



Medical Marijuana by the Numbers

States Recognizing Marijuana's Medical Value

- **36** states have effective medical marijuana laws.
 - **13** states have laws pertaining to low-THC, high-CBD marijuana.
 - **0** states have repealed effective medical marijuana laws.
 - In total, **49** states acknowledge the medical benefits of marijuana.
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Medical Marijuana and Opioids

- **25%** average decrease in opioid overdose deaths in the first year of patient access to a medical marijuana program¹
 - **33%** average decrease in opioid overdose deaths after five years of patient access to a medical marijuana program²
 - **48%** reduction in patients' opioid use after three months of medical marijuana treatment³
 - **78%** of patients either reduced or stopped opioid use altogether⁴
 - **1,826** fewer doses of painkillers on average per year, per state, for patients participating in Medicare Part D⁵
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Prescription Medications

- **500,000** people died of prescription drug overdoses between 2000 and 2015.⁶
 - **20%** of prescriptions are "off label" — prescribed for a condition for which they are not FDA-approved.⁷
 - **0** people have died from marijuana overdoses in all of recorded history.
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Number of Patients

- **1%** of a state's population, on average, enrolls in the medical marijuana program.⁸
 - **38%** of the U.S. population took prescription opioids in 2015.⁹
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Qualifying Conditions

- **31** states' programs include a general category for severe or chronic pain or allow cannabis if opiates have been or could be prescribed for the condition.
- **34** states include PTSD as a qualifying condition. Alaska and South Dakota are the only

exceptions.

Research

- **10,000** studies were reviewed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which led them to find:¹⁰
 - Conclusive or substantial evidence that marijuana or cannabinoids are effective in the treatment of chronic pain, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms;
 - No link between smoking marijuana and lung cancer; and
 - No gateway effect.
 - **50%** of Crohn's patients who used medical marijuana entered complete remission and **45%** found significant improvement in symptoms.¹¹
 - **75%** reduction in symptom scores were reported when PTSD patients were using marijuana compared to when they were not.¹²
 - **Hundreds of thousands** of patients suffering from HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, cancer, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, seizure disorders, chronic, severe, and persistent pain, and other debilitating illnesses find that marijuana provides relief from their symptoms.
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Support for Allowing Medical Marijuana

- **76%** of doctors¹³
 - **94%** of Americans¹⁴
 - **83%** of veterans¹⁵
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1 Marcus A. Bachhuber, et al., "Medical Cannabis Laws and Opioid Analgesic Overdose Mortality in the United States, 1999-2010," *JAMA Intern Med.* October 2014, Vol. 174 no. 10.

2 Ibid.

3 Staci A. Gruber, et al., "Splendor in the Grass? A Pilot Study Assessing the Impact of Medical Marijuana on Executive Function," *Front. Pharmacol.* 13 October 2016, Vol. 7.

4 "The Cannabis and Opioid Survey," Healer.com, 4 October 2016.

5 Ashley C. Bradford, et al., "Medical Marijuana Laws Reduce Prescription Medication Use In Medicare Part D," *Health Aff.* July 2016, Vol. 35 no. 7.

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<http://news.unm.edu/news/study-finds-legal-cannabis-may-reduce-use-of-dangerous-prescription-drugs>

7 Radley, David C., Finkelstein Stan N., and Stafford, Randall S., "Off-label Prescribing Among Office-Based Physicians," *Archives of Internal Medicine* 166 (9), 2006: 1021-1026.

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www.mpp.org/issues/medical-marijuana/state-by-state-medical-marijuana-laws/medical-marijuana-patient-numbers/

9 "More than 1 in 3 Americans prescribed opioids in 2015," *CBS News*, August, 1, 2017.

10 "The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and

Recommendations for Research” National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, January 2017.

11 Timna Naftali, et al., "Treatment of Crohn's Disease with Cannabis: An Observational Study," *Israel Medical Association Journal* (2011).

12 Greer, GR, et al., "PTSD symptom reports of patients evaluated for the New Mexico Medical Cannabis Program," *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 2014 January-March;46(1):73-7.

13 *Journal of New England Medicine* survey, February 2013.

14 Quinnipiac University Poll, "U.S. Voter Support For Marijuana Hits New High," April 2017.

15 The American Legion, "Survey shows veteran households support research of medical cannabis," November 2017.
