Contents

List of figures and tables

Foreword by Peter Reuter Acknowledgements

	1	Introduction	1
Sect	ion 1 C	cannabis the drug and how it is used	11
	2	Cannabis the drug	13
	3	Patterns of use	18
Sect	ion 2 T	he health effects of cannabis	31
	4	The acute effects of cannabis	38
	5	The cellular, immunological and reproductive effects of chronic cannabis use	46
	6	The cardiovascular, respiratory and gastrointestinal effects of	
		chronic cannabis use	60
Secti	ion 3 T	he psychological effects of chronic cannabis use	67
	7	Cannabis dependence	70
	8	The effects of cannabis use on cognitive functioning	79
	9	Cannabis use and psychotic disorders	87

ix

xii

viii	c	ontents	
Section 4 Effects on adolescent development			
	10	Is cannabis a gateway drug?	104
	11	Adolescent psychosocial outcomes	115
Section	15 H	arms and benefits of cannabis use	127
	12	Comparing the health effects of cannabis with alcohol and tobacco	130
	13	The benefits of cannabis use	142
Section	16 T	he effectiveness and costs of cannabis prohibition	155
	14	The impact of prohibition on cannabis use	159
	15	The monetary cost of enforcing prohibition	165
	16	Other costs of cannabis prohibition	176
Section	17 P	olicy alternatives	183
	17	Variations on prohibition	187
	18	Cannabis as a legal substance	195
	19	Summing up	213
		Appendix 1	227
		Appendix 2	236
		References	240
		Index	289

List of figures

3.1	Cannabis use in the USA in 2001 by age	19
3.2	Trends in monthly cannabis use among 18–25-year-olds in the USA	20
3.3	Cannabis use in high school students in the USA in 2001	20
3.4	Trends in cannabis use in US grade 12 students 1975-2000	21
3.5	Current monthly use of cannabis, alcohol, cigarettes, other illicit drugs	
	and prescribed psychoactive drugs by age	22
3.6	Lifetime and past-year use of cannabis in Australia 2001	24
3.7	Trends in lifetime cannabis use among 20-29-year-olds in Australia	24
3.8	Global cannabis use in the late 1990s	27
3.9	Percentage of global cannabis use in the late 1990s by region	27
15.1	Per capita cannabis possession arrests	167

List of tables

3.1 Prevalence of cannabis use surveys in European countries 1998–2000

28