

# Marijuana & The Law



## Terms

**Cannabis:** Marijuana; other terms are weed, pot, grass, skunk, ganja, maryjane, and reefer.

**Cannabis Components:**  
Hemp (plant; specifically grown for industrial usage), THC (psychoactive; causes a "high"), CBD (primarily medicinal)

**Decriminalization:** Results in those who have marijuana charges no longer being considered criminals, and one's criminal record being absolved of any marijuana charges. This does not equate to legality.

**'Gateway Drug':** The mythical narrative that marijuana use would lead to further drug use, demoralization, criminality, and addiction.

**Legalization:** A state decision allowing the use of marijuana for recreational, medical, research, entrepreneurial, financial, and investment purposes. Federally, marijuana is still considered a Schedule I Drug.



## People



Charlotte Figi



John Boehner



Charles Lynch



Patrick Kennedy



Snoop Dogg

## Values

Pot Culture

Economic Benefits

Racial Justice



Medicinal Use

Recreational Use

**8.25 million**

Americans with marijuana charges, with 40,000 Americans in prison.

## Statistics

**48.2 million**

Americans have reported that they use marijuana. Marijuana use is equal among races, ethnicities, and income brackets.

**59%**

of Americans support legalization for recreational use, while 30% support medical use only.

**Four**

African Americans are arrested for violating marijuana possession laws at nearly four times the rates of whites, yet both ethnicities consume marijuana at roughly the same rates.

**19**

states have fully legalized marijuana; 4 states maintain full illegalization of marijuana; 27 states have a combination of decriminalization and medical use legislation.

**420**

## Timeline

**1936:** *Reefer Madness*, a film based on the fear of interracial marriages, propagandizes marijuana use.

**1937:** *Marihuana Tax Act* is passed, prohibiting marijuana use.

**1960s:** Marijuana decriminalization movement results in 11 U.S. states taking measures.

**1996:** California becomes the first state to legalize medical marijuana.

**2012:** Colorado becomes the first state to legalize recreational marijuana.



## Action

- Commit to one weekly action to learn about Marijuana & The Law.
- Familiarize yourself with your city, state, and federal laws regarding marijuana, as well as your representatives' stances on Marijuana & The Law.
- Have a conversation about marijuana laws with someone. People are often reluctant to talk about marijuana because of the potential legal implications and professional stigma of marijuana use, making it a controversial topic.
- Visit a dispensary and ask questions to a potpreneur to help dispel your stereotypes and learn the difference between CBD and THC.
- Share our infographic!