



Reefer Gladness; Honest Info on Medical Cannabis (Marijuana) and Mental Health

Patients With Schizophrenia Report Subjective Benefits From Marijuana, Study Says

New Brunswick, Canada: Male patients diagnosed with schizophrenia report obtaining subjective benefits from marijuana, according to survey data published in the March issue of the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*.

Investigators from Edmundston Regional Hospital, Psychiatry/Mental Health Department in New Brunswick, Canada surveyed eight men with schizophrenia who had a history of current or past cannabis use.

Researchers reported that subjects consumed marijuana "as a means of satisfying the schizophrenia-related need for relaxation, sense of self-worth, and distraction."

Survey data published in 2008 in the *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing* also reported that

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California: Oakland City Council Endorses Statewide Pot Depenalization Initiative

Oakland, CA, USA: Oakland city council members voted this week in favor of a resolution endorsing the Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 – a statewide November ballot measure.

The measure seeks to allow adults 21 years or older to possess and cultivate marijuana for personal use. It would also permit local governments the option to authorize the retail sale and commercial cultivation of cannabis to adults. Personal marijuana cultivation or not-for-profit sales of marijuana would not be taxed under the measure.

City officials voted eight to zero in favor of the resolution. Oakland is the first city to formally endorse the proposal. *For more information, please visit:*

<http://www.taxcannabis.org>

White House 2010 National Drug Strategy Calls For Expansion Of Per Se 'Drugged' Driving Laws

Washington, DC, USA: The 2010 edition of the White House National Drug Control Strategy, released this week, calls on states to enact laws criminalizing motorists who drive with the residual presence of drug or inactive drug metabolite in their body.

"Fifteen states (editor's note: actual total is 17) have passed laws clarifying that the presence of any illegal drug in a driver's body is per se evidence of impaired driving," the report states. "ONDCP (White House Office of National Drug Control Policy) will work to expand the use of this standard to other states and explore other ways to increase the enforcement of existing DUID (driving under the influence of drugs) laws."

Experts have criticized the implementation of per se DUID laws for cannabis because the

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! visit:

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from REEFER GLADNESS, page 1 > many schizophrenic patients obtain relief from cannabis, finding that subjects consumed cannabis to reduce anxiety, mitigate memories of childhood trauma, enhance cognition, and "improve their mental state."

The findings may help to provide insight as to why several recent studies have identified a non-causal association between the use of marijuana and schizophrenia.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Attraction to cannabis among men with schizophrenia: a phenomenological study," appears in the Canadian Journal of Nursing Research.

<continued from DRUGGED DRIVING, page 1 > drug's metabolites may remain present in urine for weeks or months after past use. Studies have consistently reported that the presence of marijuana metabolites is not associated with psychomotor impairment or an elevated risk of motor accident.

By contrast, one international study has estimated per se THC blood levels for occasional marijuana users. However, a more recent study reported that chronic cannabis consumers can have residual levels of THC in blood for up to a week after past use. Authors argued that this unusually long half-life limits the implementation of statewide per se standards for marijuana.

To date, the only study to assess the impact of per se drugged driving laws on behavior found that the enforcement of such policies has "done nothing to reduce DUID or deter the typical offender."

Commenting on the 2010 National Drug Control Strategy, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "While driving under the influence of illicit and licit substances is arguably an issue worthy of legislative concern, the expansion of zero-tolerant or arbitrary per se laws – particularly for cannabis – neither addresses the problem nor offers a legitimate solution. At best, it is an inappropriate,

inflexible response to a negligible social ill. At worst, it is a cynical attempt to misuse the traffic safety laws to further discriminate against and prosecute cannabis consumers for what they choose to put in their bodies."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org or see NORML's white paper, "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review," available online at: http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7459.

Marijuana Smoking Associated With Minimal Changes In Driving Performance, Study Finds

Hartford, CT, USA: Subjects exhibit virtually identical psychomotor skills on a battery of driving simulator tests prior to and shortly after smoking marijuana, according to clinical trial data published in the March issue of the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

Investigators from Hartford Hospital in Connecticut and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine assessed the simulated driving performance of 85 subjects in a double-blind, placebo controlled trial. Volunteers responded to various simulated events associated with automobile crash risk – such as avoiding a driver who was entering an intersection illegally, deciding to stop or go through a changing traffic light, responding to the presence of emergency vehicles, avoiding colliding with a dog who entered into traffic, and maintaining safe driving during a secondary (in-the-car) auditory distraction. Subjects performed the tests sober and then again 30 minutes after smoking a single marijuana cigarette containing either 2.9 percent THC or zero THC (placebo).

Investigators reported that volunteers performed virtually the same after smoking cannabis as they did sober and/or after consuming a placebo. "No differences were found during the baseline driving segment (and the) collision avoidance scenarios," authors reported.

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<continued from previous page> Investigators did note, "Participants receiving active marijuana decreased their speed more so than those receiving placebo cigarette during (the) distracted section of the drive." Authors hypothesized that subjects' reduction in speed on this task suggested that they may have been compensating for perceived impairment. "[N]o other changes in driving performance were found," researchers concluded.

A 2008 driving simulator study published in the scientific journal *Accident, Analysis and Prevention* also reported that drivers administered cannabis are likely to decrease their driving speed. "Average speed was the most sensitive driving performance variable affected by both THC and alcohol but with an opposite effect," investigators reported. "Smoking THC cigarettes caused drivers to drive slower in a dose-dependent manner, while alcohol caused drivers to drive significantly faster than in 'control' conditions."

Previous reviews assessing the crash culpability risk of drivers under the influence of cannabis have reported a positive association between recent marijuana exposure (as typically measured by the presence of active THC in the driver's blood) and a gradually increased, dose-dependent risk of vehicle accident. However, these studies have consistently found that this elevated risk is below the risk presented by drivers who have consumed legal quantities of alcohol. By contrast, studies have also reported that drivers engaged in the simultaneous use of both cannabis and alcohol can increase their risk of accident compared to the consumption of either substance alone.

NORML's white paper assessing the impact of marijuana on psychomotor skills, "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review," is available online at: http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7459.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Sex differences in the effects of marijuana on simulated driving performance," appears in the Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.

Criminal Justice Referrals Driving Marijuana 'Treatment' Admissions, Federal Report Finds

Rockville, MD, USA: Nearly six out of ten people admitted to drug treatment programs for marijuana are referred there by the criminal justice system, according to a just-released report by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA).

In 2008, 57 percent of persons referred to treatment for marijuana as their 'primary substance of abuse' were referred by the criminal justice system. For adolescents, nearly half (48 percent) were referred via the criminal justice system.

By contrast, criminal justice referrals accounted for just 37 percent of the overall total of drug treatment admissions in 2008.

"Primary marijuana admissions were less likely than all admissions combined to be self-referred to treatment," the study found. Specifically, the report noted that only 15 percent of marijuana treatment admissions were self-referred (a category that includes individual self-referrals, as well as referrals by friends and family). This percentage was less than half the number of self-referrals for alcohol and cocaine, and about one-quarter the number of self-referrals reported for heroin abuse (56 percent).

Since 1998 the percentage of individuals in drug treatment programs primarily for marijuana has risen approximately 25 percent, the report found. This increase is being primarily driven by a proportional rise in the percentage of criminal justice referrals. According to a previous federal study, the proportion of marijuana treatment admissions from all sources other than the criminal justice system has been declining since the mid-1990s.

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "These statistics make it clear that it is not marijuana use *per*

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responsible. These people for the most part are not 'addicts' in any true sense of the word. Rather, they are ordinary Americans who have experienced the misfortune of being busted for marijuana who are forced to choose between rehab or jail."

According to federal figures compiled by SAMHSA in 2009, some 37 percent of the estimated 288,000 thousand people who entered drug treatment for cannabis in 2007 had not reported using it in the 30 days previous to their admission. Another 16 percent of those admitted said that they'd used marijuana three times or fewer in the month prior to their admission.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the report, "Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 1998-2008: National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services," is available online at: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds08/teds2k8na.tweb.pdf>.

Canada Signs Off On Extradition Order For 'Prince Of Pot'

Vancouver, British Columbia: Canadian Justice Minister Rob Nicholson has signed off on an order extraditing longtime Canadian marijuana activist and publisher Marc Emery to the United States, according to an *Associated Press* report published this week.

Emery's attorney stated that he will be transferred to the US imminently.

United States law enforcement officials indicted Emery in August of 2005 for selling marijuana seeds to US customers.

Under a plea agreement, Emery faces up to five years in US prison. Under Canadian law, he would face no more than one month in jail (and probation), if convicted.

In a letter from MP Libby Davies sent this week to Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, she

declared, "Your government took a rare and unnecessary step today, by extraditing a Canadian citizen to serve a prison sentence in America for actions that are not worthy of prosecution under Canadian laws."

Marc Emery has long maintained that his prosecution was politically motivated. Upon issuing his indictment in 2005, former US DEA administrator Karen Tandy proclaimed that Emery's arrest struck "a significant blow to the marijuana legalization movement. ... Drug legalization lobbyists now have one less pot of money to rely on."

For nearly two decades, Emery operated a highly visible seed bank in Vancouver. Emery declared hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes to the Canadian government, and officials at Health Canada – which oversees the nation's legal medicinal cannabis program – frequently advised patients to purchase his seeds. Virtually all profits from Emery's business ventures were distributed among various national and international drug law reform organizations.

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

Marijuana May Extend Life Expectancy Of Lou Gehrig's Disease Patients, Study Says

Seattle, WA, USA: Cannabis therapy may reduce symptoms and prolong survival in patients diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS aka Lou Gehrig's disease), according to a scientific review published online last week by the *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine*.

Investigators at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle and Temple University in Pennsylvania reviewed preclinical and anecdotal data indicating that marijuana appears to treat symptoms of ALS as well as moderate the course of the disease.

Authors wrote: "Preclinical data indicate that cannabis has powerful antioxidative, anti-

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They added, "Based on the currently available scientific data, it is reasonable to think that cannabis might significantly slow the progression of ALS, potentially extending life expectancy and substantially reducing the overall burden of the disease."

Investigators concluded, "There is an overwhelming amount of preclinical and clinical evidence to warrant initiating a multicenter randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of cannabis as a disease-modifying compound in ALS."

Writing in the March 2004 issue of the journal *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis & Other Motor Neuron Disorders*, investigators at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco reported that the administration of THC both before and after the onset of ALS symptoms staved disease progression and prolonged survival in animals compared to untreated controls. To date, however, no clinical trials have assessed the use of marijuana or any of the plant's cannabinoids on patients diagnosed with ALS.

Lou Gehrig's Disease is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disorder that is characterized by the selective loss of motor neurons in the spinal cord, brain stem, and motor cortex. An estimated 30,000 Americans are living with ALS, which often arises spontaneously and afflicts otherwise healthy adults. An estimated 70 to 80 percent of patients with ALS die within three to five years following the onset of disease symptoms.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study,

"Cannabis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: hypothetical and practical applications, and a call for clinical trials," will appear in the American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine.

Colorado: Lawmakers Pass Controversial Regulations Governing State Licensed Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Denver, CO, USA: Lawmakers have passed legislation regulating the state's medical cannabis dispensaries. The legislation, House Bill 1284, now awaits final approval from Democrat Gov. William Ritter, who is expected to sign the measure into law.

The proposed law would require medical marijuana dispensing facilities to obtain state and local licensing approval and be in compliance with all local zoning codes. Under the regulations, dispensaries must pay a state licensing fee, shall be located no closer than 1,000 feet from a school or daycare (municipalities have the authority to issue exemptions to this rule), and operators must oversee the cultivation at least 70 percent of the marijuana dispensed at the center.

The forthcoming law also imposes a statewide moratorium on the establishment of new dispensaries, beginning in July. Licensed dispensary owners would also have to undergo criminal background checks by the state.

In addition, local municipalities will possess the authority to prohibit the establishment of dispensaries in their community though legal experts expect this provision to be challenged in court. Individual caregivers would be legally permitted to provide medical cannabis for up to five patients in localities that have formally banned dispensaries.

Lawmakers have estimated that the implementation of the new regulations will lead to the closure of approximately one-half of the estimated 1,100 facilities presently operating in the state. Separate legislation approved by lawmakers, Senate Bill 109, limits the

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In 2000, 54 percent of Colorado voters in decided in favor of a ballot initiative legalizing the physician-approved use of cannabis as a medical therapy. However, that measure did not outline regulations governing the establishment of facilities to dispense cannabis to authorized patients.

According to a Rasmussen telephone poll of likely voters released this week, Coloradoans now back the legalizing and regulating the adult recreational use of marijuana by a margin of 49 percent to 39 percent, with 13 percent still undecided.

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

Washington DC: City Council Gives Final Approval For Marijuana Dispensary Measure

Washington, DC, USA: Members of the DC City Council gave final approval on Tuesday to legislation authorizing the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in the District of Columbia. The Council had given preliminary approval to the measure in April.

Tuesday's City Council vote was unanimous.

The legislation (B 18-622) calls on DC Health Department officials to oversee the creation of up to five facilities to dispense medical cannabis to authorized patients. Medical dispensaries would be limited to growing no more than 95 plants on site at any one time.

Under an amendment approved by the Council this week, patients would likely be able to obtain up to four ounces of dispensary-provided marijuana per month, but would not be permitted to privately cultivate their own supply. Low-income patients will be allowed to purchase medical marijuana at a greatly reduced cost under the plan.

The amended bill now goes to Mayor Adrian

Fenty for his signature. Once approved, Congress has 30 working days to either approve or reject the measure. Congress holds similar veto power over all laws passed by the Council. The Act seeks to implement components of Initiative 59 – a 1998 DC ballot measure that garnered 69 percent of the vote. However, until this year DC city lawmakers have been barred from instituting the measure because of a Congressional ban on the issue. Congress lifted its ban late last year.

District officials contend that the restrictions are necessary to avoid having Congressional lawmakers overturn the measure.

Last month, lawmakers in Maine approved legislation to allow for the creation of state-sanctioned medical marijuana dispensaries. Similar legislation has also been approved in New Jersey, New Mexico, and Rhode Island.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

Marijuana Compound Halts Spread Of Biliary Tract Cancers, Study Says

Patumthani, Thailand: The administration of THC inhibits cell proliferation and induces anti-tumor effects on cholangiocarcinoma (biliary tract cancer) cells, according to preclinical trial data published in the May issue of the scientific journal *Cancer Investigation*.

Investigators at Rangsit University in Thailand assessed the anti-cancer properties of THC on both cholangiocarcinoma cell lines and surgical specimens from bile duct cancer patients.

Researchers reported, "THC inhibited cell proliferation, migration and invasion, and induced cell apoptosis (programmed cell death). THC also ... reduced tumor cell survival."

Authors concluded that THC could be used as a potential agent to "retard cholangiocarcinoma cell growth and metastasis."

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News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

<continued from previous page> A 2008 scientific review published in the journal *Cancer Research* reported that cannabinoids inhibit cell proliferation in a wide range of cancers, including brain cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, pancreatic cancer, and lymphoma.

A study published earlier this year in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* found that the administration of multiple cannabinoids showed greater efficacy at inhibiting the growth of cancer cells and inducing malignant cell death than did the exposure to individual agents.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "The dual effects of delta(9)-tetrahydrocannabinol on cholangiocarcinoma cells: anti-invasion activity at low concentration and apoptosis induction at high concentration," appears in the journal *Cancer Investigation*.

Detroit: Voters Likely To Decide On Marijuana Legalization Measure This November

Detroit, MI, USA: Detroit citizens will likely vote this November on a municipal measure to prohibit the criminal prosecution of adults who possess minor amounts of marijuana.

Organizers from the Coalition for a Safer Detroit gathered over 6,100 signatures in favor of the proposal. That total is nearly twice the number of signatures required by law to place the measure on the November ballot.

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERB'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



It's One Hell of A Joint!

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City officials have until early next week to certify the petition. The City Council then has 30 days to either enact the proposal or place it before voters this fall.

If enacted, the measure would amend the Detroit City Code to remove criminal penalties for "the use or possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, on private property, by anyone who has attained the age of 21 years."

Speaking to the *Detroit Free Press*, NORML Legal Committee member and Coalition co-coordinator Matt Abel said, "Our feeling is, how do we put an end to the drug war? This would be a step."

Voters have previously enacted similar municipal measures in several other cities, including Denver, Colorado. *For more information, please visit:*

<http://saferdetroit.net/index.php>

*** THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY (W-V) NORML NEWS REPORT > * P.O. BOX 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 * PH: (541) 517-0957 * EMAIL: newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org * OR VISIT: www.WillametteValleyNORML.org**