

## Marijuana Fundamentals

### 1. What's legal in California today...

- 1975 – SB 95 Decriminalization began - small possession
- 1996 – **Prop 215** Compassionate Care Act (for seriously ill and dying)
- 2000 – SB 36 “Crime prevention Act” - cannot go to jail for small possession/may have to go to rehab
- 2004 – AB 420 – established voluntary MMJ Card system, primary caregiver definition, doctor “recommendation”
- 2010 – SB 1449 Small possession = Infraction; signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger
- 2015 – AB 243, SB643, AB 266 = MMRSA (Medical Marijuana Regulation & Safety Act) ; signed by Gov. Brown

### 2. **Any kind of Marijuana Legalization (medical or recreational) = an increase in drug use**, across all age groups. Find your state in the charts on the back.

Notice, states that allow “medical” use typically have more marijuana use than states that do not allow “medical.” The same is true for states that allow recreational use. So the question can only be ... are there any benefits that justify the ills that come along with more drug-use in our communities?

### 3. **Pot today is not the weed of 20-30 years ago – its 10-40x more potent.**

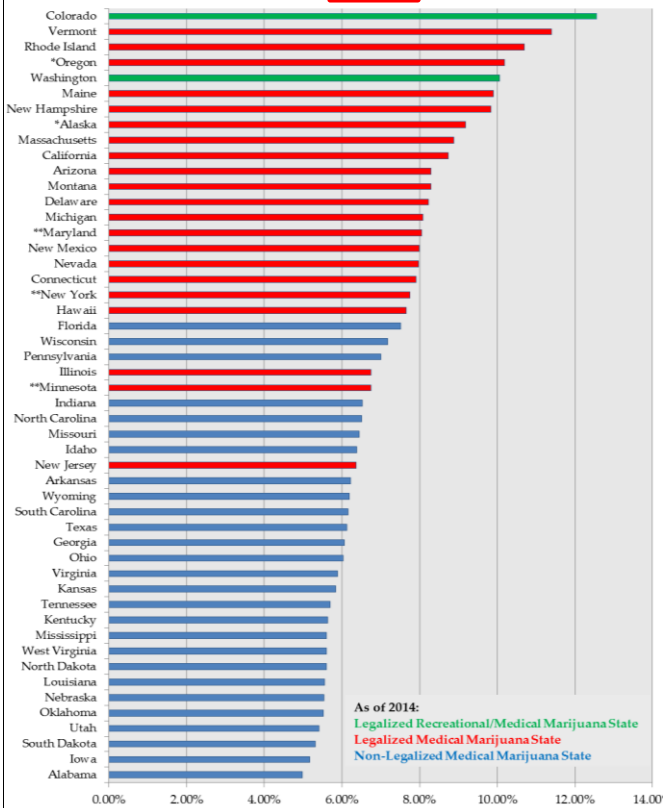
You cannot find “smokable” pot with less than 18% THC (psychoactive element that gets a user “high”) today; 20-30 years ago, you could not find it with more than 2-3% THC. Edibles, not found 20-30 years ago, can be as high as 90% THC. It is believed that these potency levels are causing some of the severe neurological harms we see today.

### 4. **Neurological harms**– Today’s high potency pot is linked to psychosis and psychotic breaks, an increase in schizophrenia among heavy users, an increase in depression and anxiety, anger management disorders, and a 7x increase in suicide among heavy users<sup>3</sup>. THC affects the parts of the brain that process memory, movement and pleasure/reward messaging

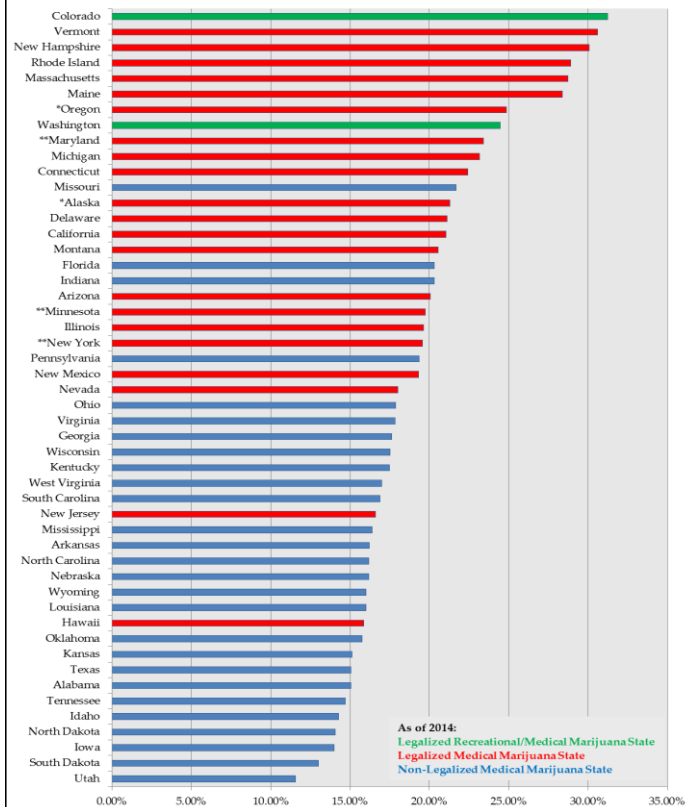
### 5. **THC is lipophilic** – The medical word for “fat soluble;” THC gets sucked out of your blood stream and is stored in fatty tissues for 3-4 weeks. This is in contrast to alcohol, which is water soluble and flushes out of the body within 24 hours of consuming. Fat solubility is why THC can show up in drug tests weeks after use. Low grade impairment (motor and cognitive) is seen for weeks after use as well<sup>2</sup>. THC passes the blood brain barrier, the placental barrier and is also found in breast milk<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, <sup>2</sup>R Harman/M Heutis, *Cannabis effects on driving* - 2013, <sup>3</sup>Arendt & Silins Studies, Young adult cannabis use studies- 2006-2014, <sup>4</sup>NIDA 2010, <sup>5</sup>RM High Intensity Drug Trafficking Impact Report - 2016

Past Month Usage by 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014



Past Month Usage by 18 to 25 Years Old, 2013/2014



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use & Health 2013 & 2014

NOTES: Colorado ranked #3 in 2011/2012

\*Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014

\*\*States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

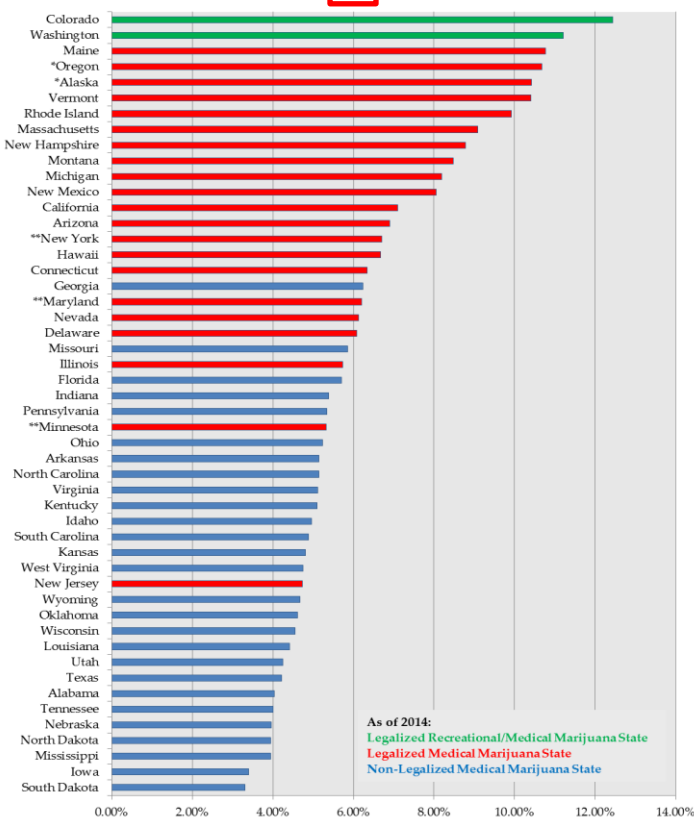
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

NOTE: Colorado ranked #4 in 2011/2012

\*Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014

\*\*States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

Past Month Usage by 26+ Years Old, 2013/2014



These charts show the number (%) of Marijuana Users - defined as "having used in the past month" - broken down by age group and by state. They also show how that use corresponds to the type of Marijuana laws in that state (none, medical or recreational).

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

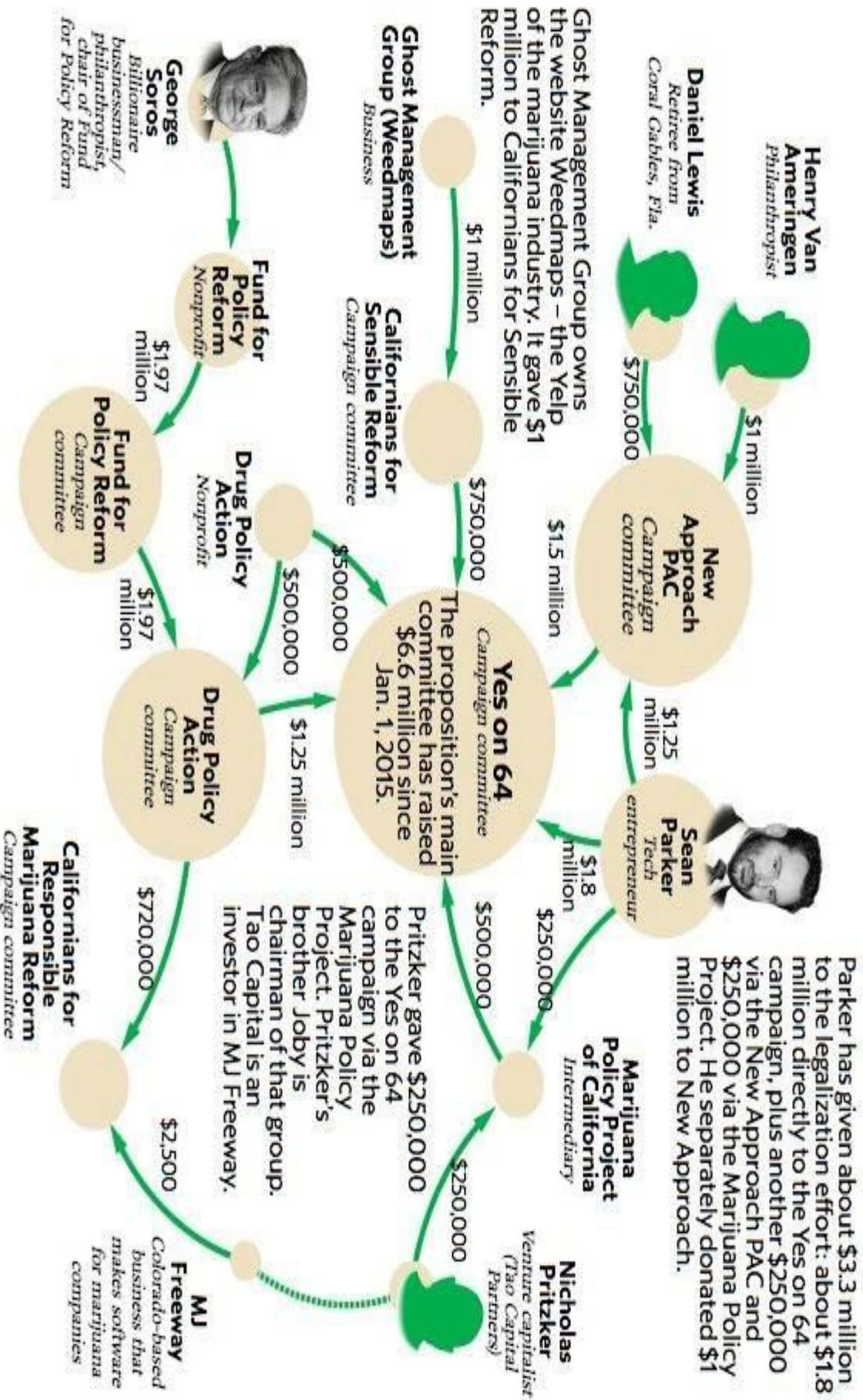
NOTE: Colorado ranked #7 in 2011/2012

\*Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014

\*\*States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

## THE PROPOSITION 64 MONEY TRAIL

A web of campaign committees, nonprofits and wealthy individuals has given millions to the campaign to legalize marijuana in California. Many of the donors have ties to the marijuana industry, and the main yes-on-64 campaign committee has raised almost \$6.6 million. A look at the money and the connections:



Sources: Secretary of State's Office, Bee research

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