



Medical Cannabis by the Numbers

States Recognizing the Medical Value of Cannabis

- **37** states have effective medical cannabis
 - **12** states have laws pertaining to low-THC, high-CBD
 - **0** states have repealed effective medical cannabis
 - In total, **49** states acknowledge the medical benefits of cannabis
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Medical Cannabis and Opioids

- **64%** decrease in opioid use among chronic pain patients in Michigan who used medical cannabis.^[1]
 - **1,826** fewer doses of painkillers on average per year, per state, for patients participating in Medicare Part D.^[2]
 - More than **16,000** Americans die of overdoses on prescription opioids every year.^[3]
 - **0** people have died from cannabis overdoses in all of recorded history.
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Number of Patients

- **20%** of prescriptions are “off label” — prescribed for a condition for which they are not FDA-approved.^[4]
 - **Less than 2%** of a state’s population, on average, enrolls in the medical cannabis^[5]
 - **32%** of Americans received an opioid prescription in the past two years.^[6]
 - **24%** of the U.S. population took three or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days.^[7]
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Qualifying Conditions

- **37** 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.
 - **35** states include PTSD as a qualifying condition. Alaska and South Dakota are the only exceptions.
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Research

- **10,000** studies were reviewed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which led them to find:^[8]

- Conclusive or substantial evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective in the treatment of chronic pain, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms;
- No link between smoking cannabis and lung cancer; and
- No gateway effect.
- **50%** of Crohn’s patients who used medical cannabis entered complete remission and **45%** found significant improvement in symptoms.^[9]
- **75%** reduction in symptom scores were reported when PTSD patients were using cannabis compared to when they were not.^[10]
- **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 cannabis provides relief from their symptoms.

Support for Allowing Medical Cannabis

- **76%** of doctors^[11]
- **93%** of Americans^[12]
- **83%** of veterans^[13]

^[1] KF Boehnke, et al., “Medical Cannabis Use Is Associated With Decreased Opiate Medication Use in a Retrospective Cross-Sectional Survey of Patients With Chronic Pain,” *Journal of Pain*, June 2016.

^[2] Ashley C. Bradford et al., “Medical Marijuana Laws Reduce Prescription Medication Use In Medicare Part D,” *Health Aff.* July 2016, Vol. 35 no. 7.

^[3] “Prescription Opioid Overdose Death Maps,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed Sept. 21, 2022.

^[4] 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.

^[5] www.mpp.org/issues/medical-marijuana/state-by-state-medical-marijuana-laws/medical-marijuana-patient-numbers/

^[6] “One-Third of Americans Have Received an Opioid Prescription in the Past Two Years,” NORC at the University of Chicago, Sept. 27, 2018.

^[7] “Health, United States,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019, table 39.

^[8] “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.

^[9] Timna Naftali, et al., “Treatment of Crohn’s Disease with Cannabis: An Observational Study,” *Israel Medical Association Journal* (2011).

^[10] 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.

^[11] *Journal of New England Medicine* survey, February 2013.

^[12] Quinnipiac University Poll, March 2019.

^[13] The American Legion, “Survey shows veteran households support research of medical cannabis,” November 2017.