



Regulated Cannabis Markets: a precondition for healthy cities

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Cannabis growing and 'real' criminals ?

Do you have experience in or knowledge of cannabis cultivation?

Do you have strong views on whether that makes you a criminal or not?

Have you encountered 'real' criminals involved in growing cannabis?

Want to share your knowledge and experiences – and help dispel some myths and stereotypes?

Cannabis cultivation is currently illegal in the UK. One of the arguments for keeping cannabis illegal has always been the link between drug markets and other types of crime. The counter argument, of course, is that it is the very fact of cannabis being illegal that creates the link between cannabis cultivation and other criminal activity. The vast majority of people who do grow cannabis are not involved in other types of crime. At the same time, it must be recognised that *some* people who grow cannabis do become involved (or were already involved) in other criminal activity.



UNGASS 2016



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International Drug Control System

- Treaties
- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
- Agencies
- International Narcotic Control Board (INCB)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



Crises 1 – Failure of controls

The spread of drug use

1 in 20 adults, or a quarter of a billion people between the ages of 15 and 64 years, used at least one drug in 2014.

Over 29 million people who use drugs are estimated to suffer from drug use disorders,

Of 12 million people who inject drugs (PWID), 14 % are living with HIV,

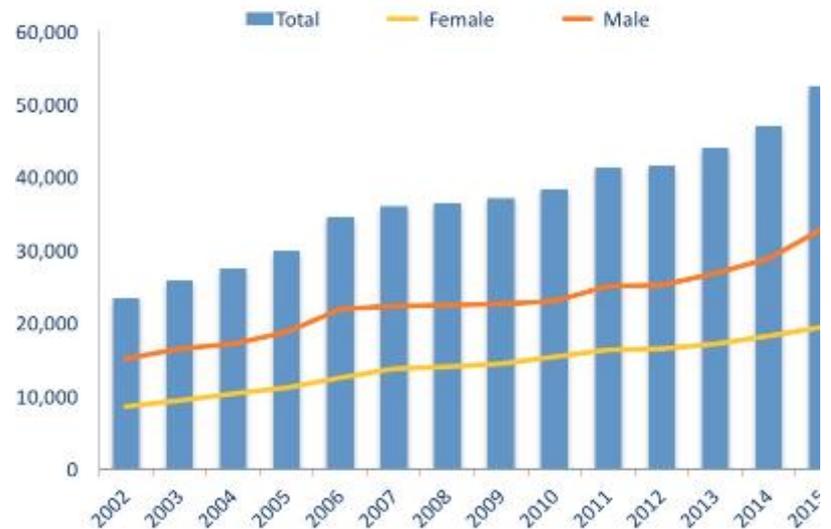
An estimated 207,400 drug-related deaths in 2014, corresponding to 43.5 deaths per million people aged 15-64

World Drug Report, 2016

National Institute
on Drug Abuse

National Overdose Deaths

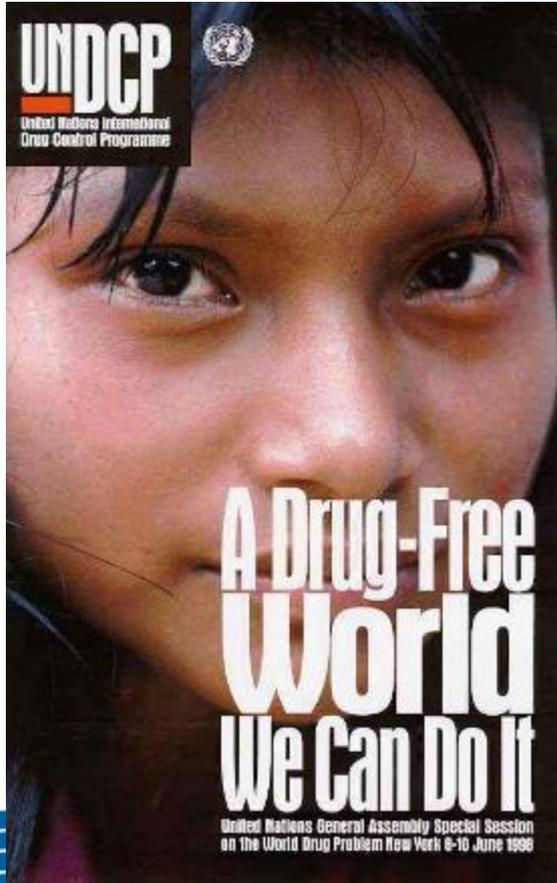
Number of Deaths from All Drugs



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder



The UNODC 10 year plan



UN Plan for the “the
“elimination of all opium
and cocaine plantations
by end of 2008”



Iron law of prohibition

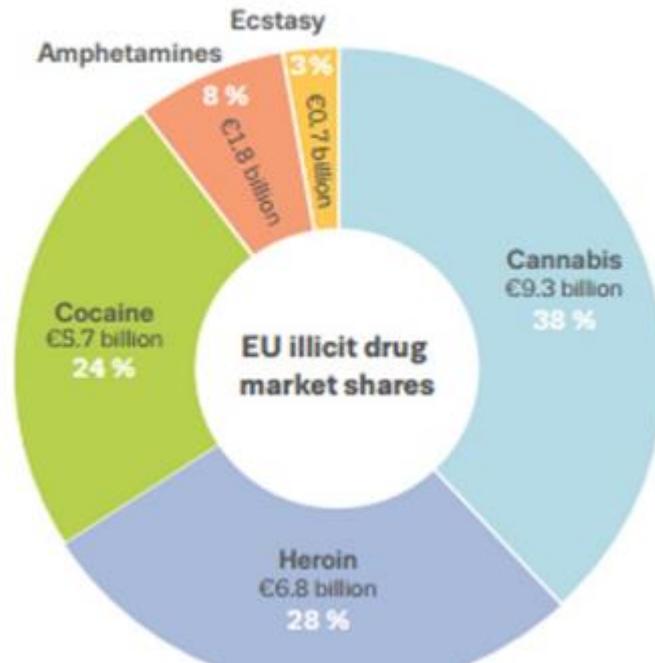
Fixed cost (e.g. transportation fee) added to the price of two varieties of the same product results in greater sales of the more expensive variety - (e.g. low quality apple - low grade opium - beer / high quality apple – heroin - gin).

In smuggling the greatest added cost in illegal sales is avoidance of detection, so the more potent products become the sole focus of the suppliers.



European Drug Market(s) € 24 billion

markets for the main drugs in the EU

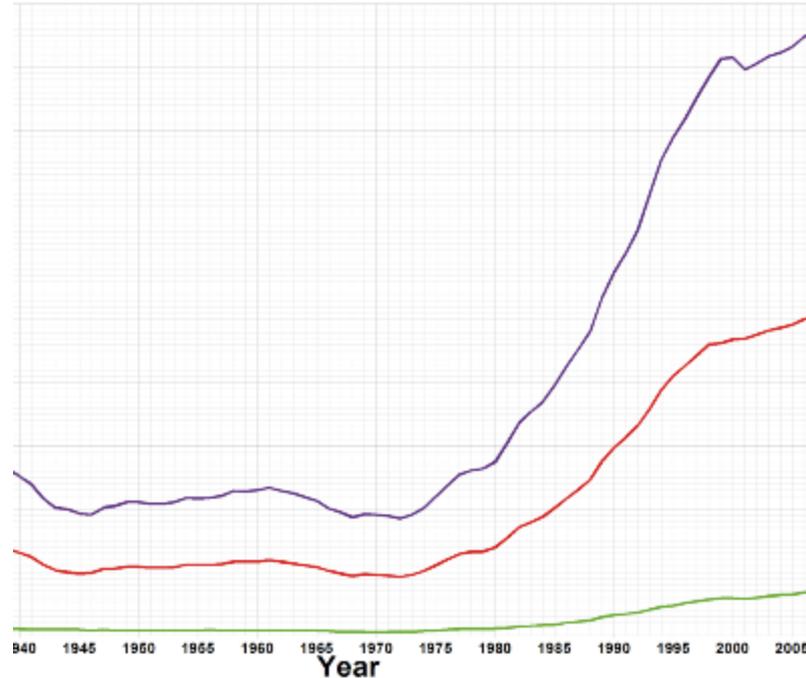


The market for illicit drugs remains the **most dynamic** among the criminal markets. This crime area features the highest number of OCGs involved and has seen the increasing proliferation of new psycho active substances (NPS) as well as increased competition between OCGs. 30% of all identified OCGs are involved in drug trafficking. The illicit drugs market is by far the most poly-criminal market and has also seen increased collaboration, but also competition, between OCGs across national, linguistic and ethnic divisions
Europol, SOCTA, 2013

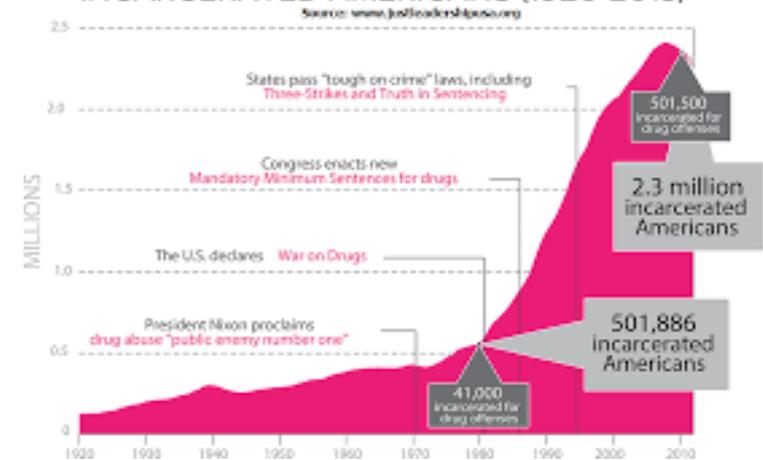


American Gulag

Evolution rate of inmates incarcerated under state and federal jurisdiction per 100,000 population 1925-2014



INCARCERATED AMERICANS (1920-2013)



Perverse consequences

- More dangerous and potent drugs
- Drug dealers are better organised and more violent
- Government agencies have become more powerful, punishments harder and police more brutal
- Corrosion of government agencies and widespread corruption



What is a drug



Habit forming, mind /
mood altering...

Alcohol, nicotine,
caffeine, sugar ?



Drug Control as Prohibition

‘Drug’ , is not a question of substance, but is defined by the way a consumption practice is dealt with it. If the habit is illegal and the use and distribution subject to police intervention, penalties, courts, prisons and worse - then it is a drug.

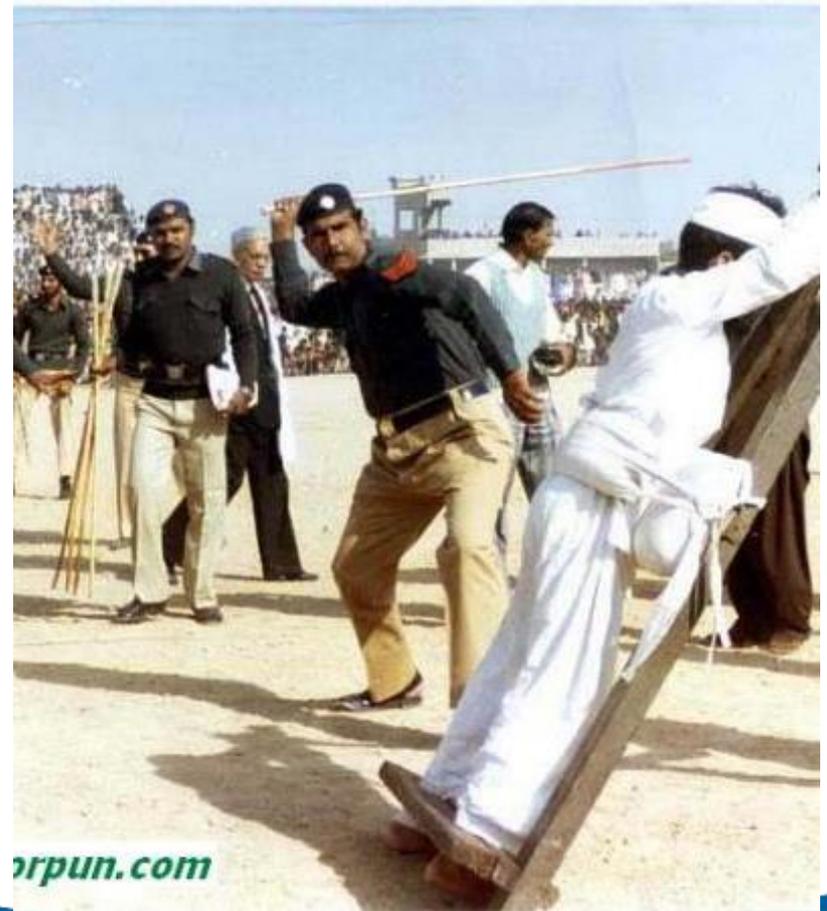
The key functions of the term ‘drug’ then is to hold together the system of controls.

The international drug control system was not constructed to protect society from drugs. But ‘drugs’ were constructed to justify the control system.



Executions for drug offences, HRI: The Death Penalty for Drug Offences: Global Overview 2015

	Drug execut.	Total execut.
China 2013	190	2,400
Iran 2014	367	753
Malaysia 2013	1	2
Saudi 2013	41	90
Singapore 2014	2	2
Vietnam 2014	45	72
Indonesia 2014	64	136



UNGASS 2016 Outcome Statement

We **reaffirm** our commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health -related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug -related crime, and we reaffirm our determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and **prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking;**

We reaffirm the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, in their efforts to support Member States in the implementation of international drug control treaties in accordance with applicable **human rights obligations and to promote protection of and respect for human rights** and the dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes, strategies and policies



‘Brownfield doctrine’

The treaties offer substantial discretion how to best achieve their objectives.. They are living, breathing documents ... to be interpreted ...with the principles of protecting the ‘health and welfare of mankind’ along four policy pillars”

- The integrity of the current treaties – (meaning that there should not be new ones)
- Flexible interpretation
- Tolerating different national strategies or policies
- **Tackle organized crime**

US Assistant Secretary of State, William Brownfield,



The average smuggler would have been, in every respect, an excellent citizen, had not the laws of his country made that a crime which nature never meant to be so.”

Adam Smith

The good enemy

“The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.” John Erlichmann, policy advisor to Pres. Nixon, interviewed by Dan Baum, 1994, Harpers, April 2016



- New York City arrests on average 100 people a day for possessing small amounts of marijuana, mostly young black and Latino men. Why?
- Arrests safe, easy, and provide training for new officers
- Overtime pay for patrol & narcotics police & their supervisors.
- Officers can show productivity - counts for promotions and choice assignments.
- NYPD obtains fingerprints, photographs etc. on people they would not otherwise have in their criminal justice database

Harry Levine and Deborah Small, *Marijuana Arrest Crusade: Racial Bias and Police Policy in NYC 1997-2007*



Asset Seizure in the US

In 1986 the Department of Justice's forfeited assets worth \$93.7 million. By 2014, it was \$4.5 billion

Civil forfeiture laws pose one of the greatest threats to property rights in the nation today. They encourage law enforcement to favor the pursuit of property over the pursuit of justice, and they typically give the innocent little recourse for recovering seized property. And without meaningful transparency, law enforcement faces little public accountability for its forfeiture activity or expenditures from forfeiture funds.

Police stop motorists for minor violations, Such failure to signal a lane change, and issue a warning or ticket. Officers then extend the stop looking for signs of nervousness or Other 'indicators' of criminal activity. Eventually, they ask to search the car. If the owner refuses, officers may call in a drug-sniffing dog to try to establish probable cause for a search. If cash turns up—even in the absence of drugs or other evidence of criminal activity—it is presumed to be **drug money**, seized and handed over to the federal government for forfeiture. Owners must hire an attorney and fight federal prosecutors to prove their money was legitimately earned

Carpenter, D (2015) Policing for Profit – Institute of Justice



Access to Medical Cannabis: All Party Parliamentary Group on Drugs Report

“ there is strong evidence that medical cannabis helps with chronic pain; spasticity (common, disabling and painful after stroke or brain injury and common in those suffering from multiple sclerosis, as examples); for nausea and vomiting, especially during chemotherapy; and for the management of anxiety. There is also evidence of usefulness in sleep disorders, for appetite stimulation (in HIV, for example), fibromyalgia, PTSD, severe childhood epilepsies, bladder problems and even for control of some cancers.”





vaping

Rebranding the cannabis user from a "loser stoner" to a "cool fashionista"

"I like this pen because it is convenient. It's odorless and people don't know what the hell I'm doing."
Pekka Hakkarainen, Vaporizing the pot world, *Drugs and Alcohol Today*, 2015



Cannabis Fudge

Time Required: 1 hour

What You Need:

13" x 9" baking dish, greased

4 cups sugar

1¼ cups evaporated

1 cup [Cannabutter](#)

1½ cups semisweet chocolate chips

1 cup marshmallow creme

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

candy thermometer

Steps:

Combine sugar, milk and Cannabutter in a large pot. Cook on medium until the temperature reaches 236 degrees. Do not burn. Remove the pot from the heat. Stir in chocolate chips, vanilla, and marshmallow creme. Stir until well blended.

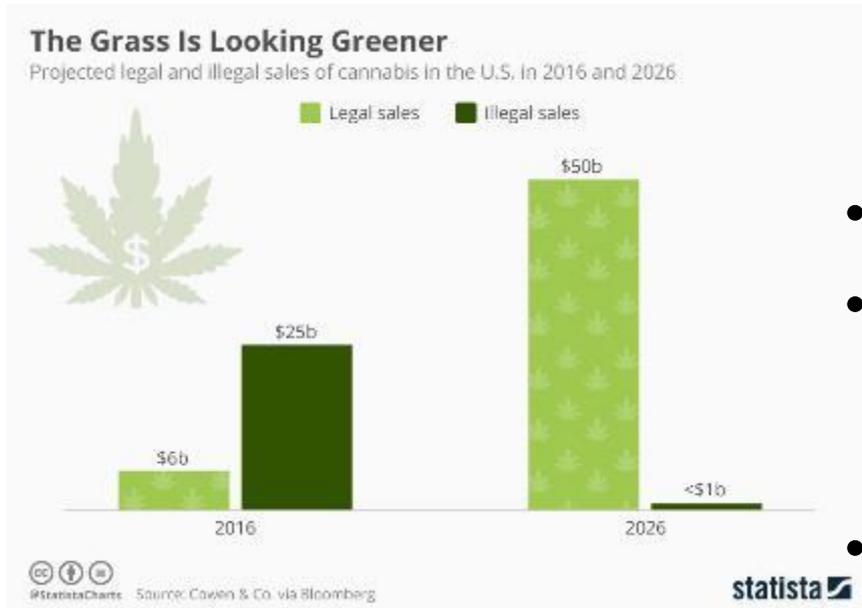
Pour the mixture into the greased baking dish.

Allow fudge to cool. Cut and enjoy.

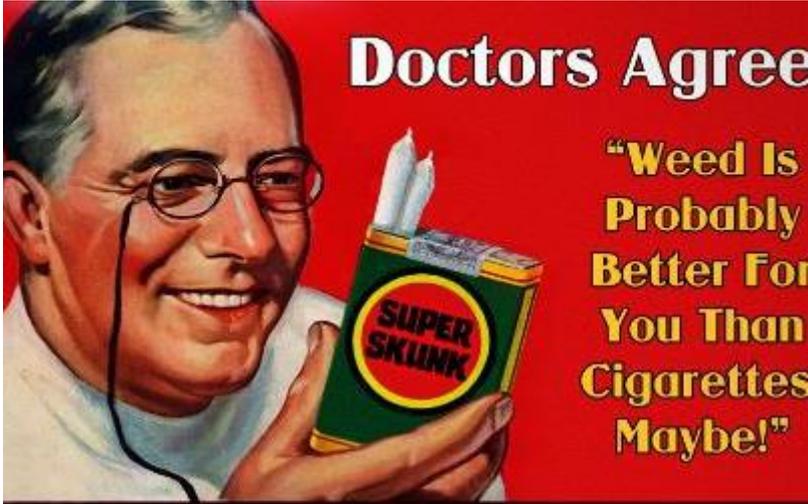


Cannabis economy

- the Colorado Department of Revenue reports tax receipts of \$200 million on state wide cannabis sales.
- 2.9% state sales tax
- State retail marijuana sales tax of 15% rate starting July 1, 2017
- Marijuana application and license fees



Canna commerce



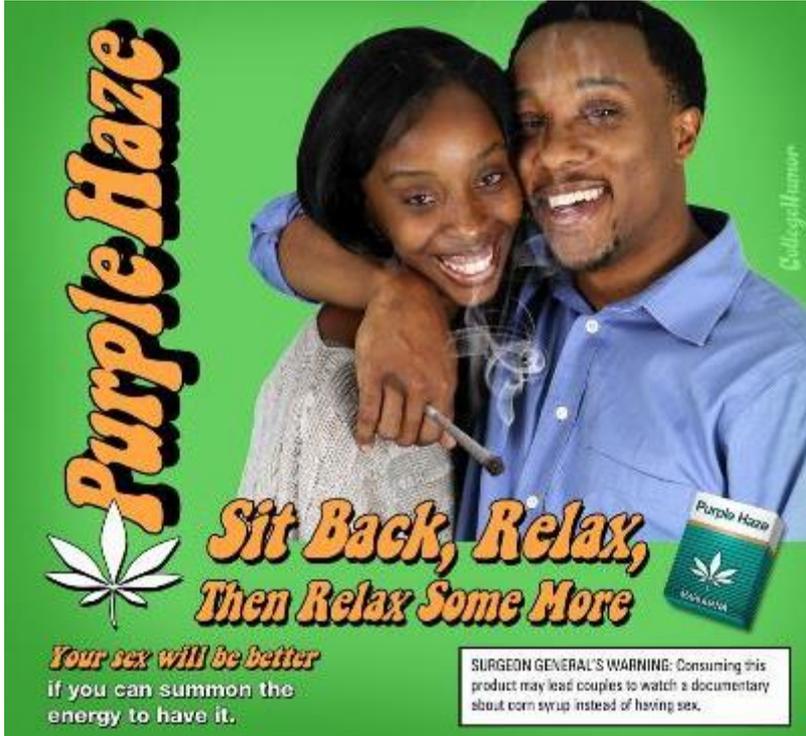
Doctors Agree

"Weed Is Probably Better For You Than Cigarettes Maybe!"

SUPER SKUNK

is the #1 brand recommended by your *cousin* who talked to this *girl* at a party whose *uncle* is a *doctor*. Or a *lawyer* or *something*.

CollegiateHumor



Purple Haze

Sit Back, Relax, Then Relax Some More

Your sex will be better if you can summon the energy to have it.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Consuming this product may lead couples to watch a documentary about corn syrup instead of having sex.

CollegiateHumor



Campaigning for regime change

Normalization



Exit strategy

Identify vested interests

- New tasks and roles for control agencies (quality assurance, licensing arrangements, market surveillance)