

Cannabis Schizophrenia

Recreational vs. Medical Cannabis in Colorado



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Cannabis Schizophrenia: Recreational versus Medical Cannabis

Cannabis is legal in Colorado, but illegal in the USA. This legal dissonance creates schizophrenic attitudes toward legal cannabis.

Many people -- such as military veterans, kids suffering from seizures, and medical refugees -- who seem like obvious candidates for medical cannabis are federally restricted from using cannabis.

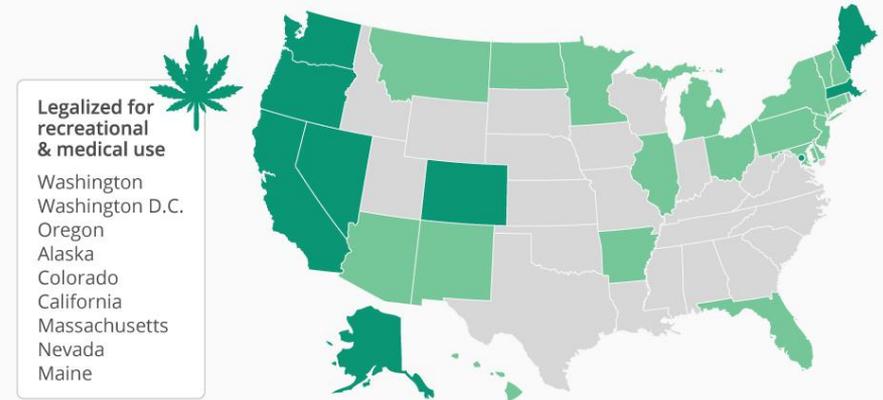
Instead of fighting the federal government, many medical cannabis patients gravitate to the relative anonymity of recreational cannabis.

Recreational cannabis may be more expensive, but it enables medical users to obtain much-needed medicine without the threat of federal criminalization.

The States Where It's Legal To Smoke Marijuana

Laws on recreational and medical marijuana use in the US*

■ Legalized for recreational & medical use ■ Medical use only



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* As of Nov 10, 2016 - laws in some states have not yet taken effect.
Some states not highlighted allow limited medical marijuana access
Source: NY Times

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Amendment 20 to Colorado's State Constitution

Colorado's First Medical Cannabis Law

In November of 2000, voters of the state of Colorado passed Amendment 20 to the state's constitution, codified in article XVIII, section 14. This effectively legalized limited amounts of medical cannabis for patients and their primary caregivers.

Amendment 20 authorizes a patient who has been issued a Medical Marijuana Registry identification Card to possess:

- (a) No more than two ounces of a usable form of marijuana; and
- (b) Not more than six marijuana plants

Patients and primary caregivers who possess more than two ounces or six plants have an affirmative defense in court after they have been arrested if the amount they have is "medically necessary to address the patient's debilitating medical condition." Patients who have a doctor's recommendation to use medical cannabis but who have not obtained a Registry Identification Card also have an affirmative defense in court.



Colorado Amendment 64

Colorado Marijuana Legalization Amendment, also known as Amendment 64, was approved on the November 6, 2012 ballot

Amendment 64 paved the way for legal cannabis:

Grows

Dispensaries - both medical and recreational

Industry

Finance

Investment

Taxes and regulation

Research

Education - scholarships and curriculum

Etc.



The Future of Legal Cannabis in Trump's America?

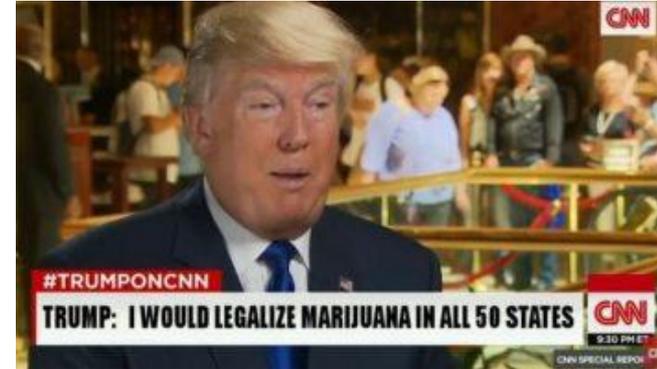
Medical

Spicer, speaking at a White House press briefing, said that President Trump sees “a big difference” between use of marijuana for medical purposes and for recreational purposes.

“The president understands the pain and suffering that many people go through who are facing, especially terminal diseases, and the comfort that some of these drugs, including medical marijuana, can bring to them,” Spicer told reporters.

Recreational

"I do believe you will see greater enforcement of it," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said regarding federal drug laws, which still list marijuana as an illegal substance (February 23, 2017).



Bill to allow medical marijuana use for PTSD headed to Governor's desk

Posted: Apr 25, 2017 10:55 PM MDT

Colorado is now one step closer to allowing medical marijuana to treat post-traumatic stress.

The Senate approved the bill on Tuesday and it is now heading to Governor Hickenlooper's desk for final approval.

"I'm really excited to see this option being afforded to veterans because they really need this," Steve DeFino, founder of the Veteran Farmers Association said.

Former Fort Carson soldier Steve DeFino was critically injured while serving overseas nine years ago. He went through dozens of medications to help with his post-traumatic stress, until he switched to cannabis once he got out and started growing it from home.

"I'm able to live a healthy life, sick free, almost pain free and a quality of life to where I'm not thinking about killing myself all the time, it's really nice to be able to have good medicine in your hands," he said.

