



2013: The Year In Review - NORML's Top 10 Events That Shaped Marijuana Policy



#1 Public Support For Legalizing Marijuana Hits Historic Highs

An unprecedented [58 percent](#) of Americans believe that marijuana ought to be "made legal" for adult consumption, according to survey data reported in October by Gallup. The percentage is the highest level of support ever recorded by Gallup, which has been inquiring on the issue since 1969, and marks a ten percent increase in voter approval since 2012. Regional polls conducted this year in several states, including [California](#), [Louisiana](#), and [Texas](#), also reported majority support for legalization.

#2 Nation Of Uruguay Passes Legislation Regulating Cannabis Use

Lawmakers in the South American nation of Uruguay [enacted legislation](#) authorizing the licensed production and retail sale of cannabis to all citizens age 18 and older. Residents will be able to legally purchase up to 40 grams of cannabis per month from state-licensed stores at a price of \$1

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Uruguay: Lawmakers Authorize Marijuana Production And Sales

Montevideo, Uruguay: Members of the Uruguay Senate [approved legislation](#) this week authorizing the licensed production and retail sale of cannabis to all citizens age 18 and older. Members of Uruguay's House had previously approved the measure months earlier. The bill now goes to President José Mujica, who intends to sign the measure into law in the coming days.

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Study: Cannabis Use Unlikely To Cause Schizophrenia

Boston, MA: Family genetics, rather than adolescent cannabis use, increases risk of schizophrenia, according to a case control [study](#) published online in the journal *Schizophrenia Research*.



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Study: Cannabidiol Holds Promise For Treating Psychosis

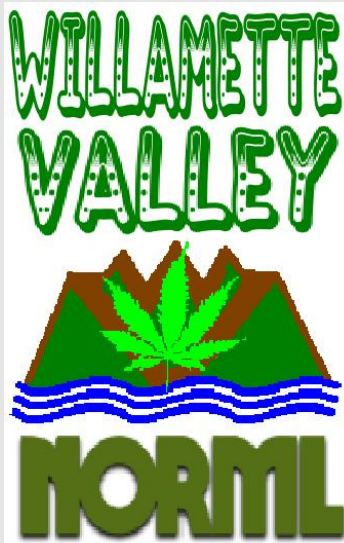
Utrecht, The Netherlands: Investigators in the Netherlands and in the United Kingdom reviewed preclinical and clinical data on the use of CBD as an antipsychotic agent and found that [Cannabidiol](#) (CBD), a non-psychoactive cannabinoid, alleviates psychotic symptoms and may hold promise as an alternative antipsychotic treatment, according to a [review](#) published in the November issue of the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

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Indiana: Majority Of Adults Support Regulating Cannabis Like Alcohol

Muncie, IN: A majority of Indiana residents say that marijuana should be legally regulated like alcohol and nearly 80 percent of Hoosiers support taxing it, according to [statewide polling data](#) released by the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University. Fifty-two percent of respondents said that cannabis "should be regulated like alcohol."

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW - NORML'S TOP 10 EVENTS THAT SHAPED MARIJUANA POLICY, page 1 > per gram. Uruguay is the first country in modern history to officially legalize and regulate the licensed production and retail sale of cannabis.

#3 Feds Pledge Not To Interfere In State-Licensed Retail Sales Of Cannabis | Deputy Attorney General James Cole issued a three-page memorandum in August [affirming](#) that the US Justice Department will allow Colorado and Washington to move forward with statewide efforts to license and regulate the adult marijuana market. Cole later [reaffirmed](#) the agency's position in testimony before the US Senate, stating, "We will not ... seek to preempt state ballot initiatives."

#4 States Finalize Regulations Governing Adult Cannabis Sales | Regulators in Colorado and Washington this fall began [accepting applications](#) from businesses seeking to engage in the licensed cultivation, production, and retail sale of cannabis and cannabis-infused products. In Washington, [several thousand applicants](#) have applied for pot business licenses. In Colorado, regulators have begun approving licenses and several commercial establishments are expected to be [open for business](#) on January 1, 2014.

#5 Record Number Of Statewide Marijuana Reform Measures Enacted Into Law | Lawmakers in a dozen states [approved](#) some 20 pieces of marijuana law reform legislation in 2013. Specifically, lawmakers in Colorado and Vermont enacted legislation licensing commercial hemp production; Illinois and New Hampshire legalized the use and distribution of marijuana for medical purposes; Oregon and Nevada approved regulations allowing for the establishment of medical cannabis distribution facilities; and Oregon and Vermont significantly reduced marijuana possession penalties.

#6 Cannabis Dispensaries Open In Washington, DC | Medical cannabis facilities [opened for business](#) in Washington, DC in 2013. The establishments are licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia, which finally unveiled its long-awaited medical marijuana program earlier this year. State-authorized dispensaries also opened for the first time this year in New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Lawmakers in four states, [Illinois](#), Oregon, Nevada and New Hampshire, enacted legislation in 2013 allowing for the establishment of medicinal cannabis facilities.

#7 Study: Blacks Arrested For Pot Offenses At Rates Four Times That Of Whites | African

Americans are [far more likely](#) to be arrested for marijuana possession offenses than are whites, according to an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) [report](#) released in June that analyzed arrest data from 945 counties nationwide. The report found that blacks were approximately four times as likely as whites to be arrested for marijuana possession in 2010, even though both ethnicities consumed the substance at similar rates. Authors reported that the racial disparity in arrest rates had grown significantly over the past decade and that in some states African Americans were nearly eight times as likely as whites to be arrested for cannabis possession.

#8 FDA Approves Clinical Trials Of CBD In Cases Of Pediatric Epilepsy | The US Food and Drug Administration this fall [granted approval](#) for the importation of cannabidiol (CBD) extracts as an experimental treatment for a rare, intractable form of pediatric epilepsy known as Dravet syndrome. Preliminary clinical trials assessing the safety and tolerability of the compound in children are scheduled to begin in early 2014. Cannabidiol is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid that has been [documented](#) to possess a variety of therapeutic qualities, including anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-epileptic, anti-cancer, and bone-stimulating properties.

#9 Study: No Association Between Cannabis Smoking And Lung Cancer | Subjects who regularly inhale cannabis smoke [possess no greater risk of lung cancer](#) than do those who consume it occasionally or not at all, according to data presented in May at the annual meeting of the American Academy for Cancer Research. UCLA investigators analyzed data from six case-control studies, conducted between 1999 and 2012, involving over 5,000 subjects (2,159 cases and 2,985 controls). They reported, "Our pooled results showed no significant association between the intensity, duration, or cumulative consumption of cannabis smoke and the risk of lung cancer overall or in never smokers."

#10 Members Of Congress Introduce Legislation To End Federal Pot Prohibition | Members of Congress in February introduced historic [legislation](#), HR 499: The Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act, to remove cannabis from the control of the Drug Enforcement Administration and authorize the US Department of Treasury to license state-authorized retail marijuana producers and distributors. Although Congress failed to vote on the measure in 2013, it was the [most-viewed](#)

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NORML and NORML Foundation are supported by cannabis consumers and other caring citizens. Please see our [annual report](#) and help us to keep going strong into 2014 by making an end of the year [donation](#). For a limited time, we are offering [two membership deals](#) to NORML. --- Thanks from NORML's staff and nationwide chapter network! Learn more, visit >> <http://norml.org/news/frontpage?layout=frontpage>

<continued from URUGUAY: LAWMAKERS AUTHORIZE MARIJUANA PRODUCTION AND SALES, page 1 > Once adopted, Uruguay will be the [first nation](#) in modern history to regulate the licensed production and sale of cannabis.

"This is an attempt to bring an end to the illegal drugs trade by identifying the market and bringing it into the light of day," said President Mujica in a statement.



Commenting on the forthcoming law change, NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri said, "Uruguay's efforts are historic, but they are hardly an isolated event. In both the US and abroad, public and political support for marijuana criminalization is collapsing - and rightly so."

Under the pending law, residents of the South American nation will be able to legally purchase up to 40 grams of cannabis per month. (Sales to non-residents will not be permitted.) Price controls will set the cost of cannabis available at state-stores to \$1 per gram. The forthcoming law would also allow households to grow up to six cannabis plants each; it also allows for the establishment of cooperatives, which will be able to grow as many as 99 plants.

Specific regulations overseeing the new policy are anticipated to be in place [120 days](#) after the measure is signed into law.

The possession of personal use amounts of cannabis in Uruguay is not presently subject to criminal penalties; however, marijuana cultivation and sale are classified as criminal offenses. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

<continued from STUDY: CANNABIS USE UNLIKELY TO CAUSE SCHIZOPHRENIA, page 1 > Investigators from Harvard Medical School compared the family histories of 108 schizophrenia patients and 171 individuals without schizophrenia to assess whether youth cannabis consumption was an independent factor in developing the disorder. Researchers reported that a family history of schizophrenia increased the risk of developing the disease, regardless of whether or not subjects consumed cannabis as adolescents.

"There was an increased morbid risk for schizophrenia in relatives of the cannabis using and non-using patient samples compared with their respective non-psychotic control samples," authors reported. "There was no significant difference in morbid risk for schizophrenia between relatives of the patients who use or do not use cannabis."

They concluded: "The results of the current study, both when analyzed using morbid risk and family frequency calculations, suggest that having an increased familial risk for schizophrenia is the underlying basis for schizophrenia in these samples and not the cannabis use. While cannabis may have an effect on the age of onset of schizophrenia it is unlikely to be the cause of illness."

[Previous studies](#) have reported that rates of schizophrenia have remained steady for decades despite changing patterns in cannabis use among the population.

Commenting on the study's findings, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "Concerns regarding cannabis' potential impact on psychiatric illnesses arguably warrant further study. However, such concerns - even if confirmed - are not persuasive justifications for continuing cannabis criminalization. Just the opposite is true.

There are numerous adverse health consequences associated with alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, all of which are far more dangerous and costlier to society than cannabis. It is precisely because of these consequences that these products are legally regulated and their consumption is restricted to specified consumers and settings. This same principle ought to apply to cannabis."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "A controlled family study of cannabis users with and without psychosis," appears in Neuropsychopharmacology.

<continued from **STUDY: CANNABIDIOL HOLDS PROMISE FOR TREATING PSYCHOSIS**, page 1 > Authors reported that both animal and human studies document the ability of CBD to mitigate symptoms of psychosis. Specifically, CBD administration is associated with improved symptoms in clinical evaluations of patients with schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, and ketamine-induced dissociative and psychotic symptoms.

Investigators also [highlighted](#) a 2012 double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled trial assessing CBD versus the prescription anti-psychotic drug [amisulpride](#) in 42 subjects with schizophrenia and acute paranoia. Authors reported that both CBD and the prescription drug were associated with "equally significant clinical improvement" in this patient population, but that cannabidiol "possessed significantly less side effects."



They concluded: "[E]vidence from several study domains suggests that CBD has some potential as an antipsychotic treatment. ... Given the high tolerability and superior cost-effectiveness, CBD may prove to be an attractive alternative to current antipsychotic treatment."

Previous human trials assessing the administration of CBD in healthy human subjects [report that the cannabinoid is "safe and well tolerated."](#)

Separate investigations of CBD, primarily in animal models, have [documented](#) the cannabinoid to possess a variety of therapeutic qualities, including anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-epileptic, anti-cancer, and bone-stimulating properties. Recently, the FDA [approved](#) the experimental use of CBD extracts for the treatment of a rare form of intractable pediatric epilepsy known as [Dravet syndrome](#). Preliminary [clinical trials](#) assessing the safety and tolerability of the compound in children are scheduled to begin imminently.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol as a potential treatment for psychosis," appears in *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

<continued from **INDIANA: MAJORITY OF ADULTS SUPPORT REGULATING CANNABIS LIKE ALCOHOL**, page 1 > Forty-five percent of respondents opposed legalization. Among self-identified Democrats, 64 percent of

respondents backed regulation. Forty-nine percent of self-identified Republicans did so.

Hoosiers support for taxing cannabis was significantly higher. Seventy-eight percent of respondents, including strong majorities of both major political parties, answered 'yes' to the question, "Should we tax marijuana like alcohol/cigarettes?" Only 19 percent of respondents opposed the idea.

Under state [law](#), first-time marijuana possession offenses of under 30 grams are punishable by up to one-year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. Subsequent offenses are classified as felonies, punishable by up to 3 years incarceration.

Six hundred randomly selected Indiana residents participated in the survey, which has a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percent.

Statewide polls have recently reported similar levels of support for legalizing marijuana in [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Oregon](#), and [Texas](#).

According to an October 2013 nationwide [Gallup poll](#), 58 percent of Americans believe that marijuana should be legal, an all-time high.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

Study: Prevalence Of Illicit Drugs In Fatal Crashes Is Low Compared To Alcohol

Linköping, Sweden: Alcohol is far more likely to be detected in the blood of fatally injured drivers than is the presence of either illicit substances or prescription drugs, according to [data](#) published online in the *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*.

Investigators from the University of Linköping, Department of Forensic Toxicology, evaluated the concentrations of alcohol and other drugs in blood samples from Swedish drivers killed in road-traffic crashes over a four-year period (2008-2011). Researchers stated: "Not surprisingly, the legal drug alcohol topped the list of psychoactive substances identified in blood samples from fatally injured drivers, which confirms results and surveys

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By contrast, investigators acknowledged that the presence of an illicit drug alone was only present in 2.5 percent of fatal crashes. The presence of prescription drugs was identified in nearly 8 percent of all fatal traffic accidents.



The results of the study [are similar](#) to those published in the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention* in 2012, which reported that cannabis and several other illicit substances appear to be associated with only a "small or moderate increase in accident risk."

In that study, which reviewed findings from over 60 previous papers evaluating the use of illicit or prescribed drugs on accident risk, it was concluded that cannabis was associated with minor, but not dramatically increased odds of traffic injury (1.06) or fatal accident (1.25). Anti-histamines (1.12) and penicillin (1.12) were associated with comparable odds to cannabis. "Compared to the huge increase in accident risk associated with alcohol, as well as the high accident rate among young drivers, the increases in risk associated with the use of drugs are surprisingly small," the author of the study concluded.

Similarly, authors of the Swedish study reported, "Compared with alcohol, the prevalence of illicit and psychoactive prescription drugs was fairly low despite a dramatic increase in the number of drug-impaired drivers arrested by the police after a zero-tolerance law was introduced in 1999."

Under Swedish law, it is a *per se* traffic safety violation to operate a motor vehicle if the driver has any detectable level of an illicit drug in his or her blood. Studies assessing the imposition of Sweden's zero tolerance *per se* law report that its passage has been associated with [a 10-fold increase](#) in the number of cases submitted by the police for toxicological analysis, but that the "zero-concentration limit [has done nothing](#) to reduce DUID [driving under the influence of drugs] or deter the typical offender." A [2012 analysis](#) of the impact of zero tolerance *per se* and/or *per se* drug laws in US states similarly found "no evidence that *per se* druged driving laws reduce traffic fatalities."

Eleven US [states](#) - Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, and Wisconsin - impose zero tolerance *per se* thresholds for the presence of cannabinoids and/or their metabolites. Five states impose non-zero-tolerant *per se* thresholds for cannabinoids in blood: Montana (5ng/ml), Pennsylvania (1ng/ml), Ohio (2ng/ml), Nevada (2ng/ml) and Washington (5ng/ml). In Colorado, the presence of THC/blood levels above 5ng/ml "gives rise to permissible inference that the defendant was under the influence."

According to the [website](#) of the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA): "It is difficult to establish a relationship between a person's THC blood or plasma concentration and performance impairing effects. ... It is inadvisable to try and predict effects based on blood THC concentrations alone."

NORML's peer-reviewed paper critiquing the imposition of *per se* levels for cannabinoids is available [here](http://norml.org/pdf_files/per_se_limits_for_canna_bis.pdf): http://norml.org/pdf_files/per_se_limits_for_canna_bis.pdf.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, Prevalence of alcohol and other drugs and the concentrations in blood of drivers killed in road traffic crashes in Sweden, appears in the Scandanavian Journal of Public Health.

Teens' Alcohol, Tobacco Use Falls To Historic Lows, Annual Survey Finds

Ann Arbor, MI: Adolescents' consumption of alcohol and tobacco fell to [historic lows](#) while self-reported annual use of cannabis [held steady](#), according to survey data released Wednesday by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. The University's 'Monitoring the Future' study has been sampling adolescents' consumption of various licit and illicit substances since the mid-1970s.

Use of both alcohol and tobacco among all grades surveyed has fallen consistently since the mid-1990s. Self-reported annual use of marijuana held relatively stable from 2011 to 2012, after having increased among all grade levels each year since 2007. Reported marijuana use levels for 2012 mimic levels previously reported in the late 1990s. Teens' perceptions of cannabis' risk potential continued to dip, continuing a trend that first began

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For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the Monitoring the Future study is available online



at:

http://www.monitoringthefuture.org//pressreleases/13drugpr_complete.pdf.

Carl Sagan Also Smoked Pot Decades Ago. Here's What He Had To Say About It.

With all the buzz about [David Brooks of the New York Times](#) and [Ruth Marcus of the Washington Post](#) reflecting on their marijuana use decades ago -- and [coming to the shared conclusion that the substance should remain illegal](#) -- it's worth remembering that pundits for large daily newspapers make up a very tiny percentage of those that have opinions on pot. Here's what Carl Sagan had to say about smoking weed. **[Editor's note: This story was originally published in May 2013.]**

Carl Sagan, a titan of scientific study and communication, died in 1996, leaving behind an expansive legacy of research and education. He assumed a diverse set of roles throughout his life, including as a longtime casual user of and advocate for marijuana.

Sagan's involvement with pot began as a secret, when he penned an essay in 1969, at the age of 35, under the pseudonym "Mr. X." [The piece](#), in which Sagan described the benefits he felt from using marijuana, later appeared in Dr. Lester Grinspoon's 1971 book, "Marihuana Reconsidered." Sagan's identity as the author [wasn't publicly disclosed](#) until 1999, when Keay Davidson published "[Carl Sagan: A Life](#)," which documented Sagan's writings as his alter-ego, "Mr. X."

Writing that he'd begun smoking intermittently around 10 years before, Sagan noted that marijuana "amplifies torpid sensibilities and produces what to me are even more interesting effects."

"The cannabis experience has greatly improved my appreciation for art, a subject which I had never much appreciated before," he wrote.

"The understanding of the intent of the artist which I can achieve when high sometimes carries over to when I'm down. This is one of many human frontiers which cannabis has helped me traverse."

Sagan went on to explain in intricate detail how his experiences listening to music, eating food and even having sex were all heightened while high.

His essay also included some classic Saganesque poetry:

I can remember one occasion, taking a shower with my wife while high, in which I had an idea on the origins and invalidities of racism in terms of gaussian distribution curves. It was a point obvious in a way, but rarely talked about. I drew the curves in soap on the shower wall, and went to write the idea down. One idea led to another, and at the end of about an hour of extremely hard work I found I had written eleven short essays on a wide range of social, political, philosophical, and human biological topics. Because of problems of space, I can't go into the details of these essays, but from all external signs, such as public reactions and expert commentary, they seem to contain valid insights. I have used them in university commencement addresses, public lectures, and in my books.

Sagan ultimately concluded that it was easy to use marijuana in moderation. For that reason he wrote that "the illegality of cannabis is outrageous, an impediment to full utilization of a drug which helps produce the serenity and insight, sensitivity and fellowship so desperately needed in this increasingly mad and dangerous world." Years later, Sagan became more outspoken about his advocacy, arguing that medical marijuana should be legal for cancer and AIDS patients.

"Is it rational to forbid patients who are dying from taking marijuana as a palliative to permit them to gain body weight and to get some food down," Sagan asked in an interview. "It seems madness to say, 'We're worried that they're going to become addicted to marijuana' -- there's no evidence whatever that it's an addictive drug, but even if it were, these people are dying, what are we saving them from?" **Read Sagan's entire essay here. Listen to his entire interview here >>** http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/03/carl-sagan-smoked-pot_n_4538374.html?utm_hp_ref=medical-marijuana



News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Marijuana Arrest: Devastation Of A Life Well Lived

If there is another human being who has publicly debated more in favor of cannabis law reform, or, spoken to more legal victims of America's cannabis laws than me, I want to meet and thank them. From these hundreds of debates and thousands of personal encounters with my fellow cannabis consumers busted for ganja, one single phrase that I constantly hear from those who still support cannabis prohibition that instantly pushes my button is: *No one gets busted for pot anymore in America...It's practically legal.*

Thankfully, because of the non-stop work from a cast of thousands of citizen-activists, going back over forty years, the latter is somewhat true for about one-third of America's population. However the former is a bald face lie that must be confronted every time it is uttered by the proponents of pot prohibition.

[Even in states where cannabis is supposed to be decriminalized](#), where states have passed laws making cannabis a 'minor civil offense', an encounter with law enforcement regarding one's cannabis possession or use can have expensive, life-altering and devastating negative effects on a person's life.

Kudos to [BuzzFeed](#) for producing a very well done [video](#) profile of a beloved public school teacher in New York City named Alberto Willmore, who, save for this video, would be yet another faceless victim of New York City's expensive and reckless enforcement of what should be a minor civil offense, like a parking ticket or citation for spitting on the sidewalk. Instead of simply issuing Mr. Willmore a civil fine for possessing a small amount of cannabis, New York City continues to disrespect state laws governing cannabis possession by arresting, detaining, prosecuting and forcing Mr. Willmore to lose his dream job as an art teacher for what law enforcement deem a 'serious crime', when the legislature does not—even more so when almost 60% of the US public support legalizing cannabis sales.

NORML has been advocating for almost twenty years in New York City for the city to return to it's historic cannabis possession arrest rate of under 1,000 per year, down dramatically from the now nearly 40,000 cannabis possession arrests annually in New York City, which exploded under mayors Giuliani and [Bloomberg](#).

Next time you hear a law enforcement representative, opinion maker or politician declare that 'nobody gets busted for pot any more', remind them of one of America's nearly 700,000 annual cannabis arrests: Alberto Willmore

With the recent release by [incoming mayor Bill de Blasio's family of a video from his daughter talking about her use of cannabis](#), and incoming police commissioner William Bratton's long experience in effective policing, NORML hopes that 2014 will finally be the year that New York City ceases being the hotbed for cannabis arrests in America and relents on destroying the lives of it's otherwise productive and appreciated citizens—like Alberto Willmore—who happen to choose to consume cannabis in their home. Read more at >> <http://medicalmarijuana.com/medical-marijuana-news/title.cfm?artId=1087>

Think Tank Issues Guidebook: "How To Regulate Cannabis"

Bristol, United Kingdom: "Cannabis policy should be built on evidence of what will minimize the potential harms and maximize the potential benefits associated with the use of the drug," according to a new book, ["How to Regulate Cannabis: A Practical Guide"](#), published by the British think-tank [Transform](#).

The 248-page book offers market alternatives to cannabis prohibition with the aim of "improving public health," "reducing drug-related crime," "protecting human rights," and "providing good value for money." The book addresses such issues as cannabis taxation, packaging, retail operations, price controls, and other aspects of regulatory policy.

"This book guides policy makers and reform advocates through the key practical challenges in developing and implementing effective systems of legal regulation," the authors state. "This book arrives in a world where multiple jurisdictions are already debating, developing or actually implementing models of legal cannabis regulation." An executive summary of the guidebook is available online here: <http://www.tdpf.org.uk/resources/publications/how-regulate-cannabis-practical-guide>. Transform is a charitable think tank that campaigns for the legal regulation of drugs both in the UK and internationally.

