



New Directions in Drug Treatment & the Legalization of Marijuana

Patients, not Convicts

The Problem

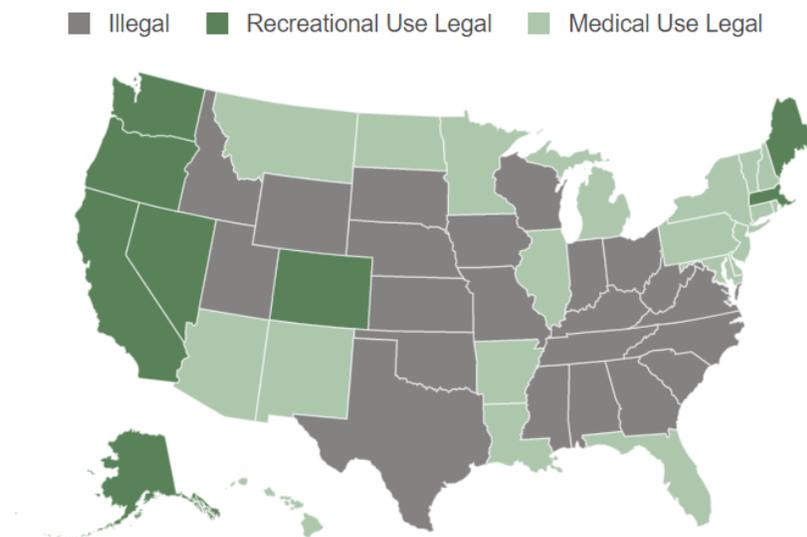
- New York still sends thousands of its citizens into prison every year for drug possession instead of making them patients in drug treatment centers. Incarceration is much more expensive than drug treatment, and the lack of treatment increases recidivism.
- In addition, New York, like many other states, has highly restrictive, unreasonable local zoning ordinances that don't allow treatment centers to open, even though there is a large and growing need for them -- the New York State Department of Health has [estimated](#) that 1.9 *million* New Yorkers have a substance abuse problem.
- Although about half of New York's voters have tried marijuana, thousands of New Yorkers are still fined, arrested, and even jailed for using it. [Ninety-one percent of the people](#) arrested are minorities, even though minorities use marijuana at the same rates as whites. Legalization of marijuana would save New York [hundreds of millions of dollars a year](#) in enforcement, and in addition, avoid doing real harm to the lives of thousands of New Yorkers by defining them for life as "criminals" in the process.

The Solution

- To save lives, lower crime, and ultimately save the state money, the New York State Constitution should enshrine the right to substance abuse rehabilitation. New York needs to send addicts into drug treatment centers instead of prison. As Kara Dansky of the ACLU has [written](#), "Drug addiction has become one of the many social problems that we've relegated to the criminal justice system. But as with homelessness and mental illness, handcuffs and jail cells haven't made things better and have cost much more than the treatment and services that can....Addiction should not be a crime."

- A constitutional amendment to provide the right to substance abuse treatment should also limit and more clearly define the ability of local ordinances to prevent treatment centers from opening up. The State clearly needs more treatment centers in residential areas, not the small number misguided zoning laws currently permit.
- The legalization of marijuana is progressing rapidly around the country. Alaska, California, Colorado, Oregon, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada and Washington and all permit recreational use.

Legal Status of Recreational & Medical Marijuana Use



[Map from Ballotopedia.org](http://Ballotopedia.org)

- New York needs a whole new constitutional approach to how we treat drug use and addiction, emphasizing treatment rather than incarceration. As part of this new approach, we must pass a constitutional amendment to legalize the personal use and cultivation of marijuana.

Fast Facts

- In the 2016 election, the legalization of marijuana was approved by referendum in California, Nevada and Massachusetts, and medical marijuana was approved in Arkansas, Florida and North Dakota. Only Arizona defeated a marijuana legalization initiative.

- “A national survey by the Pew Research Center finds that 67% of Americans say that the government should focus more on providing treatment for those who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine.” – Pew Research Center, [“America’s New Drug Policy Landscape,”](#) April 2, 2014.
- “I am not somebody who believes that legalization is a panacea,” Obama said. “But I do believe that treating this as a public-health issue, the same way we do with cigarettes or alcohol, is the much smarter way to deal with it.” – [President Barak Obama](#), November 30, 2016.
- “California’s Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, which diverts nonviolent drug offenders from the correctional system and into treatment, saved a little more than \$2,300 per offender over a 30-month post-conviction period....And even though the law resulted in spending more on treatment, health care services and community service supervision, bypassing incarceration still yielded overall savings, said study co-author M. Douglas Anglin, founding director of the UCLA Drug Abuse Research Center....” – *The Pump Handle*, [“Study: Sending nonviolent drug offenders to treatment instead of prison saves money,”](#) May 24, 2013.
- “Arrests for possessing small amounts of marijuana exceeded those for all violent crimes last year, a new study has found, even as social attitudes toward the drug have changed and a number of cities and states have legalized its use or decriminalized small quantities. And a disproportionate number of those arrested are African-Americans, who smoke marijuana at rates similar to whites but are arrested and prosecuted far more often for having small amounts for personal use, according to the study. The arrests can overwhelm court systems.” [The New York Times](#), October 13, 2016.
- “Marijuana is the third most popular recreational drug in America (behind only alcohol and tobacco), and has been used by nearly 100 million Americans. According to government surveys, some 25 million Americans have smoked marijuana in the past year, and more than 14 million do so regularly....” – [NORML.org](#)
- “The share of Americans who favor legalizing the use of marijuana continues to increase. Today, 57% of U.S. adults say the use of marijuana should be made legal, while 37% say it should be illegal. A decade ago, opinion on legalizing marijuana was nearly the reverse – just 32% favored legalization, while 60% were opposed.” -- [Pew Research Center](#), October 12, 2016.
- In another recent [poll by the Gallup organization](#), support for legal marijuana was up to 60%, the highest number in a 47-year trend.
- “States are driving the change in marijuana policy because they see the damage created by draconian drug laws on communities, families and state budgets. It’s time the federal

government acknowledged these costs and got out of the way of states adopting more rational laws.” [Editorial Board](#), *The New York Times*, October 19, 2016.

- “Medical marijuana if you do it right you can help thousands of people who are in terrible, desperate situations. On the other hand, if the situation doesn’t work, you can have a public safety debacle.” –[Governor Andrew Cuomo](#).
- Around 50,000 people die each year from alcohol poisoning. Similarly, more than 400,000 deaths each year are attributed to tobacco smoking. By comparison, marijuana is nontoxic and cannot cause death by overdose. – [NORML.org](#)

History

Drug Treatment Rather than Incarceration

The State must be responsible for providing substance abuse programs for all New Yorkers in need. This will save lives, and ultimately save the state millions of dollars per year.

Being convicted for drug use has profound negative effects not only on the addict beyond mere imprisonment. As the [Drug Policy Alliance has written](#):

Punishment for a drug law violation is not only meted out by the criminal justice system, but is also perpetuated by policies denying child custody, voting rights, employment, business loans, licensing, student aid, public housing and other public assistance to people with criminal convictions. Criminal records often result in deportation of legal residents or denial of entry for noncitizens trying to visit the U.S. Even if a person does not face jail or prison time, a drug conviction often imposes a lifelong ban on many aspects of social, economic and political life.

These various punishments not only affect the addict, but his/her family as well. There is a lifelong loss of income and loss of opportunity. Families are broken up, with children separated from their parents, and there is the guilt and shame that entails. The effects of incarceration span generations.

In addition, evidence clearly indicates how profound the impact of an incarcerated parent has on the children. A recent [study](#) by the Economic Policy Institute concluded:

Independent of other social and economic characteristics, children of incarcerated parents are more likely to:

- drop out of school
- develop learning disabilities, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- misbehave in school
- suffer from migraines, asthma, high cholesterol, depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and homelessness

So the costs of incarceration are multigenerational. The question is whether being incarcerated for a mental problem – an addiction – is a benefit to the addict or society.

The financial costs of imprisonment are clear. According to the Vera Institute, in 2010, the [average annual cost per inmate](#) in New York State is \$60,076. In New York City, however, the numbers were much higher. A [2013 study](#) by the Independent Budget Office concluded that the city paid \$167,631 per inmate per year. So the costs of incarcerating an addict are much higher than a typical drug treatment programs.

According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#):

Drug abuse treatment is cost effective in reducing drug use and bringing about related savings in health care. Treatment also consistently has been shown to reduce the costs associated with lost productivity, crime, and incarceration across various settings and populations. The largest economic benefit of treatment is seen in avoided costs of crime (incarceration and victimization costs).

“Avoiding the costs of crime” can be measured by the recidivism rate of drug addicts. The evidence is clear that treatment for addicts lowers the rate of recidivism. For instance, a [five-year study](#) of the Drug Treatment Alternative-to-Prison Program (DTAP) in Brooklyn, New York found that people who completed the program had a recidivism rate 67% lower than that of the control group who didn’t participate in the program. Many similar studies around the country have been [documented](#).

The evidence is clear that it’s better for the individual addict, and for society itself, to provide treatment for people convicted of drug possession rather than imprisonment. The state should have the responsibility to provide substance abuse treatment for all New Yorkers. This basic value has to be reflected in our state constitution.

Zoning Laws and Substance Abuse Treatment Centers

In 2012, an established, successful Queens-based drug treatment center tried to open a new branch in Bensonhurst on the corner of two busy commercial streets. According to the [Brooklyn Eagle](#), “Community Board 11, which reviewed the application, voted unanimously in October to recommend that the state reject the application on the grounds that the facility would not fit in with the character of the surrounding community.”

Although Bensonhurst, just like every other community in New York, has residents with drug addiction problems who would benefit – perhaps even have their lives saved -- from a local treatment center, the Community Board was quick to oppose it. This is just one example of a “Not In My Back Yard” attitude that has led to innumerable zoning laws throughout the state to prevent treatment centers from providing care, which makes it much harder for substance abuse victims to receive treatment.

According to the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#):

In almost every instance, a community's fear of having an alcohol or other drug treatment program located within its borders is unfounded. In reality, treatment programs pose no legitimate danger to the health or welfare of the residents, nor do they draw substance abusers and pushers to the area. In fact, alcohol and other drug treatment programs improve neighborhoods by helping people get well.

The report goes on to say that

Zoning ordinances are by far the most common barriers treatment programs face in attempting to site or relocate their facilities. Sometimes a locality's zoning ordinances are written specifically to exclude a facility such as an alcohol or other drug treatment program. Sometimes a locality interprets its zoning laws to keep out a program or deny a program the variance necessary to comply with the zoning requirements. In either case, a treatment program may face formidable obstacles to winning the permission it needs to open its doors. It may even have to engage in a prolonged and costly legal battle before it can prevail.

Given that in 2010 the New York State Department of Health [estimated](#) that 1.9 *million* New Yorkers have a substance abuse problem, and that NIMBY fears are unfounded, imposing zoning ordinance restrictions on treatment centers is not simply foolish, but deadly.

How We Got Here

No drugs were illegal or in any way controlled until the twentieth century. In fact, since hemp was a major crop, [it was quite common](#) for cannabis, like cocaine and opiates, to be an ingredient in patent medicines and over the counter, drug store concoctions. Recreational use was largely unknown until the first few decades of the twentieth century.

Marijuana was a legal drug until 1914 in New York City, 1927 in the rest of the state, and 1937 in the country with the passing of the Federal Marijuana Tax Act of 1937. [“Congress deemed an act taxing and regulating drugs, rather than prohibiting them, less susceptible to legal challenge. As a result, the 1937 legislation was ostensibly a revenue measure.”](#)

In 1970, Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act, which classified types of drugs into “schedules.” Marijuana, along with heroin and LSD, was classified as a “Schedule 1” drug, and therefore of greatest danger to the public.

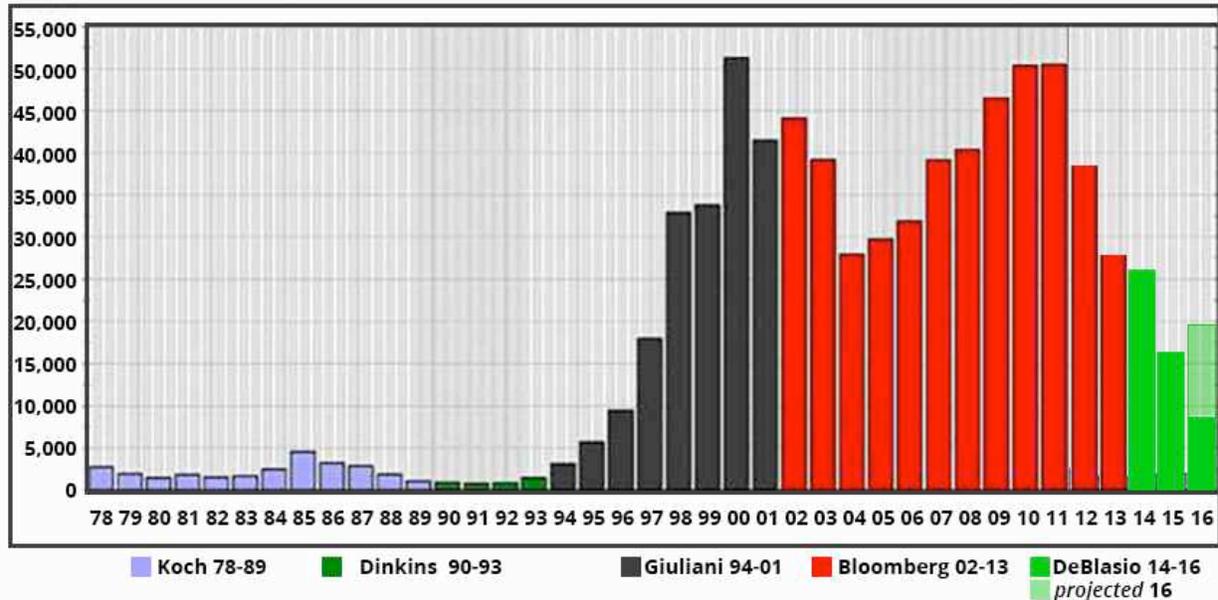
According to [Time](#) magazine:

The Schedule I designation made it difficult even for physicians or scientists to procure marijuana for research studies. Defining marijuana as medically useless and restricting research access ensured that it would not be developed for use in medicines through the normal medical, scientific and pharmaceutical protocols.

From 1937-74, the drug was [“treated as harshly as heroin and cocaine offenses in New York State.”](#) In response to rising drug use, in 1973 Albany enacted “legislation that created mandatory minimum sentences of 15 years to life for possession of four ounces of narcotics — about the same as a sentence for second-degree murder. The statutes became known as the [Rockefeller Drug Laws](#) — a milestone in America's war on drugs.” In 1975, the state slightly tempered the Rockefeller Drug Laws by decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana in private settings.

With the rise of crack in the nineteen-eighties, police officers in New York City were actually discouraged from making arrests for marijuana use. This lasted until the Giuliani administration, when the crack epidemic had ended and new mayor promised to be tough on crime and “take back the streets.” The result was a staggering increase in the number of arrests:

Possession Arrests Soared Under Giuliani and Bloomberg



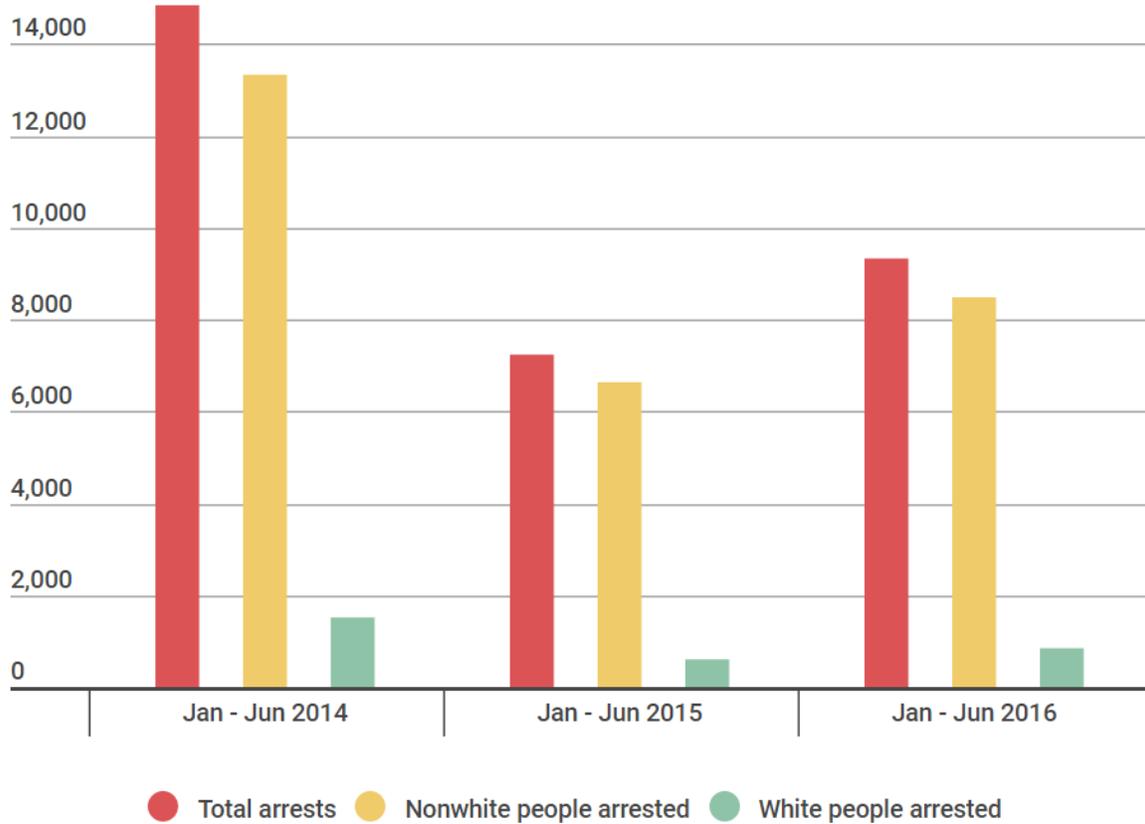
From Marijuana-Arrests.com With Additional Data

When Mayor De Blasio took office, there was a promise of change, and there was great change, until suddenly, [there wasn't](#):

Two years ago, when Bill de Blasio announced a citywide policy change where officers would issue a summons instead of making arrests for someone in possession of 25 grams or less of marijuana, it drastically reduced the number of misdemeanor marijuana arrests, which dropped 56 percent between 2014 and 2015 alone, almost instantaneously.

But according to new data by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, they've gone back up just as quickly. The numbers are based on NYPD arrests from the first three months of 2016 and show an over 30 percent rise in arrests for the possession or sale of small amounts of marijuana — the department counted 5,311 busts between January and March, up from 3,973 arrests over the same period last year.

Over the first six months of 2016, [marijuana arrests were still up 29%](#) -- and **almost 90% of those arrested were minorities, even though minorities use marijuana at the same rates as whites.**



Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, via the Police Reform Organizing Project

Currently, New York State has the following penalties for marijuana possession, sale, trafficking and cultivation:

Offense	Penalty	Incarceration	Max. Fine
Possession			
25 g or less (first offense)	Not Classified	N/A	\$ 100
25 g or less (second offense)	Not Classified	N/A	\$ 200
25 g or less (third offense)	Not Classified	15 days	\$ 250
More than 25 g - 2 oz	Misdemeanor	3 months	\$ 500
More than 2 - 8 oz	Misdemeanor	1 year	\$ 1,000
More than 8 oz - 1 lb	Felony	4 years	\$ 5,000
More than 1 - 10 lbs	Felony	7 years	\$ 5,000
More than 10 lbs	Felony	15 years	\$ 15,000
In public view	Misdemeanor	90 days	\$ 250
Sale			
2 g or less without profit or 1 marijuana cigarette	Misdemeanor	3 months	\$ 500
25 g or less	Misdemeanor	1 year	\$ 1,000
More than 25 g - 4 oz	Felony	4 years	\$ 5,000
More than 4 oz - 1 lb	Felony	7 years	\$ 5,000
More than 1 lb	Felony	15 years	\$ 15,000
Using a child to assist	Felony	4 years	\$ 5,000
To a minor	Felony	7 years	\$ 5,000
Trafficking			
Any amount	Felony	15* - 25 years	\$ 100,000
* Mandatory minimum sentence			
Cultivation			
Any amount	Misdemeanor	1 year	\$ 1,000

From [New York State Laws & Penalties](#)

Problems Associated with Marijuana

Like any drug, abusing marijuana comes with a cost. A recent paper in [Innovations in Clinical Neuroscience](#) summed them up:

First, cannabis dependence (addiction) is real. Second, driving while under the influence of marijuana is unsafe. Third, marijuana use has a strong association with global underachievement. Fourth, marijuana elevates the risk of developing a psychotic illness and worsens the course of several serious mental health conditions in certain individuals. Fifth, though proving causality is complex, evidence supports a “bad to worse” or “gateway” role of cannabis in the development of other substance use disorders. Important to note, most of these harms are more likely to be present when marijuana use is frequent and starts early (i.e., in adolescence).

Much the same, of course, can be said about alcohol, and marijuana, like alcohol, should be regulated and prevented from being used by minors. However, Prohibition did not prevent alcohol abuse but instead created a huge illicit business. The same has been true with marijuana. It's time to end the marijuana prohibition.

The Results of Marijuana Legalization in Other States

The legalization of marijuana is leading to a decrease in the number of seizures of marijuana by the border patrol. [From fiscal year 2011 to 2015, the number of seizures made by the agency nationwide fell by 39 percent.](#)

But what about an increase in crime or impaired driving arrests, or a wider use of marijuana, as many critics of legalization have claimed would happen? According to a [recent study by the Cato Institute](#), none of this has happened:

Our conclusion is that state marijuana legalizations have had minimal effect on marijuana use and related outcomes. We cannot rule out small effects of legalization, and insufficient time has elapsed since the four initial legalizations to allow strong inference. On the basis of available data, however, we find little support for the stronger claims made by either opponents or advocates of legalization. The absence of significant adverse consequences is especially striking given the sometimes dire predictions made by legalization opponents.

There is simply no apparent downside to legalization, and a great upside in conserving the justice system's time and money to deal with more urgent issues.

Medical Marijuana in New York State

In July 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature enacted the Compassionate Care Act "to provide a comprehensive, safe and effective medical marijuana program that meets the needs of New Yorkers." However, many people this law has been severely compromised in order to get passed. The limitations of the bill are severe:

- Few doctors have taken the 4.5-hour training program to be registered for the program.
- A [recent survey](#) of patients reported that 77% are unable to afford the medicine they need.
- There are only 20 licensed medical dispensaries in the entire state.

Another issue of New York's Medical Marijuana law is that only 10 diseases can be treated with it: HIV/AIDS, cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, epilepsy, inflammatory bowel disease, neuropathies and Huntington's disease. Other states support twice as many. Take Illinois, for example, where medical marijuana can be used for the following diseases:

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Alzheimer's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Arnold-Chiari malformation and syringomyelia. cachexia/wasting syndrome, cancer, causalgia,

chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, Crohn's disease, CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Type I), CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Type II), dystonia, fibromyalgia (severe), fibrous dysplasia, glaucoma, hepatitis C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hydrocephalus, interstitial cystitis, Lupus, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis, myoclonus, Nail-patella syndrome, neurofibromatosis, Parkinson's disease, post-concussion syndrome, residual limb pain, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), seizures, Sjogren's syndrome, spinal cord disease (including but not limited to arachnoiditis, Tarlov cysts, hydromyelia & syringomyelia), spinal cord injury, spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA), Tourette syndrome, and Traumatic brain injury (TBI).

From the above, it's not surprising that as of November 29, 2016, more than two years after the bill became law, only 750 physicians have registered for the NYS Medical Marijuana Program and only 10,730 patients have been certified by their doctors.

In early December, 2016, the state announced that chronic pain will be added to the list of diseases officially treatable by marijuana and will allow the five licensed growers to sell their products to all of the licensed dispensaries instead of just four of them. However, according to the [New York Daily News](#):

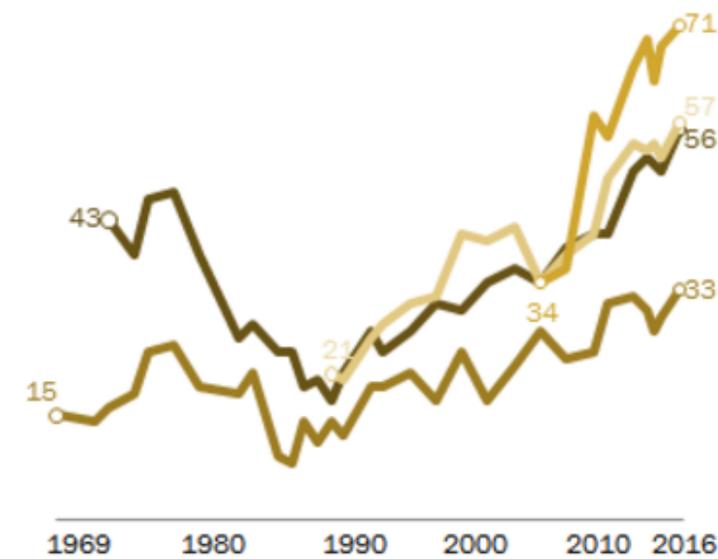
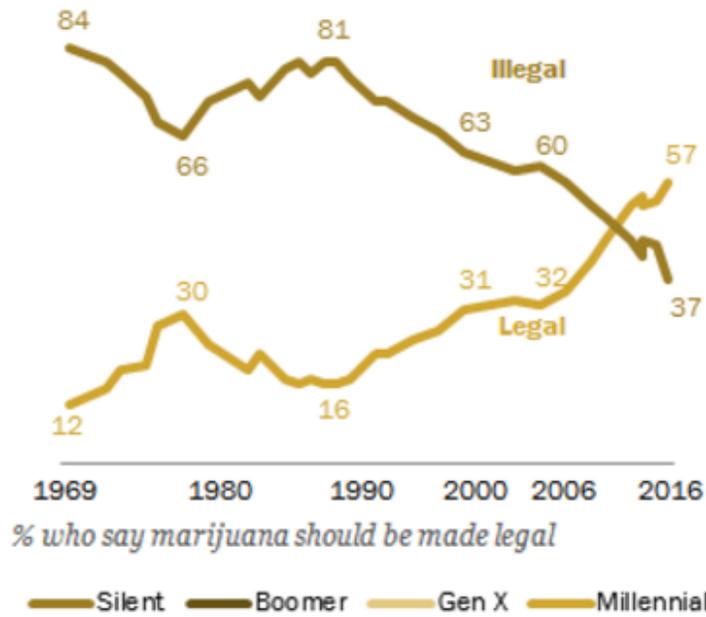
The announcement came on the same day that The Daily News reported that the state's five medical marijuana growers were "sustaining tremendous operating losses" and were urging the Health Department to take further steps to improve patient access before proceeding with its plan to add additional pot producers.

Other States

Public opinion on the legalization of marijuana is changing fast. According to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center, Americans now favor legalization by twenty points:

Opinion on legalizing marijuana, 1969-2016

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



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Aug. 23-Sept. 2, 2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

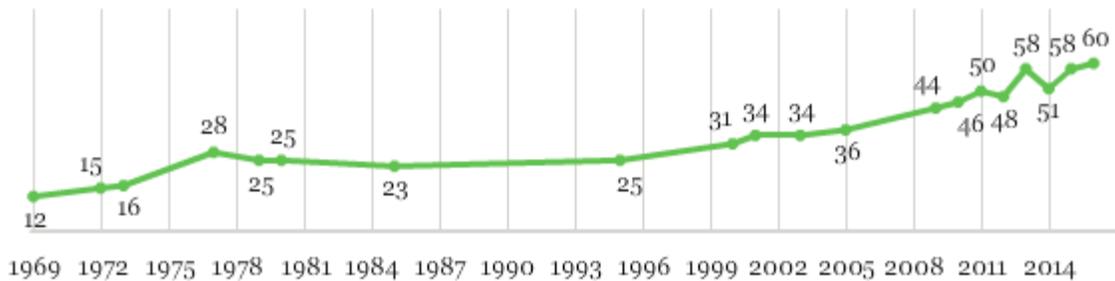
From [Pew Research Center](#)

This data was supported by a new poll from the Gallup organization, which has been polling on marijuana legalization for nearly fifty years. [Gallup reports](#) that support for the legalization of marijuana is up to 60%.

Americans' Views on Legalizing Marijuana

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

■ % Yes, legal



GALLUP®

Similar results were announced on February 23rd 2017 in a [Quinnipiac University National Poll](#), where 59% of U.S. voters believe marijuana should be made legal.

Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia currently have laws legalizing marijuana in some form.

Let's look at recent laws passed by two states and their initial results.

Colorado

Fifty-five percent of Colorado voters approved [Amendment 64](#), which legalizes

- Adult personal use and possession of cannabis (up to one ounce)
- Cultivation of up to six plants

The amendment also asks state lawmakers to enact regulations licensing its production and sales.

The following was the language on the ballot:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning marijuana, and, in connection therewith, providing for the regulation of marijuana; permitting a person twenty-one years of age or older to consume or possess limited amounts of marijuana; providing for the licensing of cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores; permitting local governments to regulate or prohibit such facilities; requiring the general assembly to enact an excise tax to be levied upon wholesale sales of marijuana; requiring that the first \$40 million in revenue raised annually by such tax be credited to the public school

capital construction assistance fund; and requiring the general assembly to enact legislation governing the cultivation, processing, and sale of industrial hemp?

According to the [Brookings Institution](#), “It’s too early to judge the success of Colorado’s policy, but it is not too early to say that the rollout—initial implementation—of legal retail marijuana has been largely successful.”

In the media, the reviews are much the same. From [Reuters](#):

Six months on, Colorado's marijuana shops are mushrooming, with support from local consumers, weed tourists and federal government taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Tax dollars are pouring in, crime is down in Denver, and few of the early concerns about social breakdown have materialized - at least so far.

Oregon

Fifty-six percent of voters approved the Legalized Marijuana Initiative, [Measure 91](#), which features:

- Adult personal use and possession of marijuana (up to eight ounces)
- Cultivation of up to four plants.

This law has taken effect in July 2015. Expectations of the results of the law were high. According to the [Huffington Post](#):

The new law means Oregon likely will reap benefits that appear to have followed legalization elsewhere: Reduced crime, from a legal industry supplanting a black market; higher tax revenue, once weed is legal to sell; and police forces and courts unburdened by droves of misdemeanor pot offenders.

Resources

[“6 Months Later, Legalizing Weed In Colorado Is A Huge Success,”](#) by Daniel Wallis, Reuters, Jul. 3, 2014.

[“About Marijuana,”](#) NORML.

[Amendment 64 Use and Regulation of Marijuana.](#)

[“An Analysis of Alternatives to New York City's Current Marijuana Arrest and Detention Policy,”](#) by Bruce D. Johnson, Andrew Golub, Eloise Dunlap, and Stephen J. Sifanek, *Policing*. 2008; 31(2): 226–250.

[“A Brief History of Marijuana Law in America,”](#) by Scott C. Martin, Time Magazine, April 20, 2016.

[“A Brief History of New York's Rockefeller Drug Laws,”](#) by Madison Gray, *Time Magazine*, April 02, 2009.

[“The Burden of Substance Abuse,”](#) New York State Department of Health.

[“City’s Annual Cost Per Inmate Is \\$168,000, Study Finds,”](#) by Marc Santoraug, The New York Times, August 23, 2013.

[“Colorado’s Rollout of Legal Marijuana Is Succeeding: A Report on the State’s Implementation of Legalization,”](#) by John Hudak, Center for Effective Public Management at Brookings, July 2014.

[“Cuomo on Marijuana, and Letting Genies Out of Bottles,”](#) by Laura Nahmias, *Politico*, June 18, 2014.

[“Dose of Reality: The Effect of State Marijuana Legalizations,”](#) By Angela Dills, Sietse Goffard, and Jeffrey Miron, the Cato Institute, Policy Analysis No. 799, September 16, 2016.

[“The Drug War, Mass Incarceration and Race,”](#) The Drug Policy Alliance, February 2016.

[“The Effectiveness of Substance Abuse Treatment with Criminal Justice Clients,”](#) Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

[“February 23, 2017 Press Release,”](#) Quinnipiac University, February 23, 2017.

[“How Did Marijuana Become Illegal in the First Place?”](#) by Dr. Malik Burnett and Amanda Reiman, PhD, MSW, Drug Policy Alliance, October 9, 2014.

[“If Marijuana Is Decriminalized in NYC, Then Why Are Possession Arrests on the Rise?”](#) by Anita Abedian, *The Village Voice*, June 1, 2016.

[“The Illegalization of Marijuana: A Brief History,”](#) by Stephen Siff, *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, Vol. 7, Issue 8 - May 2014.

[“Legal Marijuana is a Threat to Drug Smuggling in Arizona,”](#) Astrid Galvan, Associated Press, October 11, 2016.

[“Marijuana arrests are on the rise in NYC—and 90% are people of color,”](#) by Casey Tolan, *Fusion*, August 8, 2016.

[“Marijuana Arrests Outnumber Those for Violent Crimes, Study Finds,”](#) by Timothy Williams, *The New York Times*, October 12, 2016.

[“Marijuana Lights Up State Ballots,”](#) Editorial Board, *The New York Times*, October 19, 2016.

[“Marijuana’s Moment,”](#) by Russell Berman, *The Atlantic*, October 11, 2016.

[“Mass Incarceration and Children’s Outcomes,”](#) by Leila Morsy and Richard Rothstein, Economic Policy Institute, December 15, 2016.

[“Medical Marijuana Provides Relief for Many, But New York State Sets Limits for Most,”](#) by Janet Weinberg, *The Huffington Post*, March 16, 2015.

[“National poll: Majority supports legalizing marijuana,”](#) by Nick Gass, *Politico*, June 6, 2016.

[“New York Laws & Penalties,”](#) NORML.

[“New York legislative session ends with no improvements to flawed medical program,”](#) Marijuana Policy Project, August 16, 2016.

[“New York to Allow Wholesaling of Medical Marijuana Products,”](#) by Glenn Blain, *New York Daily News*, December 8, 2016.

[“NIMBY! Greenfield and Recchia Slam Plan for Drug Rehab in Bensonhurst,”](#) by Paula Katinas, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 4, 2012.

[“NYC Marijuana Arrests Are Up By Nearly A Third Compared To Last Year,”](#) by Nathan Tempey, *Gothamist*, August 9, 2016.

[“Obama Says Pot Should be Treated Like Cigarettes and Booze,”](#) by Joe Vitale, *The New York Post*, November 30, 2016.

[“One Million Police Hours Making 440,000 Marijuana Possession Arrests In New York City, 2002-2012,”](#) the Drug Policy Alliance, March, 2013.

[“Oregon Legalized Marijuana Initiative, Measure 91 \(2014\),”](#) Ballotopedia.

[“Oregon Legalizes Recreational Marijuana! Here’s What That Means,”](#) by Andy Campbell, *The Huffington Post*, July 1, 2015.

[“Poll: Support for legal pot gaining in New York,”](#) by Erin Durkin, *New York Daily News*, February 17, 2014.

[“Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations - A Research-Based Guide,”](#) National Institute for Drug Abuse, April, 2014.

[“The Price of Prisons: What Incarceration Costs Taxpayers,”](#) the Vera Institute, July 20, 2012.

[“Siting Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs: Legal Challenges to the NIMBY Syndrome,”](#) by The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.

[“State Marijuana Laws Map,”](#) Governing.com, May 25, 2016.

[“Support for Marijuana Legalization Continues to Rise,”](#) by Abigail Geiger, Pew Research Center, October 12, 2016.

[“Support for Legal Marijuana Use Up to 60% in U.S.,”](#) by Art Swift, Gallup.com.

[“Why Not Pot? A Review of the Brain-based Risks of Cannabis,”](#) by Kai MacDonald, MD and Katherine Pappas, *Innovations in Clinical Neuroscience*, April 1, 2016.