



Study: At Home Marijuana Gardens Not Associated With Adverse Health Effects Among Children

Vancouver, British Columbia: Children residing in homes where marijuana is cultivated do not suffer from adverse health effects at any greater rate than do comparable children in cannabis-free environments, according to a [study](#) in press in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

A pair of investigators with the University of British Columbia, School of Social Work compared the household, family and individual characteristics of 181 children found living in homes with cannabis grow operations in two regions in British Columbia, Canada.

Data was collected on site regarding the physical characteristics of the homes, the health characteristics of the children residing in the homes, and the adolescents' prescription drug history. Investigators also compared the rates of the subjects' prescription drug use with that of a group of children from the same geographic areas.

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US Attorney General Says Administration Intends To Respond "Relatively Soon" To Statewide Cannabis Legalization Votes

Washington, DC: United States Attorney General Eric Holder [told](#) members of the US Senate that the Obama administration is still formulating its policy in regards to states that have legalized the adult consumption and retail sale of marijuana.

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United Nations: Three-Quarters Of World's Illicit Drug Users Consume Cannabis

Vienna, Austria: Cannabis is consumed by an estimated 75 percent of all the world's illicit drug users, making it the most [widely used](#) illicit substance in the world, according to the United Nation's 2012 [World Drug Report](#).

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Study: Cannabis Smoking Associated With "Significantly Better" Health Outcomes Than Tobacco Smoking

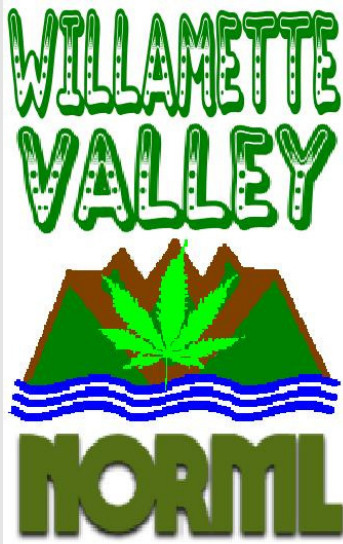
Randwick, Australia: Adults who inhale cannabis report significantly better health outcomes than do those who smoke tobacco or a combination of both substances, according to exploratory survey [data](#) to be published in the journal *Addictive Behaviors*.

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New York City: Cops Spent One Million Hours In Staff Time Making Marijuana Possession Arrests

New York City, NY: New York City police spent an estimated [one million hours in staff time](#) making low level marijuana possession arrests between the years 2002 and 2012, according to the findings of a [study](#) released this week by 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 **STUDY: AT HOME MARIJUANA GARDENS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS AMONG CHILDREN**, page 1 > Researchers reported "no significant difference between the health of the children living in cannabis grow operations and the comparison group of children, based on their prescription history and their reported health at the time."

They concluded: "The findings of this study challenge contemporary child welfare approaches and have implications for both child protection social workers and the policymakers who develop frameworks for practice. ...



Although there is little argument that the physical hazards found in cannabis grow-operations pose a risk to children and adults living in the homes, the associated health risks are not as clear.

Policymakers involved in establishing frameworks and protocols for responding to these unique child welfare cases must consider the absence of clinical evidence to indicate these children are unwell and whether there are grounds for child welfare intervention."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup at: keith@norml.org. Full text of the study, "The role of child protection in grow-operations," appears in the International Journal of Drug Policy.

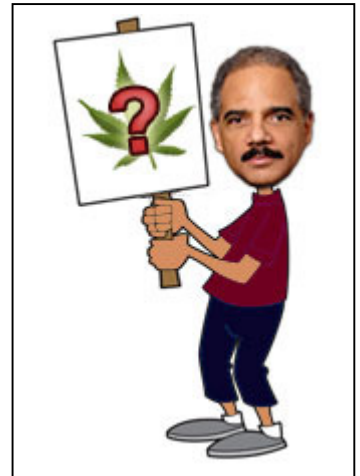
<continued from **US ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO RESPOND "RELATIVELY SOON" TO STATEWIDE CANNABIS LEGALIZATION VOTES**, page 1 > Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, Holder said that US Justice Department will respond "relatively soon" to the newly enacted laws in Colorado and Washington that allow for the adult consumption of marijuana as well as the state-licensed retail production and sale of the plant. Those laws were [approved](#) by 55 percent of voters in both states on November 6, 2012. "We are considering what the federal response to those new statutes will be," Holder told the

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing today. "We will have the ability to announce what our policy will be relatively soon."

Replying to Holder's testimony, Senate Judiciary Chairmen Patrick Leahy (D-VT) said, "I would suggest there are more serious things (for the Justice Department to prioritize) than (the) minor possession of marijuana."

On Tuesday, eight former heads of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and four

former drug czars published an [open letter](#) calling on the Attorney General to take steps to nullify Colorado and Washington's recently amended laws. "Our nation urgently needs action from Attorney General Holder to ensure that federal marijuana laws are enforced, federal preemption is asserted, and our obligations under international drug treaties are honored," the letter stated.



In response to the letter, US House member Steve Cohen (D-TN) said in a prepared [statement](#): "The federal government should concentrate on shutting down meth labs - not the laboratories of Democracy. The people of Colorado and Washington voted to implement these laws, and the federal government should respect their will. States have a right to determine their own possession laws." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director at: paul@norml.org.*

<continued from **UNITED NATIONS: THREE-QUARTERS OF WORLD'S ILLICIT DRUG USERS CONSUME CANNABIS**, page 1 > Of the world's estimated 300 million (6.6 percent of the global population) annual illicit drug consumers, some 225 million (5 percent) use cannabis, the report found. Authors concluded, "Cannabis is the world's most widely used illicit substance ... and consumption is stable."

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<continued from previous page> In 2010 (the most recent year for which international data was available), marijuana consumption was most prevalent in Australia and New Zealand. The United States and Canada tied for second among nations with the greatest levels of marijuana use, followed by Spain, France and Italy. The report also found that cannabis has become the leading cash crop in Afghanistan, surpassing opium poppy production.



"[T]here are currently no signs that the popularity of cannabis is going to fall, overall, and it is most likely going to remain the most widely used illegal substance," the report concluded.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the 2012 World Drug Report is available online at: <http://www.unodc.org>.

<continued from STUDY: CANNABIS SMOKING ASSOCIATED WITH "SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER" HEALTH OUTCOMES THAN TOBACCO SMOKING, page 1 > Investigators at the University of New South Wales assessed the relationship between cannabis, tobacco, and combined cannabis-tobacco use and various health outcomes in 350 subjects age 40 and older.



Authors reported that the cannabis-only subjects reported "significantly better" general health and fewer smoking-related health concerns compared to the tobacco-only group. Specifically, both tobacco-smoking groups experienced significantly more mucous/sputum than the other two groups (the cannabis-only group and controls). Cannabis-only subjects were less likely to report diagnoses of cancer and diabetes compared to all other groups, including controls; however, these differences did not achieve statistical significance. Overall, researchers reported, "General health measures demonstrated a pattern in which the control

and cannabis-only groups tended to report the best health, with the two tobacco-smoking groups faring worse."

They concluded, "Cannabis-only users report better health than tobacco and cannabis-tobacco users. Mixing cannabis with tobacco may synergistically compromise health."

A separate clinical [trial](#) published in 2012 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) reported that subjects exposed to moderate doses of cannabis smoke long-term did not suffer from deficits in pulmonary function, but that subjects exposed to tobacco smoke did so.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Health outcomes associated with long-term regular cannabis and tobacco smoking," will appear in *Addictive Behaviors*.

<continued from NEW YORK CITY: COPS SPENT ONE MILLION HOURS IN STAFF TIME MAKING MARIJUANA POSSESSION ARRESTS, page 1 > [Marijuana Arrest Research Project](#) and the [Drug Policy Alliance](#).

Authors of the study report that City law enforcement personnel engaged in approximately one million hours of police officer time to make 440,000 marijuana possession arrests over the past 11 years. Authors further estimated that those arrested for marijuana possession in New York City have spent five million hours in police custody over the last decade.

Authors concluded, "[I]t is clear that the marijuana arrests have taken police off the street and away from other crime-fighting activities for a significant amount of time."



Under [state law](#), the private possession of up to 25 grams of marijuana is a non-criminal civil citation, punishable by a \$100 fine. By contrast, the possession of any amount of cannabis in public view is a criminal misdemeanor [NY State Penal Law 221.10].

Previously published data reports that over 90

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percent of all marijuana arrests in the state of New York occur in New York City. In 2011, New York City law enforcement spent \$75 million [arresting approximately 50,000 minor marijuana offenders](#) under Penal Law 221.10. Many of these offenders possessed small amounts of marijuana on their person, and only revealed the cannabis publicly [after being ordered by police](#) to empty their pockets during 'stop-and-frisk' searches. Over [85 percent](#) of those charged were either African American or Latino.

In his 2013 'State of the State' address, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [lobbied](#) in favor of equalizing the state's marijuana possession penalties and reducing the number of low-level, possession arrests in New York City. "These arrests stigmatize, they criminalize, they create a permanent record," he said. "It's not fair, it's not right, it must end, and it must end now."

According to media [reports](#), state lawmakers are now considering authorizing the New York City Council to enact local legislation to equalize all minor marijuana possession offenses as non-criminal violations.

Full text of the study, "One million police hours making 440,000 marijuana possession arrests in New York City, 2002-2012," appears online at: <http://www.drugpolicy.org>.

Missouri: Poll Finds Majority Support For Regulating Marijuana

St. Louis, MO: Fifty percent of likely Missouri voters would [support](#) a ballot measure to legalize and regulate the adult consumption and licensed retail sale of cannabis, according to survey data compiled by DHM Research and commissioned by the advocacy group [Show-Me Cannabis Regulation](#).

The statewide [telephone poll](#) of 500 likely voters found that 50 percent of respondents endorsed legalizing cannabis for both medical and non-medical purposes. Forty-five percent of respondents opposed such a measure.

Voters' support for legalizing cannabis rose to 54 percent (versus 44 percent opposed) when respondents were provided with additional details regarding how cannabis would be regulated.



Initial support for the legalizing cannabis was stronger among men (54 percent) than among women (46 percent). Majorities of both Democrats (69%) and independent voters (53%) supported the idea, as opposed to only one in three Republicans.

The group has announced its intentions to run a ballot measure as early as next year. Recently conducted [nationwide polling](#) on the issue finds that an estimated 58 percent of Americans now support making marijuana legal for adult consumption.

For more information, please visit: <http://show-mecannabis.com/polling/>.

North Carolina: Most Voters Support Making Marijuana Law Enforcement A 'Low Priority'



Raleigh, NC: Six out of ten North Carolina voters say that police and prosecutors should deprioritize marijuana offenses, and only about one out of three believe

that possessing the plant should remain a criminal offense, according to a just-released Public Policy Polling survey of 611 adults.

Sixty percent of respondents said that police and prosecutors should make the enforcement of marijuana possession offenses a "low priority." Only 30 percent of those polled believed that cannabis enforcement should be a "high priority."

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<continued from previous page> Further, only 35 percent of state voters said that possessing "small amounts of marijuana ... should remain a criminal offense." By contrast, a majority of respondents - 56 percent - said that the penalty for cannabis possession ought to be a fine only. Among those respondents under the age of 65, over 60 percent supported treating marijuana possession as a non-criminal offense.



The poll also surveyed voters regarding their views on how cannabis should be distributed to adults if it were legalized. Fifty-eight percent of respondents said that it should be "sold in state-owned stores the way liquor is." Only 19 percent of voters endorsed the retail sale of cannabis in private establishments.

Under present [law](#), minor marijuana possession is classified as a Class 3 criminal misdemeanor, punishable by a suspended sentence and a \$200 fine.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit North Carolina NORML at: <http://www.ncnorml.org/>.

Maryland: Senate Lawmakers Vote To Decriminalize Minor Marijuana Possession Offenses

Annapolis, MD: Senate lawmakers this week [voted](#) 30 to 16 in favor of legislation, [Senate Bill 297](#), to make minor marijuana possession offenses a non-criminal, fine-only offense.

The bill now awaits action from House lawmakers. Members of the [House Judiciary Committee](#) are [scheduled](#) to hear testimony regarding the bill on Thursday, March 28.

Under present [law](#), the possession of any quantity of cannabis is classified as a criminal misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine. Senate Bill 297 makes minor marijuana offenses a non-criminal infraction, punishable by a maximum fine of \$100 and no criminal record. Fifteen states have reduced marijuana possession to a fine-only offense. In nine of these states - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,

Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island (beginning April 1, 2013) - the law defines the private, non-medical possession of marijuana by adults as a civil, non-criminal offense. Five additional states - Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio - treat marijuana possession offenses as a fine-only misdemeanor offense. Alaska imposes no criminal or civil penalty for the private possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Similar decriminalization legislation is [pending](#) in nearly a dozen additional states, including Hawaii, Missouri, New Jersey, Texas, and Vermont.

On Tuesday, Maryland House lawmakers heard testimony in favor of separate legislation, [House Bill 1453](#), which seeks to legalize the adult consumption of cannabis and regulate the retail production and sale of the plant. NORML's written testimony in support of HB 1453 is available online [here](#).

Nearly a dozen states [are considering](#) similar legalization measures. For more information, please contact either Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500. Additional information on pending state marijuana law reform legislation is available online [here](http://norml.org/about/take-action-for-marijuana-law-reform): <http://norml.org/about/take-action-for-marijuana-law-reform>.

Hawaii: Senate Lawmakers Unanimously Vote In Favor Of Decriminalizing Marijuana

Honolulu, HI: Senate lawmakers this week unanimously [approved](#) legislation making minor marijuana possession offenses a non-criminal, fine-only offense. Lawmakers approved [Senate Bill 472](#) by a vote of 25 to zero. It is the second year in a row that Senate lawmakers have unanimously approved legislation to decriminalize cannabis.



The measure now awaits action by House lawmakers. NORML's written testimony in support of the measure is available online [here](http://norml.org/library/item/written-testimony-in-favor-of-senate-bill-472): <http://norml.org/library/item/written-testimony-in-favor-of-senate-bill-472>.

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<continued from previous page> Under present [law](#), the possession of marijuana for non-medical purposes is a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Fifteen states have reduced marijuana possession to a fine-only offense. In nine of these states - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island (beginning April 1, 2013) - the law defines the private, non-medical possession of marijuana by adults as a civil, non-criminal offense. Five additional states - Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio - treat marijuana possession offenses as a fine-only misdemeanor offense. Alaska imposes no criminal or civil penalty for the private possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Similar decriminalization legislation is [pending](#) in nearly a dozen additional states, including Missouri, New Jersey, Texas, and Vermont.

Kentucky: Lawmakers Overwhelmingly Pass Measure To Research And Regulate Hemp Production

Frankfort, KY: House and Senate lawmakers on Tuesday overwhelmingly [passed](#) Senate Bill 50, which seeks to permit state-sponsored research pertaining to the cultivation of industrial hemp and imposes regulations to allow for the plant's licensed production as an agricultural commodity. Proponents of the measure [acknowledged](#) that "public pressure to pass the bill helped achieve the last-minute deal."

[Hemp](#) is a distinct variety of the plant species *cannabis sativa* that contains only minute (less than one percent) amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Farmers worldwide grow hemp commercially for fiber, seed, and oil for use in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including food and clothing. The United States is the only developed nation that fails to cultivate

industrial hemp as an economic crop, [according](#) to the Congressional Resource Service. [Senate Bill 50](#) "establish conditions and procedures for the licensing of industrial hemp growers by the



Department of Agriculture." It designated the Kentucky Industrial Hemp Commission to work in concert with the state Department of Agriculture, and also tasks the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experimental Station to engage in research related to hemp production.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 88 to 4. The Senate re-approved the measure by a vote of 35 to 1.

[Said](#) Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner James Comer in a prepared statement: "By passing this bill, the General Assembly has signaled that Kentucky is serious about restoring industrial hemp production to the commonwealth and doing it in the right way. That will give Kentucky's congressional delegation more leverage when they seek a federal waiver allowing Kentucky farmers to grow hemp."

Federal legislation, the [Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2013](#), to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana is pending in both the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 50 now goes to the desk of Democrat Gov. Steve Beshear, who has [said](#) he shares the concerns of the Kentucky State Police who opposed the bill, but has not indicated whether he intends to veto the measure.

Eight states - Colorado, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia - have enacted statutory changes defining industrial hemp as distinct agricultural product.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Additional information is available from: <http://www.votehemp.org>.

California: Field Poll Reports Record High Support For Legalizing Marijuana

San Francisco, CA: Fifty-four percent of California voters support legalizing cannabis in a manner similar to alcohol, according to [polling data](#) released last week by the Field Research Corporation. The total is the highest percentage of support for legalization ever reported by the Field Poll, which began measuring Californians' public opinion on this issue in 1969. At that time, just 13 percent of

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<continued from CALIFORNIA: FIELD POLL REPORTS RECORD HIGH SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA, [previous page](#)> Californians endorsed legalizing the consumption of marijuana by adults.

The 2013 total marks a four percent increase in voters' support for marijuana legalization since July 2010 - the last time the Field Poll posed the question - when 50 percent of Californians said that they backed legalizing the plant.



Nationally, a December 2012 Public Policy Polling [telephone survey](#) of US voters reported that 58 percent of the public believes that cannabis "should be legal." So far in 2013, lawmakers in [nine states](#) - Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont - have introduced legislation to legalize and regulate the consumption and retail sale of cannabis to adults.

Sixty-two percent of male respondents said that cannabis should be regulated like alcohol versus only 46 percent of female respondents. Cannabis legalization enjoyed majority support among all age groups other than those age 65 or older.

Solid majorities of Caucasians and African American voters supported legalization. Only 41 percent of Latino respondents did so.

Regarding the legalization of cannabis for therapeutic purposes, 72 percent of respondents said that they supported the state's 16-year-old law allowing for physicians to authorize marijuana medicinally. By a greater than two to one margin (67 percent to 27 percent) voters said that they oppose efforts by the federal government to crack down on California dispensaries that provide cannabis to state-qualified patients.

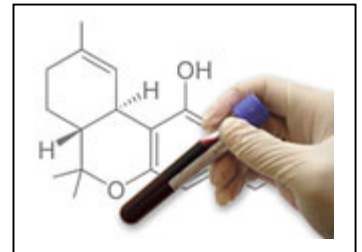
A complete breakdown of the 2013 Field Poll results is available online at: <http://field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2442.pdf>. For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director at: paul@norml.org.

Study: Trace THC/Blood Levels Persist In Chronic Cannabis Consumers

Baltimore, MD: Chronic cannabis consumers may test positive for trace, residual levels of THC in blood for several weeks after ceasing their marijuana use, according to clinical trial [data](#) published in the journal of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry.

Thirty long-term, daily cannabis consumers participated in the trial. The mean self-reported daily consumption of cannabis among subjects in the study was ten joints per day.

Of the 22 subjects tested 24 hours following admission into the trial, 12 (59 percent) tested positive for THC levels greater than 1ng/ml, but none tested at levels greater than 5ng/ml. All of the subjects' THC/blood levels tested below 1ng/ml within seven days following admission.



Investigators reported that subjects' THC/blood levels "did not always decrease in a consistent manner" and that one subject continued to test positive for trace levels of THC for a total of 33 days.

Authors concluded: "To our knowledge, these are the first blood cannabinoid concentrations in chronic daily cannabis smokers during extended (up to 33 days) continuously monitored abstinence. These data are critical for understanding cannabinoid pharmacokinetics in this population, and for interpreting blood cannabinoid tests."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Impact of prolonged cannabinoid excretion in chronic daily cannabis smokers' blood on per se drugged driving laws," appears in *Clinical Chemistry*.

