

Attorney General Okays Sale of Medical Marijuana in 13 States. What's Next?

By [Sujata Srinivasan](#) | 21 March 2009

Last Wednesday, U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. announced that the Justice Department would cease to prosecute sellers of medical marijuana in 13 states, where it is legal under local law to sell pot to cancer patients and those in chronic pain.

In contrast, the previous Bush administration cracked down on medical marijuana dispensaries even in states that had legalized the sale of pot for medicinal use, spending enormous amounts of money in enforcing a federal law that should not have been enacted in the first place.



According to the Drug Policy Alliance Network:

- *U.S. federal, state and local governments have spent hundreds of billions of dollars trying to make America “drug-free.” Yet heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and other illicit drugs are cheaper, purer and easier to get than ever before. Nearly half a million people are behind bars on drug charges. The war on drugs has become a war on families, a war on public health and a war on our constitutional rights.*
- *Many of the problems the drug war purports to resolve are in fact caused by the drug war itself. So-called “drug-related” crime is a direct result of drug prohibition’s distortion of immutable laws of supply and demand. Public health problems like HIV and Hepatitis C are all exacerbated by zero tolerance laws that restrict access to clean needles.*

- *The war against drugs increases the cost of drugs, making drug production and sale more profitable and therefore more attractive - particularly to those living in poverty. Drug trafficking across the world exists as a \$400 billion (US) trade - drug traffickers earn gross profit margins of 300 per cent.*

Isn't it time to legalize the use of marijuana for non-medical purposes? This would weaken drug cartels and lower crime rates, including human trafficking, and save taxpayers a ton of money currently spent on the war against drugs. Besides, numerous studies have found that hemp is less addictive than alcohol, nicotine and coffee - yes, a cuppa Joe!

To see how marijuana stacks up against other additives, check out saferchoice.org

Check out this [video](#) to see why California State Legislator Tom Ammiano's proposal to legalize marijuana makes sense.

Drugwarfacts.org, has compiled interesting statistics on the leading causes of death each year in the U. S., shown in the table below. The number of deaths caused by marijuana use? NONE.

Cause - Fatalities

Tobacco - 435,000

Poor Diet and Physical Inactivity - 365,000

Alcohol - 85,000

Microbial Agents - 75,000

Toxic Agents - 55,000

Motor Vehicle Crashes - 26,347

Adverse Reactions to Prescription Drugs - 32,000

Suicide - 30,622

Incidents Involving Firearms - 29,000

Homicide - 20,308

Sexual Behaviors - 20,000

All Illicit Drug Use, Direct and Indirect - 17,000

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs Such As Aspirin - 7,600

Marijuana - 0

If you believe marijuana usage should be legalized, just like alcohol and tobacco, then why not make your voice heard by signing an online petition at change.org or at petitiononline.com.

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One Response to “Attorney General Okays Sale of Medical Marijuana in 13 States. What's Next?”

1. *Drew Says:*

[March 21st, 2009 at 9:42 pm](#)

Yeah, so now he can spend the money to go after talk radio, guns, smokers, and God only knows what else.