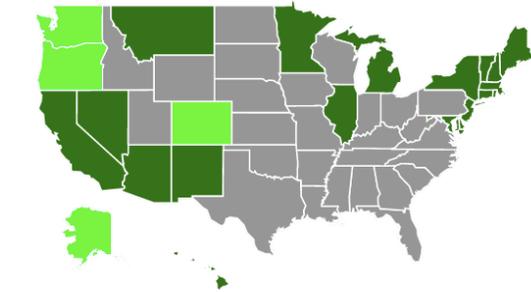


# The Effects of Marijuana Decriminalization on Youth

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States where recreational marijuana has been legalized:

- Washington
- Colorado
- Oregon
- Alaska



Marijuana Legalization Status

- Medical marijuana legalized
- Marijuana legalized for recreational use
- No laws legalizing marijuana

Marijuana Affects Children and Youth's:

- Physical Well-Being
- Mental Health
- Academic Achievement
- Educational Attainment

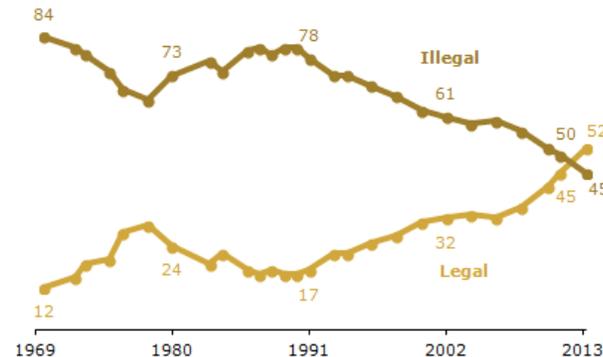
Negative effects include, but are not limited to, decreased intelligence and memory performance, changes in brain structure, irritates lungs, might reduce reproductive hormones, not safe for children to consume, it is addictive, individuals who smoke/consume are less likely to attend college, have lower life and relationship satisfaction.

What Supporters Say:

The legalization of marijuana would stop the criminal justice system from spending their budget on prosecuting, arresting, sentencing, and incarcerating individuals implicated in the currently illegal marijuana business. This would allow law enforcement to focus on protecting citizens. They also counter the claim made by decriminalization opponents that legalization will increase usage and/or crime rates.

## Views of Legalizing Marijuana: 1969-2013

% saying marijuana should be ...



Opponents Argue That:

Making marijuana legally available to adults on more or less the same terms as alcohol would increase crime and usage. To support their argument, they say that many offenders used drugs just before committing a crime. Opponents also believe that cannabis should not be consumed by children or adolescents because of its adverse effects on their brain, which is not fully developed.

What about Marijuana Products?

- Calls to poison centers have increased by a third
- Marijuana-laced products not regulated
- Used to treat conditions such as epilepsy, hyperactivity, autism-like symptoms, and to relieve pain
- Controversy about whether marijuana is safe to use on youth

## References

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