



Study: Marijuana Less Likely To Elevate Vehicle Crash Risk As Compared To Other Substances

New York, NY: The presence of various controlled substances in blood is associated with an increased risk of fatal crash involvement, according to [data](#) published online in the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.

Investigators at Columbia University conducted a case-control study to assess the association between drug use and fatal crash risk. Of the substances identified by researchers, authors reported that depressants were most likely to be associated with crash risk (estimated odds ratio = 4.83). Estimated odds ratios for other specific drug categories were 3.57 for stimulants, 3.41 for polydrug use (excluding alcohol), and 3.03 for narcotics. Marijuana (1.83) possessed the lowest odds ratios of the substances identified.

The odds ratio for cannabis is similar to that [reported](#) in a 2012 [meta-analysis](#) of 66 separate studies which estimated that cannabis was associated with a nominally increased risk of accident (estimated odds ratio = 1.25).

<continued on page 3 >

Maine and Michigan Voters To Decide On Marijuana Measures

Portland, ME: Portland voters will [decide](#) Tuesday on a municipal ballot measure that seeks to eliminate penalties citywide for adults who possess small quantities of cannabis and/or marijuana paraphernalia. Sponsors of the measure, [Citizens for a Safer Portland](#), collected over 2,500 certified signatures from Portland voters in support of the plan.

<continued on page 3 >

Israel: Economic Assessment Says Legalizing Cannabis Will Boost Revenue

Jerusalem, Israel: Legalizing the retail production and sale of cannabis would [generate](#) an estimated 1.6 sheckels (approximately \$450 million) annually, according to an economic [assessment](#) published this month by the Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies (JIMS). The authors estimate the existing Israeli marijuana market to total some 2.5 billion

<continued on page 3 >

Study: Illicit Drugs Cheaper And More Prevalent Despite Increased Legal Sanctions

Vancouver, Canada: Law enforcement-based efforts criminalizing the possession of illicit substances have largely [failed](#) to reduce drug production, potency, or access, according to an [assessment](#) of global drug interdiction efforts published online this week by the *British Medical Journal*.

<continued on page 5 >

Gallup: Nationwide Support For Legalizing Marijuana At Record Levels

Princeton, NJ: A record 58 percent of Americans nationwide now believe that marijuana ought to be "made legal" for adult consumption, according to [survey data](#) released this week by Gallup. Americans' support for legalizing marijuana rose ten percent since Gallup

<continued on page 7 >



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: MARIJUANA LESS LIKELY TO ELEVATE VEHICLE CRASH RISK AS COMPARED TO OTHER SUBSTANCES, page 1 > In that study, anti-histamines (1.12) and penicillin (1.12) were associated with comparable odds to cannabis.

Previous studies assessing fatal crash risks have reported far higher odds ratios for alcohol.

According to a [2004 study](#) published in the journal

Epidemiology, drivers who self-reported consuming two or more alcoholic drinks in a six-hour period prior to driving were nearly eight times more likely to suffer a car crash-related injury compared to non-drinkers.

While Columbia researchers did not assess the risk of alcohol consumption alone, they did report that the use of alcohol in combination with controlled substances increased subjects' risk of fatal accident more than 20-fold.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Drug use and fatal motor vehicle crashes: A case-control study," appears in *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.



<continued from MAINE AND MICHIGAN VOTERS TO DECIDE ON MARIJUANA MEASURES, page 1 > Members of the Portland City Council voted 5 to 1 in July to place the measure on the November ballot. Passage of the measure, municipal ballot Question 1, would [eliminate](#) civil penalties for adults who possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis and/or cannabis paraphernalia within Portland city limits. Public consumption of the substance would remain a punishable offense. Under present state [law](#), the possession of 2.5 ounces of marijuana or less is classified as a civil offense punishable by a fine of up to \$600.

Similar municipal initiatives have previously passed in several other cities, including [Denver](#), Colorado and [Detroit](#), Michigan.

Voters in [Lansing](#), Michigan will also decide on a similar citywide measure next week.

For more information, please contact Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.



Michigan: Lansing Voters To Decide On Marijuana Depenalization Measure

Lansing, MI: Lansing voters will [decide](#) Tuesday on a municipal initiative to amend the city charter to repeal criminal and civil penalties involving the adult possession of cannabis by adults on private property.

Initiative proponents, [Coalition for a Safer Lansing](#), collected some 7,000 signatures from registered voters to qualify the measure for the 2013 November ballot. The [proposed measure](#) reads, "Shall the Charter of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended such that nothing in the Code of Ordinances shall apply to the use, possession or transfer of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, on private property, by a person who has attained the age of 21 years?"

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernaro, a Democrat, has publicly [stated](#) that he is voting in favor of the measure.

Under present state [law](#), the possession of any amount of cannabis for non-medical purposes is a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Last year, voters in four Michigan cities - Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Ypsilanti - all voted [overwhelmingly](#) in favor of municipal measures to depenalize marijuana offenses. Voters in Portland, Maine will decide on a similar citywide ballot measure next week. For more information, please visit: <http://www.saferlansing.com/>.

<continued from ISRAEL: ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT SAYS LEGALIZING CANNABIS WILL BOOST REVENUE, page 1 > sheckels (\$704 million). They estimate that taxes imposed on the plant could yield some 950 million sheckels (\$207 million) in new annual revenue, while such a change in law would save an additional 700 million sheckels (\$197 million) in prosecutorial costs.

According to the JIMS paper, cannabis-related offenses in Israel comprise some 5.2 percent of the nation's criminal cases. An estimated 5.4 percent of all Israeli prisoners are incarcerated for cannabis violations.

"Recognizing the enormous financial gains that would come from legalization demands that the government take a serious look at the proposal to

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<continued from previous page> legalize cannabis use under specific guidelines," [said](#) paper co-author Yarden Gazit. "There is no disputing that if the public is able to get past the wholly negative misperceptions associated with marijuana usage and appreciate the potential benefits with limited social or healthcare costs, this is an idea that needs open-minded and serious re-examination at this time."



The cultivation and distribution of cannabis for therapeutic purposes in presently [legal](#) in Israel and is [strongly supported](#) by the public.

By contrast, only [26 percent](#) of Israeli's endorse allowing cannabis for social purposes.

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

Switzerland: Nation Decriminalizes Cannabis Possession Offenses

Bern, Switzerland: Minor marijuana possession offenses have been [reclassified](#) as fine-only offenses under a new Swiss law that went into effect earlier this month.



Under the law, the possession of up to 10 grams of cannabis by those age 18 or older is punishable by a fine. Those cited for cannabis will no longer have to appear in criminal court or be penalized with a criminal record.

Government officials backed the measure to bring uniformity to the nation's marijuana possession penalties, which had previously varied greatly from canton (member state) to another.

Possessing larger quantities of cannabis, as well as cultivating or selling the plant, remain subject to criminal penalty.

In the United States, [several states](#) – including [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Nebraska](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Vermont](#) – have enacted similar decriminalization laws regarding marijuana possession, replacing criminal penalties with civil sanctions only. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

Texas: Nearly 60 Percent Of Voters Support Legalizing Marijuana Like Alcohol



Austin, TX: Nearly six out of ten Texas voters [support](#) legalizing marijuana and regulating its production and sale in a manner similar to alcohol, according to [survey data](#) released this week by

Public Policy Polling and commissioned by the [Marijuana Policy Project](#).

Fifty-eight percent of respondents said they support "changing Texas law to regulate and tax marijuana similarly to alcohol, where stores would be licensed to sell marijuana to adults 21 and older." Thirty-eight percent of voters opposed the idea.

Men and women nearly equally supported legalization, with 59 percent of males and 57 percent of females endorsing it. Self-identified Democratic voters strongly favored legalization. Among Democrats, 70 percent endorsed legalizing marijuana. Fifty-seven percent of Independents and 48 percent of Texas Republicans also expressed support for regulating marijuana like alcohol.

In response to separate polling questions, 61 percent of Texas voters said that they supported decriminalizing minor pot possession offenses by replacing existing criminal penalties with civil fines only. Fifty-eight percent of those surveyed also expressed support for allowing the physician-recommended use of medical cannabis.

This past spring, state lawmakers [rejected](#) a pair of bills which sought to lessen minor marijuana possession penalties and allow for certain patients to present an affirmative defense of medical marijuana necessity at trial.

Eight hundred and sixty randomly selected voters participated in the survey, which has a margin of error of ± 3.3 percent.

The Texas poll is the latest in [a wave of recent statewide surveys showing majority voter support for legalizing cannabis](#), including state-specific polls in [California](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), and [Michigan](#).

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from STUDY: ILLICIT DRUGS CHEAPER AND MORE PREVALENT DESPITE INCREASED LEGAL SANCTIONS, page 1 > Investigators from Canada and the United States reviewed government data to assess the long-term, global impact of enforcement-based supply reduction intervention efforts.

Researchers reported, "[T]he global supply of illicit drugs has likely not been reduced in the previous two decades. In particular, the data presented in this study suggest that the supply of opiates and cannabis, in particular, have increased, given the increasing potency and decreasing prices of these illegal commodities."



Authors reported that in the United States, the average price of heroin, cocaine and cannabis decreased by an estimated 80 percent between 1990 and 2007, while average drug purity increased by 60 percent, 11 percent and 161 percent respectively.

They concluded: "With few exceptions and despite increasing investments in enforcement-based supply reduction efforts aimed at disrupting global drug supply, illegal drug prices have generally decreased while drug purity has generally increased since 1990. These findings suggest that expanding efforts at controlling the global illegal drug market through law enforcement are failing."

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 study, "The temporal relationship between drug supply indicators: an audit of international government surveillance systems," is available online at: <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/>.

California: Governor Signs 'Industrial Hemp Farming Act'

Sacramento, CA: Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown last week signed legislation, [Senate Bill 566](#): the California Industrial Hemp Farming Act, into law.

The measure reclassifies varieties of cannabis containing minute (less than one percent) quantities of THC, the plant's primary psychoactive compound, as a fiber crop and enacts provisions related to the regulation of the

plant's commercial production. However, the measure stipulates that hemp cultivation shall not take place in California until such activity is also "authorized under federal law."



"With the signing of this bill, California is poised to grow industrial hemp when the federal government gives states the green light," stated the bill's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Mark Leno, in a [prepared statement](#).

Federal law makes no legal distinction between industrial hemp and cannabis despite the fact that "[hemp is genetically different \[from marijuana\] and distinguished by its use and chemical makeup](#)." 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 currently pending in the US Senate and in the US House of Representatives.

The United States remains the only developed nation that fails to cultivate industrial hemp as an economic crop, [states](#) the Congressional Resource Service. According to a [2013 CRS report](#), "[T]he US market for hemp-based products has a highly dedicated and growing demand base, as indicated by recent US market and import data for hemp products and ingredients, as well as market trends for some natural foods and body care products.

Given the existence of these small-scale, but profitable, niche markets for a wide array of industrial and consumer products, commercial hemp industry in the United States could provide opportunities as an economically viable alternative crop for some US growers."

Earlier this year, lawmakers in [Colorado](#) and [Vermont](#) enacted laws permitting the statewide production of industrial hemp. Unlike California's new law, neither Colorado nor Vermont require state-licensed farmers to also seek federal authorization before they can legally engage in hemp cultivation.

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.

California: 65 Percent Of Likely Voters Would Back Statewide Measure To Regulate And Tax Retail Marijuana Sales

San Francisco, CA: Nearly two-thirds of likely California voters would support a statewide ballot measure to legalize and regulate marijuana production and retail sales, according to survey [data](#) conducted by Tulchin Research and commissioned by the state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Sixty-five percent of respondents said that they would support a ballot proposal "to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana in California for adults." Only 32 percent of those surveyed said that they would oppose such a measure.

A strong majority of self-identified Democratic (74 percent) and Independent/non-affiliated (72 percent) voters, but not Republican (47 percent) voters backed the proposal. African-Americans (74 percent), Caucasians (69 percent), and Asians (68 percent) also expressed strong support legalizing cannabis. Men and women were virtually equal in their support. Respondents in every age category, including those age 65 and older, expressed majority support for legalization.

The results of a separate Public Policy Institute of California [poll](#) released earlier this month reported that 60 percent of likely California voters support legalizing the plant's possession and sale for adults.



The ACLU poll surveyed 1,200 likely California voters and possesses a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percent.

The ACLU also announced the formation of the blue-ribbon [panel](#) to study ways to regulate cannabis in California. The panel will be headed by state Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. It is expected to convene for the next 18 to 24 months before making its recommendations.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.aclunc.org>.

California: 60 Percent Of Likely Voters Back Legalizing Marijuana

San Francisco, CA: Six out of ten likely California voters support making cannabis legal, according to [survey data](#) released by the Public Policy Institute of California. Sixty-eight percent of likely voters also believe that the US government should not enforce federal anti-marijuana laws in states that have approved the plant's use.

The percentages are the highest ever reported by the polling firm in favor of allowing adults to possess and consume cannabis socially.

Support for marijuana law reform was slightly lower among all adult respondents. Among all Californians, not just likely voters, 52 percent responded that "marijuana should be made legal," and 61 percent believed that the federal government should not interfere with statewide marijuana laws.



Men (57 percent), Democrats (64 percent), and Independents (60 percent) were more likely to express support for legalizing marijuana than were women (47 percent) or Republicans (45 percent). Caucasians (63 percent) and African Americans (61 percent) also expressed far greater support for legalization than did Asians (48 percent) or Latinos (36 percent).

Pollsters surveyed 1,703 Californians, including 1,429 registered voters. The PPIC poll possesses a margin of error of ±3.7 percent.

In recent months, polls in various states throughout the country — including [Arizona](#), [Louisiana](#), [Michigan](#), [New Hampshire](#), and [Oklahoma](#) — have shown majority support for marijuana law reform, as have [national polls](#).

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: THC Detectable In Breath For Limited Periods Of Time

Baltimore, MD: The psychoactive cannabinoid THC may be present in the breath of subjects who recently inhaled marijuana, according to clinical trial data published online in the journal *Clinical Chemistry*.

Investigators at the National Institutes of Health in Baltimore, Maryland and the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden analyzed the exhaled breath of occasional and habitual marijuana consumers shortly after subjects inhaled a standardized cannabis cigarette of 6.8 percent THC. Researchers sought to identify whether THC, its primary metabolite THC-COOH, or cannabinol (CBN), a non-psychoactive cannabinoid, were present in breath at detectable levels following smoking.

Researchers reported identifying the presence of THC in both occasional and in regular consumers for limited periods of time following subjects' inhalation of marijuana. Authors



concluded: "Among chronic smokers (n = 13), all breath samples were positive for THC at 0.89 hours, 76.9 percent at 1.38 hours, and 53.8 percent at 2.38 hours, and only one sample was positive at 4.2 hours after smoking. Among occasional smokers (n = 11), 90.9 percent of breath samples were THC-positive at 0.95 hours and 63.6 percent at 1.49 hours. One occasional smoker had no detectable THC."

No samples tested positive for the presence of the carboxy THC metabolite and only one subject tested positive for the presence of CBN.

Authors concluded that breath analysis potentially offers an alternative matrix for identifying subjects who had recently inhaled cannabis. The study did not attempt to correlate the detection of THC in breath with actual **behavioral impairment** of any kind.

Swedish researchers had **previously reported** in April that breath analysis is sensitive to the presence of THC in those who have recently consumed cannabis as well as other controlled substances. That **study** reported that 89 percent of

subjects tested positive for THC in breath. Investigators reported that the results "confirmed the potential of exhaled breath as an alternative specimen for toxicological investigations." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabinoids in exhaled breath following controlled administration of smoked cannabis," appears in *Clinical Chemistry*.*

<continued from GALLUP: NATIONWIDE SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA AT RECORD LEVELS, page 1 >

previously posed the question last year. Only 39 percent of Americans now say that they oppose legalizing pot.



Pollsters attributed the rapid rise in support for legalization to changing attitudes among self-identified Independent voters. In 2012, 50 percent of Independents endorsed legalization, compared to 62 percent in 2013. Support among Democratic (65 percent) and Republican (35 percent) voters was little changed from 2012 to 2013.

Respondents in every age category except for those age 65 and over expressed majority support for legalization.

"Americans' support for legalization accelerated as the new millennium began," Gallup reported. "[I]t is likely that this momentum will spur further legalization efforts across the United States."

The Gallup poll randomly sampled 1,028 adults age 18 and older and possesses a margin of error of +/- 4 percent.

In recent months, [polls in numerous states](#), including [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), and [Texas](#), have shown majority support for regulating cannabis for adult consumers.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director or Erik Altieri, NORML Communications Director, at (202) 483-5500.



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

News Update: Legalization Wins Big on Election Night 2013

The movement to legalize and regulate adult marijuana use continued to gain momentum last night, as voters in four separate cities overwhelmingly approved citywide ballot measures eliminating criminal and civil penalties for adults who possess the plant.

Portland's Question 1 claimed victory on election night, making Portland the first city on the East Coast to legalize possession of up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana for adults over 21. Question 1 was approved by nearly 70% of the vote, with only around 30% voting in opposition.



"I'd like to thank NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri and the NORML organization as a whole for their efforts supporting our initiative to legalize marijuana in Portland," said Representative Diane Russell (D-Portland), "Together, NORML and our allies helped send a clear message to Maine and the nation that it is time for a new approach to marijuana. The overwhelming approval of Question 1 was a victory for science, common sense, and liberty."

In addition to Portland, three localities in Michigan (Ferndale, Jackson, and Lansing) all voted in support of marijuana legalization today by huge margins. The three areas had similar proposals to remove criminal and civil penalties for personal possession of up to 1

ounce of marijuana. Ferndale won by the largest margin with 69.2% of voters approving the measure. Jackson approved their ordinance with 61% support and only 39% opposed and Lansing passed theirs with 63% support.

"These votes in Michigan, along with the resounding vote in Portland, Maine illustrate that not only are the American people considering moving towards legalization of marijuana, they overwhelmingly are demanding it," stated NORML Communications Director Erik Altieri, "Politicians must open their eyes to the political reality that legalization has arrived and is supported by a massive majority of voters. If they continue to drag their feet on the issue, we will take it to the people wherever possible, and we will win."

2014 is shaping up to be an even busier year for marijuana law reform than 2013, with statewide ballot measures being planned in several states and dozens of pieces of legislation being prepared for introduction. Help us keep up the momentum and fight onward toward legalization nationwide by [joining NORML](#) or making a [donation](#) today.

Together, we will legalize marijuana.



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