

## Comparison of Decriminalization, Legalization, and Prohibition

	<b>Status Quo / Illegal / Prohibition</b>	<b>Decriminalize small amount - (technically our system now)</b>	<b>Legal Adult use</b>
<b>Billions of dollars goes from New York to...</b>	<b>Illegal dealers, criminal organizations, Massachusetts</b>	<b>Illegal dealers, criminal organizations, Massachusetts</b>	<b>New York State Taxes, Farmers, Entrepreneurs, Large, Medium, Small and Micro businesses</b>
<b>Respects Liberty &amp; Adult Citizen's Rights</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Legal for kids under 21 to use cannabis?</b>	No.	No.	No.
<b>Protection from heavy metals and other toxins?</b>	<b>No protection</b>	<b>No protection</b>	<b>Yes, protected through laboratory testing</b>
<b>Thousands of jobs for...</b>	<b>Illegal market, dealers, gangs, Massachusetts</b>	<b>Illegal market, dealers, gangs, Massachusetts</b>	<b>New York State, New York Citizens</b>
<b>Legal to drive a car or fly a plane stoned?</b>	No	No	No
<b>Legal to smoke or vape in public</b>	No	No	No
<b>How many people go to jail?</b>	<b>Most</b>	<b>Less</b>	<b>Least</b>
<b>Improve relations between law enforcement and citizens</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kids use more or less?</b>	<b>Baseline, lots of kids use untested, illegal cannabis.</b>	<b>Unknown.</b>	<b>Unknown, but no increased 12-17 year old use in Colorado or Washington since legalization.</b>
<b>Criminal Gangs Benefit?</b>	<b>Prohibition helps criminal gangs make \$\$\$</b>	<b>Decriminalization helps criminal gangs make \$\$\$</b>	<b>No - Much less profit for criminal gangs</b>
<b>Government control of your personal life</b>	<b>Most</b>	<b>Somewhat less</b>	<b>Least control of your personal life</b>

	<b>Status Quo / Illegal / Prohibition</b>	<b>Decriminalize small amount - (technically our system now)</b>	<b>Legal Adult use</b>
<b>Allegations of disproportionate arrests of minorities for marijuana</b>	<b>Continues</b>	<b>Continues</b>	<b>Decreases or stops</b>
<b>Violent criminals let out of jail</b>	No	No	No
<b>Violent criminals allowed to sell marijuana</b>	No	No	No
<b>NY Taxes and Job creation?</b>	<b>No, all the money goes to untaxed illegal market and states with legal adult use</b>	<b>No, all the money goes to untaxed illegal market and states with legal adult use</b>	<b>Yes. Stays in New York.</b>
<b>2nd Amendment rights protected?</b>	<b>2nd Amendment right violated until laws change on national level</b>	<b>2nd Amendment right violated until laws change on national level</b>	<b>2nd Amendment right violated until laws change on national level</b>

Table prepared by  
Roger Green, MD  
Executive Director, [Hudson Valley NORML](http://Hudson Valley NORML)  
[HUDSONVALLEYNORML@gmail.com](mailto:HUDSONVALLEYNORML@gmail.com)  
[HUDSONVALLEYNORML.org](http://HUDSONVALLEYNORML.org)

References:

1. Data from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 2013 and 2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

Compare <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaePercents2016/NSDUHsaePercents2016.pdf>

with <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHStateEst2012-2013-p1/Tables/NSDUHsaePercents2013.pdf>

Cannabis use by 12 to 17 year olds use in Colorado and Washington State went down after legalization per data derived from these data sets.

2. Following marijuana legalization, teen drug use is down in Colorado

By Christopher Ingraham December 11, 2017 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/12/11/following-marijuana-legalization-teen-drug-use-is-down-in-colorado/?utm\\_term=.38928f48e026](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/12/11/following-marijuana-legalization-teen-drug-use-is-down-in-colorado/?utm_term=.38928f48e026)

38928f48e026

As the name implies, a newspaper article about the drop in teen drug use in Colorado after legalization.

3. Now we know what happens to teens when you make pot legal

By Christopher Ingraham June 21, 2016 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/06/21/colorado-survey-shows-what-marijuana-legalization-will-do-to-your-kids/?utm\\_term=.26023b3e18e7](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/06/21/colorado-survey-shows-what-marijuana-legalization-will-do-to-your-kids/?utm_term=.26023b3e18e7)

26023b3e18e7

Another newspaper article on the realities of what happened in Colorado after adult cannabis legalization.

4. HKCS 2017 Marijuana Infographic.pdf: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M3XdmqznZDI2y6D7Hz6iDGwTFTHSGrP/view>

1M3XdmqznZDI2y6D7Hz6iDGwTFTHSGrP/view

The State of Colorado runs the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. They produced this infographic to dispel misinformation about cannabis use in their state.

5. Aydelotte JD et al. Am J Public Health. 2017 Aug;107(8):1329-1331. Crash Fatality Rates After Recreational Marijuana Legalization in Washington and Colorado.

"Three years after recreational marijuana legalization, changes in motor vehicle crash fatality rates for Washington and Colorado were not statistically different from those in similar states without recreational marijuana legalization."