

SARINA CAMPANELLA | DAI 523.01 | TROGU | SFSU | SPRING 2019



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**(First Legal Year in CA)**

(Nationwide) <https://www.bls.gov/>

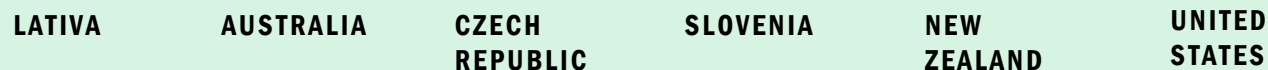
Program	Funding (\$M)
Social and Medical Programs	\$50M
Agency Cover Regulation	\$12M
Public Schools and Universities	\$10M
Law Enforcement	\$3M
Medical Cannabis Research	\$2M

Legalization comes with a price, and for many individuals, that is a risk worth taking. However, taxes have reached the highest they've ever been, particularly in major states like California and Washington D.C. where city taxes can reach anywhere from 15% - 45%! For some people, it makes them wonder if they'd pay over 10% tax on alcohol or cigarettes. The issue with legal cannabis regulation is the rise of the Black Market taking back the sales from those who can't afford regular dispensary prices. The price gap causes both vendors and buyers to scramble for cheaper prices, while maintaining an increased profit (on top of the separate taxes farmers and business owners pay to operate legally.) A report from Fitch Rating warned that, "high taxes on legal cannabis will likely continue to divert sales to illegal markets."

This map shows the progress of legal, recreational cannabis across the states. Although cannabis support is at an all time high with more than 85% of the map approving of medicinal or recreational use, the plant is still federally illegal, and classified as a Schedule I drug alongside heroin, meth, and cocaine. States that approve the medicinal use of cannabis have THC restriction - the active cannabinoid that gets you high - and most only approve CBD, the chemical that is responsible for the medicinal benefits, such as alleviating anxiety, chronic pain, loss of appetite, and more. In 2016, an astonishing eight out of nine states voted to legalize cannabis, and in the last 2 years, the number of states have increased putting the initiative on their ballot, with only four states left to legalize it. In places where it is allowed, it is illegal to directly sell to those around you without a license, but many have opted for the "gifting option" which is much more safe, and legal. Nationally, 63% of Americans support cannabis legalization, but that number is even higher when it comes to medical cannabis - at a staggering 93% that would approve.

As the cannabis market is expected to reach \$26B in the United States, and \$166B globally by 2025, we look into the benefits of regulation, taxation and moderation for the American public. The dramatic growth of the market creates new jobs, generates money for city infrastructures, and allows scientific research to prove the medical properties contained in the plant. With only a few states left to give the green light for growing and cultivation, and a handful that accept recreational use, there is no slowing down for companies looking to cash in.

\*Based on GDP



1. Latvia has a population of just under 2 million people, but with a whopping 0.64% of GDP. Although cannabis is unlawful to buy, sell, or produce, according to Rand Corporation Data, "...\$97 million of the plant [is generated] per year...In a country of just under 2 million citizens, that's about \$48.50 spent on pot per year for every man, woman, and child."

3. The Czech Republic has a GDP of 0.45% from cannabis, and legalized recreational use in 2013. It is legal to possess 15 grams without risking a criminal penalty.

5. Lastly, New Zealand makes the list with 0.35% GDP, but getting caught with possession can land you a \$500 fine, or in prison for three months. According to the Herald-DigiPoll survey, almost 45% of locals supported legalization or decriminalization. ([www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz))

Source: <https://precisecannabis.com/Post/The-4-Largest-Cannabis-Economies-in-the-World>

The media and cannabis haven't always got along, especially after the War on Drugs made it impossible for research and independent studies to be done. Early propaganda like movies such as "Reefer Madness" in 1936, deceived the American society's views of the plant into something criminal. It wasn't until the 1970's when the term "marijuana" was created, and the plant was classified as a Schedule I drug (and still is today) alongside the worst offenders like heroin, meth, and cocaine. It was also heavily discussed in terms of drug trafficking and framed low-income, minorities to be the main users. Still, movies like "Up in Smoke" with Cheech and Chong broke the barriers of the media, and inspired other movies to follow suit. During the 1990s, there was less focus on cannabis in criminal terms and instead, articles about observing the plant for medicinal purposes increased. By the 2000s, it was hardly described in terms of drug abuse and trafficking, and movies about the stereotypical "stoner" were more popular. Now in 2019, there are a plethora of movies and more educational TV shows.

**Type**

- Politics and Policy
- Other Schedule I Drugs
- Other
- Drug Trafficking and Abuse
- Medical Use

**Year**

Source: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND  
 Source: Social Science Research (2019)  
<https://theconversation.com/why-do-so-many-americans-now-support-legalizing-marijuana-110593>

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**“Marijuana is just a word, so it is not inherently racist, but a strong case can be made that prohibitionists specifically used the word to exploit racism and rising xenophobia.”**

In the 1980's, the War on Drugs created an imbalanced, biased opinion of cannabis in the media and aimed to incarcerate young, black, and Latino individuals. Low-level drug offenses were turned into life-long sentences that still affect people behind bars today. It wasn't until the 1990's when stories discussing cannabis in criminal terms became less prevalent. As more people started using the plant for both medical and recreational purposes, the number of people who believed the criminal justice system was too harsh also increased. Factors like politics, age, and better education have shifted the public opinion to more accepting views. Now in 2019, more than half of Americans agree the criminal justice system is too harsh, with an almost 8% increase of cannabis users since the 80s.

**Side Effects include:**

- Elation
- Relaxation
- Sedation
- Pain relief
- Memory impairment
- Energy
- Hunger
- Drowsiness
- Increased heart rate
- Dry mouth
- Red eyes
- Slower perception of time
- Laughter
- Dizziness
- “Couch-lock”
- Anxiety/paranoia

The first step to understanding THC is to understand cannabinoids. Cannabinoids are chemical compounds found in the cannabis plant that interact with receptors in the brain and body to create various effects. Because humans (and many other animals) have receptor systems that THC binds to, we can also reap the benefits of cannabinoids for both health and enjoyment.

High-CBD strains tend to deliver very clear-headed, functional effects without the euphoric high associated with high-THC strains. They're typically preferred by consumers who are extremely sensitive to the side effects of THC (e.g., anxiety, paranoia, dizziness). A high-CBD strain would also be a great choice for someone needing to medicate throughout the day to control pain, inflammation, anxiety, or other chronic conditions.

### Medical Effects Alleviate:

- Cancer
- Epilepsy and seizures
- Pain
- Inflammation
- PTSD
- Anxiety
- Crohn's disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Opioid withdrawal
- Neuropathic and chronic pain
- Appetite loss
- ADHD

**Cannabis Legality in the US**

Legend:

- Fully Illegal
- Recreational
- Medical Only

States labeled on the map include: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Alaska, and Hawaii.

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### Views of Cannabis and Crime in the U.S.

The graph displays two data series over time. The green line, representing support for legalization, starts at approximately 20% in 1973, peaks at 30% in 1978, dips to 20% in 1983, and then shows a steady increase to 60% by 2016. The blue line, representing the view that the criminal justice system is too harsh, starts at approximately 5% in 1973, remains relatively flat until the late 1990s, and then rises to about 22% by 2016.

Year	Support Legalization of Cannabis (%)	Think Criminal Justice System is Too Harsh (%)
1973	20	5
1975	22	5
1978	30	3
1980	25	3
1983	20	3
1985	22	3
1987	18	4
1989	17	4
1991	18	3
1993	23	4
1995	23	3
1997	28	3
1999	30	5
2001	33	7
2003	35	9
2005	35	8
2007	38	10
2009	48	14
2011	47	16
2013	55	17
2015	58	19
2016	60	22

Source: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND  
Source: Social Science Research (2018)  
<https://theconversation.com/why-do-so-many-americans-see-cannabis-as-a-crime-146009>

Source: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND  
Source: Social Science Research (2019)  
<https://theconversation.com/why-do-so-many-americans-now-support-legislation-making-us-110500>

Sources:  
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