Marijuana Policy Reform Across the Nation

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www.mpp.org
“Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind.”

— Harry Anslinger, Commissioner, Federal Bureau of Narcotics

National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse

- Recommended decriminalization
- “No substantial evidence existed of a causal connection between the use of marihuana and ... aggressive acts ... marihuana was usually found to inhibit the expression of aggressive impulses.” — its 1972 report
National Academies of Sciences Reports

• “Nausea, appetite loss, pain, and anxiety are all afflictions of wasting, and all can be mitigated by marijuana.”
  — Institute of Medicine’s 1999 report

• “Conclusive or substantial evidence that cannabis can alleviate chronic pain in adults”
  — National Academies’ 2017 report
Almost Every State has Relaxed its Marijuana Laws
48 States Acknowledge Cannabis' Medical Value
29 States Have Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Laws
Comprehensive Medical Marijuana Laws

- Qualifying patients may use medical cannabis
  - Allows vaporization and/or smoking
  - No THC limit

- In-state access

- No catch-22 due to federal law
Medical Marijuana Policy Choices

- **Level of regulation**
  - Under-regulation can expose patients to untested cannabis and cause community concerns
  - Overregulation can increase prices and decrease participation

- **Qualifying conditions**
  - Cancer, seizures, certain spasms are universally included
  - 26 of 29 states include chronic or intractable pain
  - All but Alaska include PTSD
Medical Marijuana Policy Choices

- Physicians’ role
  - “Recommendation” that a patient may benefit
  - Certifying patients have a qualifying condition

- Home cultivation

- Visiting patients

- Anti-discrimination protections
18 States Have Low-THC or CBD-Rich Cannabis Laws
Low-THC / High-CBD Medical Cannabis Laws

- Limited amount of THC
- Often applies only to intractable seizures
- May be symbolic, include a catch-22
- Often no workable in-state access
  - Only 3-4 states have viable in-state access
  - Those may not be financially viable
Gallup: 64% Support Making Marijuana Legal

Americans' Support for Legalizing Marijuana Continues to Rise

Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

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<th>Year</th>
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Marijuana is Regulated for Adults’ Use in Eight States
Regulating and Legalizing Marijuana

- Marijuana possession and use is legal for adults 21+
- Production and sales are taxed and regulated
Adult-Use Policy Choices

- Selecting Licensees
  - Free market, merit-based, or qualified lottery
  - Advance start for medical licensees

- Local Control

- Home Cultivation

- DUI Prevention / Enforcement
  - Problems with “per se” approaches
Adult-Use Policy Choices: Taxes

Method and Rate of Taxation
- Goals: generating revenue, avoiding problem use, displacing the illicit market
- Per weight or percent-based (*ad valorem*)
- Adjusting for inflation

Disposition of Tax Revenue
- Including public education and/or monitoring
- Investing in communities hit by the drug war
14 States “Decriminalized” Marijuana Possession
“Decriminalization”

- **Imposes a fine, not jail time, for possession**
  - At least for a first offense
  - Minors may be required to go to drug education instead

- **Typically makes the offense civil, not criminal**
  - Avoids collateral consequences that are barriers to employment, housing, and education
For more information, please visit www.MarijuanaPolicy.org