

WHY CANNABIS IS A MEDICATION THAT'S WORTH LEGALIZING

In recent years, several US states, along with countries around the world, have legalized medicinal marijuana, while many have even gone as far as legalizing recreational use. This infographic outlines the health benefits, the medicinal uses, and other practical justifications for legalizing this substance.

WHAT IS THE MEDICAL COMPONENT OF MARIJUANA?

CANNABINOIDS:

The chemical compounds in Cannabis (includes CBD and THC).

→ Clinical studies show both CBD and THC are effective in treating chronic pain. Cannabinoids bind to receptors in different parts of the body.

THC:

Psychoactive ingredient, associated with a sense of euphoria or high. Binds to receptors in the brain.

- Combat pain, nausea, sleep disorders.
- But in high doses, may cause paranoia and anxiety in some patients.

CBD:

Not psychoactive, counteracts psychoactivity of THC. Binds to receptors throughout the body.

- Fight pain, MS, sleep disorder, epilepsy. Helpful for lowering blood sugar.
- Calming effect.

WHICH PATIENTS BENEFIT FROM MEDICINAL MARIJUANA?

A 2017 report analyzing +10,000 studies, the most comprehensive to date, found conclusive evidence cannabis is an effective treatment for:

CHRONIC PAIN:

"By far the most common reason" people use medical marijuana, according to the study.



NEUROLOGICAL:

Helps control muscle spasms for people with multiple sclerosis

NAUSEA:

Particularly nausea from chemotherapy

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY:

Some evidence marijuana may reduce inflammation

OTHER CONDITIONS CANNABIS MAY HELP TO TREAT:

- Arthritis
- Fibromyalgia
- Anorexia
- Anxiety & Stress
- PTSD

VETERANS:

Veterans Affairs Canada paid out

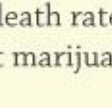
\$5.2 MILLION
in 2014–2015



X12 MORE
than previous year
\$417,000

CAN MEDICAL CANNABIS ACTUALLY REDUCE USE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS?

States that already allow medical marijuana



fewer opioid deaths

Drop in opioid overdose death rate increases even more with each year that marijuana is legalized.

1ST YEAR

↓ 20%

3RD YEAR

↓ 24%

6TH YEAR

↓ 33%

DID YOU KNOW?

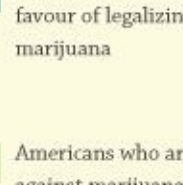
Uruguay will become the first country to sell cannabis in a drug store.



WHY LEGALIZE?

REASON #1:

Cut off profits to organized crime groups selling marijuana.

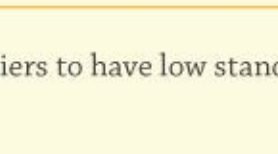


GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT!

2006



2016



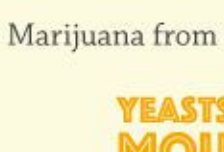
Americans in favour of legalizing marijuana

Americans who are against marijuana

CANNABIS BUYERS BEWARE!

Illegal market allows suppliers to have low standards.

In Toronto, a study of local dispensaries found



1/3

did not meet Health Canada standards. Toronto dispensaries exist in a legal gray area and don't comply with any standards board.

Marijuana from one popular dispensary with a failing test:

YEASTS AND MOULDS
9X
acceptable amount

Large traces of a bacteria found in
SEWAGE, SOIL & INTESTINAL TRACTS



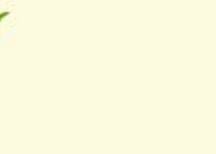
THE HISTORY

4000 BC

The Far East: Earliest recorded use of cannabis for medical purposes, in Siberia and Mongolia.

1911

Cannabis enters Southern US over Mexican border. Racism towards Mexicans fuels criticism of the drug.



1932

Cannabis is banned in Canada.



1937

Criminalization of Cannabis in US.



1970S

Decriminalization rolls out gradually across many US states.

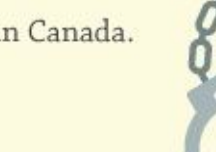
1996

California legalizes medical cannabis. Many states follow suit in following years.



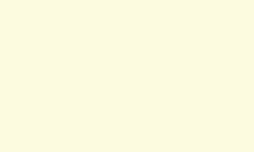
2001

Canada legalizes medical cannabis.



2003

First failed attempt to decriminalize in Canada.



2004

Second failed attempt to decriminalize in Canada.

2012–2016

- **28 States** in the US have legalized **medical marijuana**
- **20% of Americans** live in states with **legalized recreational use**

- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Oregon
- Washington



2017

- Canada's Liberal government introduced bill in April **proposing legalizing of recreational marijuana use** that is expected to come into effect July 2018.

• Canadians will be able to legally carry up to **30 g of marijuana.** = x 30

Bill also:

- Introduces penalties for selling to minors and for **driving under the influence.**
- Limits how the drug can be marketed, especially to minors.
 - A gummy bear ban? Edible marijuana in the form of sweet treats → Children could accidentally ingest.
 - **Learn from Colorado:** Chocolate bars initially sold in full sizes, rather than portioned. Many ate the whole thing, winding up in the hospital.
- Minimum smoking age: 18 (or older, depending on the province)
- **Weed Economics:** Sin Tax? If this is set too high, consumers will stay in the illegal market.
 - **Learn from Colorado:** Initially charged 30% Tax. → ½ of consumers stayed in illegal market



Research Links:

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<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/marijuana-legislation-knows-unknowns-1.3660258>

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<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/musquodoboit-veteran-endures-3-month-delay-for-marijuana-prescription-1.3197066>

<http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/news/20151007/medical-marijuana-seems-safe-for-chronic-pain-patients-study-finds#1>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legality_of_cannabis_by_U.S._jurisdiction

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_history_of_cannabis_in_Canada#Medical_cannabis_legislation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_cannabis_laws_in_the_United_States

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/07/uruguay-to-be-first-country-in-world-to-sell-cannabis-in-drug-stores.html>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/investigations/globe-investigation-whats-in-your-weed-we-tested-dispensary-marijuana-to-find-out/article31144496/>

<https://www.leafly.com/news/cannabis-101/cannabinoids-101-what-makes-cannabis-medicine>

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<http://www.livescience.com/48337-marijuana-history-how-cannabis-travelled-world.html>