POISON CONTROL CENTER FOR MARIJUANA EXPOSURES FOLLOWING LEGALIZATION IN THE STATE.
150
120
90
60
30
0
112.8%
140%
103.2%
Colorado
Massachusetts
Washington
(Rocky Mountain HIDTA, 2019; Whitehill et al., 2019; Washington Poison Center, 2018)
© SAM
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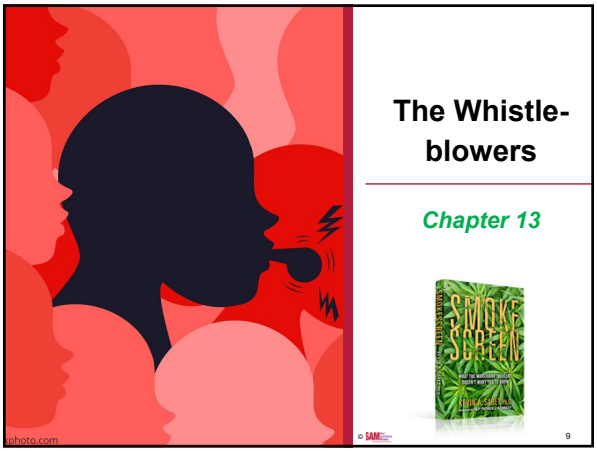
The Whistle-blowers
Chapter 13
SMOKE SCREEN
photo.com
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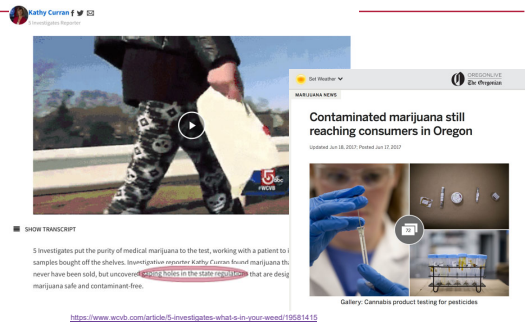
9

9

States are failing to regulate pesticide use



10

States are failing to regulate pesticide use

Pesticides and Pot: What's California Smoking?

An NBC4 I-Team investigation found evidence suggesting that pesticides could be present in a lot of marijuana legally sold in California

By Joel Grover and Matthew Glasser

Published at 10:57 PM PST on Feb 22, 2017 | Updated at 1:37 PM PST on Nov 8, 2017

Steep Hill Labs found 41 out of 44 samples, 93 percent, tested positive for pesticides, at levels high enough that those products would've been banned for sale in some other states that currently regulate the use of pesticides in marijuana products.

"It appears pesticides are very widely used" on California's marijuana crops, said Dr. Don Land, a UC Davis chemistry professor who is Steep Hill's chief scientist. "It was surprising that so many (samples) had so much contamination."

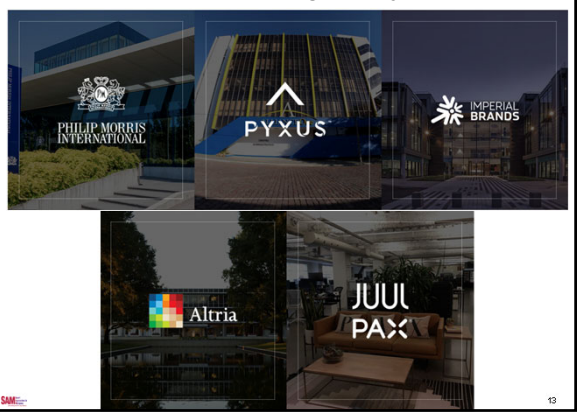
11

Industry Capture

Chapter 3

12

www.learnaboutsam.org/industry-profiles



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13

Altria Makes $1.8 Billion Investment in Big Marijuana

Dec 8th, 2018

CRONOS GROUP

100% ownership of two companies, based in Canada, that are currently licensed to cultivate and sell medical marijuana,

OGBC PEACE NATURALS

Forbes
Dec 4th, 2018

"Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)'s legalization opponent Kevin Sabet may be right: **like it or not Big Tobacco is invading cannabis.**

Altria, the company that invited unwitting consumers for decades to come to where the cancer is –Marlboro Country– may be looking to shore up stagnant cigarette sales by purchasing Canadian cannabis company Cronos Group."

14

14

4th Largest Tobacco Company on Earth Invests in Big Marijuana

Auxly Cannabis signs $123M deal with tobacco giant Imperial Brands

Vancouver firm will get global licences to the British tobacco company's vaping technology

The Canadian Press · Posted: Jul 25, 2019 1:19 PM ET | Last Updated: July 25

15

15

COORS LIGHT
THE GREEN BULLET?
MOLSON
CANADIAN
U.S.News
INVESTING / STOCK MARKET NEWS
Coming Soon From Molson Coors: Marijuana Beer
Molson Coors' new venture is targeting the Canadian cannabis market.
16

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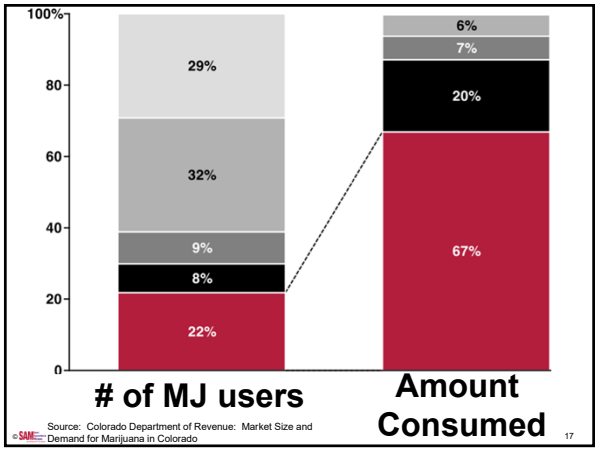
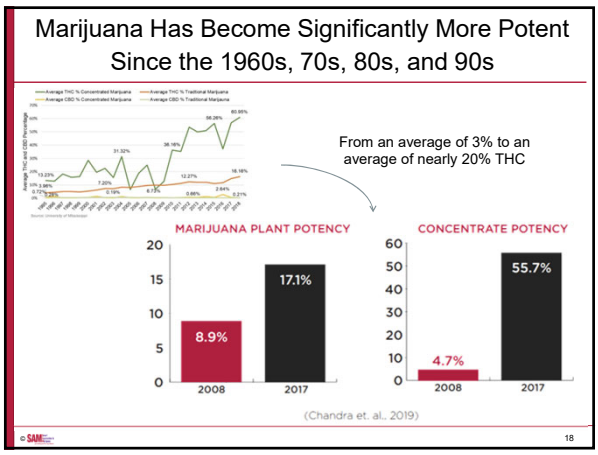

100%
80
60
40
20
0
29%
32%
9%
8%
22%
6%
7%
20%
67%
# of MJ users
Amount Consumed
Source: Colorado Department of Revenue: Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado
17

17


Marijuana Has Become Significantly More Potent Since the 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90s
From an average of 3% to an average of nearly 20% THC
MARIJUANA PLANT POTENCY
20
15
10
5
0
8.9%
17.1%
2008
2017
CONCENTRATE POTENCY
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
4.7%
55.7%
2008
2017
(Chandra et. al., 2019)
18

18

Marijuana is Not "Just a Plant" Anymore – Derivatives Contain up to 99% THC

19

Perpetuating Social Injustice

Chapter 9

20

"If only we treated it like alcohol…"

1.3 million

Arrests for alcohol-related crimes in 2017, including violations of liquor laws and DUI – **but does NOT include arrests for alcohol-related violence**

vs.

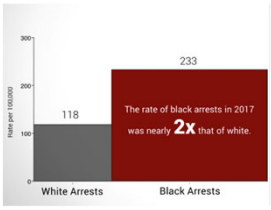
659,700

Marijuana-related arrests in 2017

 "Crime in the United States 2017 - Arrests," FBI Uniform Crime Report (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Justice, September 2018), p. 1, and Arrest Table: Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations.

21

Disproportionate Arrests Are Still Occurring

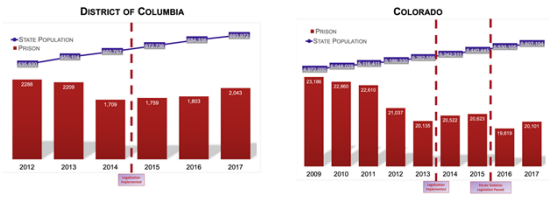


In 2017, African American Arrests remained unchanged since 2012 -- the year Colorado legalized recreational marijuana.

Hispanic and Asian Arrests have since gone up within the same period.

22

Marijuana Legalization Has Not Reduced Prison Populations



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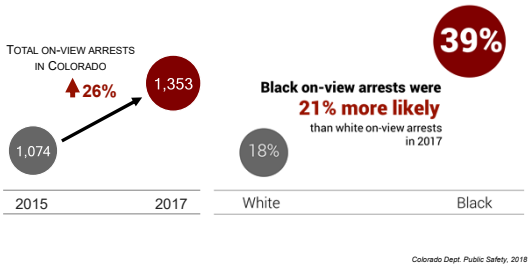
In Colorado, African-Americans were disproportionately arrested without a warrant or previous incident report in 2017.



Colorado Dept. Public Safety, 2018

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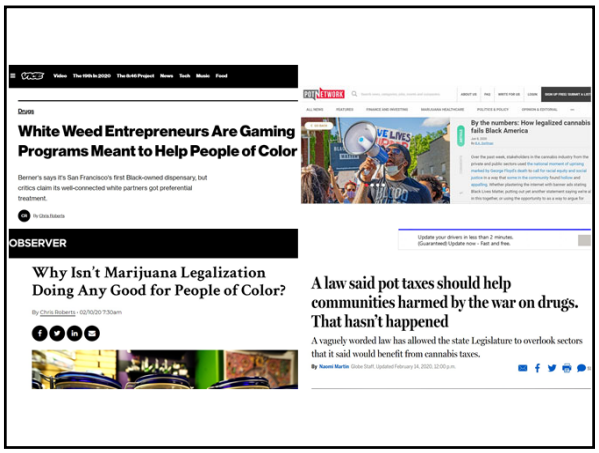
Drugs
White Weed Entrepreneurs Are Gaming Programs Meant to Help People of Color
Berner's says it's San Francisco's first Black-owned dispensary, but critics claim its well-connected white partners got preferential treatment.
OBSERVER
Why Isn't Marijuana Legalization Doing Any Good for People of Color?
By Chris Roberts - 02/10/20 7:30am
By the numbers: How legalized cannabis fails Black America
A law said pot taxes should help communities harmed by the war on drugs. That hasn't happened
A vaguely worded law has allowed the state Legislature to overlook sectors that it said would benefit from cannabis taxes.
By Naomi Martin Globe Staff, Updated February 14, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

25

PEW
Black-Owned Pot Businesses Remain Rare Despite Diversity Efforts
STATELINE ARTICLE January 15, 2021 By: Sophie Quinton
"We don't have one successful social equity licensing program yet."
Bonita Money, Founder & Executive. Director, National Diversity & Inclusion Cannabis Alliance
26

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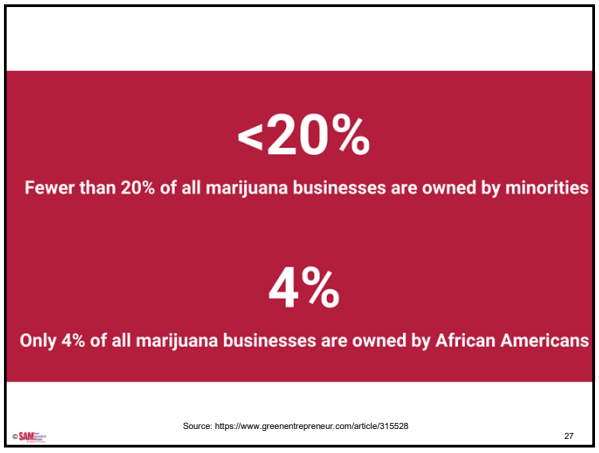
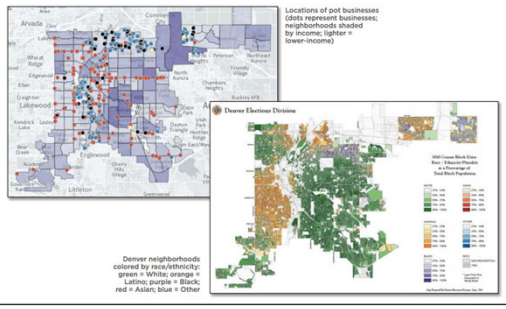

<20%
Fewer than 20% of all marijuana businesses are owned by minorities
4%
Only 4% of all marijuana businesses are owned by African Americans
Source: https://www.greenentrepreneur.com/article/315528
27

27

MARIJUANA BUSINESSES IN DENVER ARE CONCENTRATED IN NEIGHBORHOODS OF COLOR



28

The Marijuana Underground

Chapter 8

29

The New York Times

'Getting Worse, Not Better': Illegal Pot Market Booming in California Despite Legalization

30

Legalization is Unlikely to Diminish the Power of Drug Cartels and the Illicit Market (1/2)

CARTELS ARE, IN REALITY, DIVERSIFIED BUSINESSES

- "Drug cartels" are **diversified enterprises that include mining and pirated goods**
- Marijuana accounts for **only 15-25% of revenues** of drug trafficking groups
- More money is found in **other businesses, including legal ones,** than in selling marijuana
  - Estimates indicate **up to 50% of Zeta activities related to cigarette smuggling**
  - In 2014, **iron mining was the #1 source of revenue** for the former Knights Templar cartel

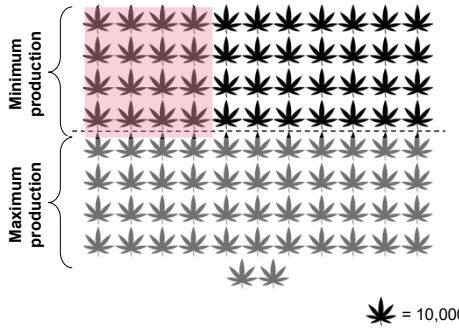
A HUGE ILLICIT MARKET EXISTS FOR TOBACCO

- Cigarettes are **the world's most widely smuggled legal product**
- A **$657 billion/year business** in 2009
- Provides **funding for organized criminal syndicates and terrorist groups** worldwide
  - In Canada alone, **~105 organized crime groups** are engaged in cigarette smuggling
  - Generates revenue for groups like **the Taliban and Hezbollah**

© SAM Source: Kilmer, B., et al., 2010; USA Today (Mar. 17, 2014; Zinsmeister, J., 2015; Center for Public Integrity, 2009 31

31

Just 18 to 30 Percent of Oregon's Marijuana is Sold Legally

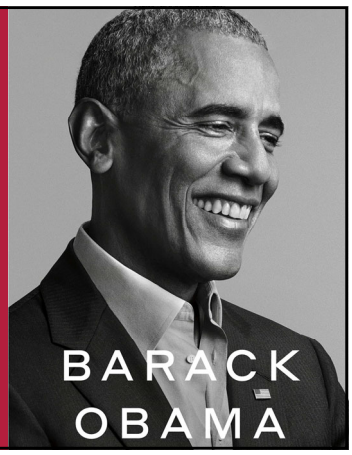


© SAM Source: Oregon State Police; Icons: Edward Boatman 32

32

An Inside Story

Chapter 7
&
Chapter 18



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33

Regrets

Chapter 2

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34

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Former U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams: "This isn't your mother's marijuana; the marijuana of today is significantly more potent"

Health

'A dangerous drug': Surgeon general warns against marijuana use by pregnant women, youths

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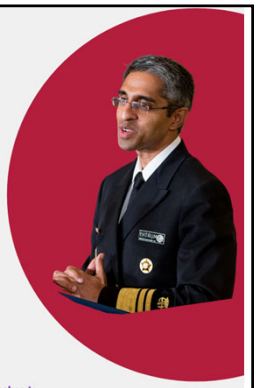
36

"Public policy is outpacing science when it comes to marijuana. What we know is that marijuana is in fact addictive . . . this may come as a surprise to some people . . We don't at this point have high-quality evidence that tells us that in fact, marijuana is both safe and effective for use for medical purposes."

-U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy
July 27, 2017



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preventing another big tobacco

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37

In States That Have Legalized:

- **Edibles and high THC concentrates** should be outlawed or severely restricted.
- **The marijuana industry should not serve on rule-making bodies to determine regulations.**
- **Pot advertising and promotions** should be prohibited.
- A science-based public **awareness campaign** should be implemented across multiple media.
- **Drugged driving prevention should be a priority,** with tough laws imposed on those who drive stoned.

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38

LESSONS LEARNED FROM STATE MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

2020-2021 Edition

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39

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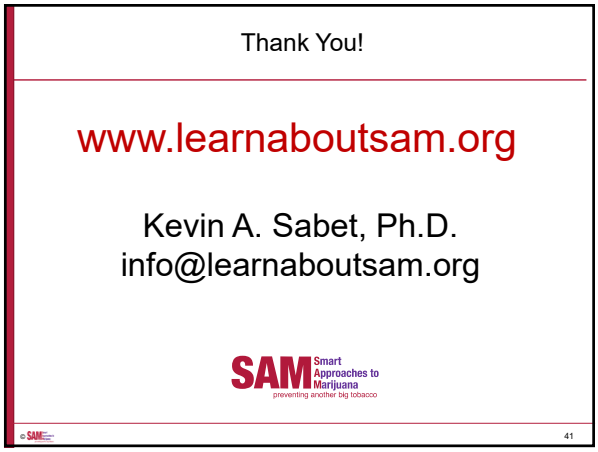
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41

41