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AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Medical Marijuana
in Illinois



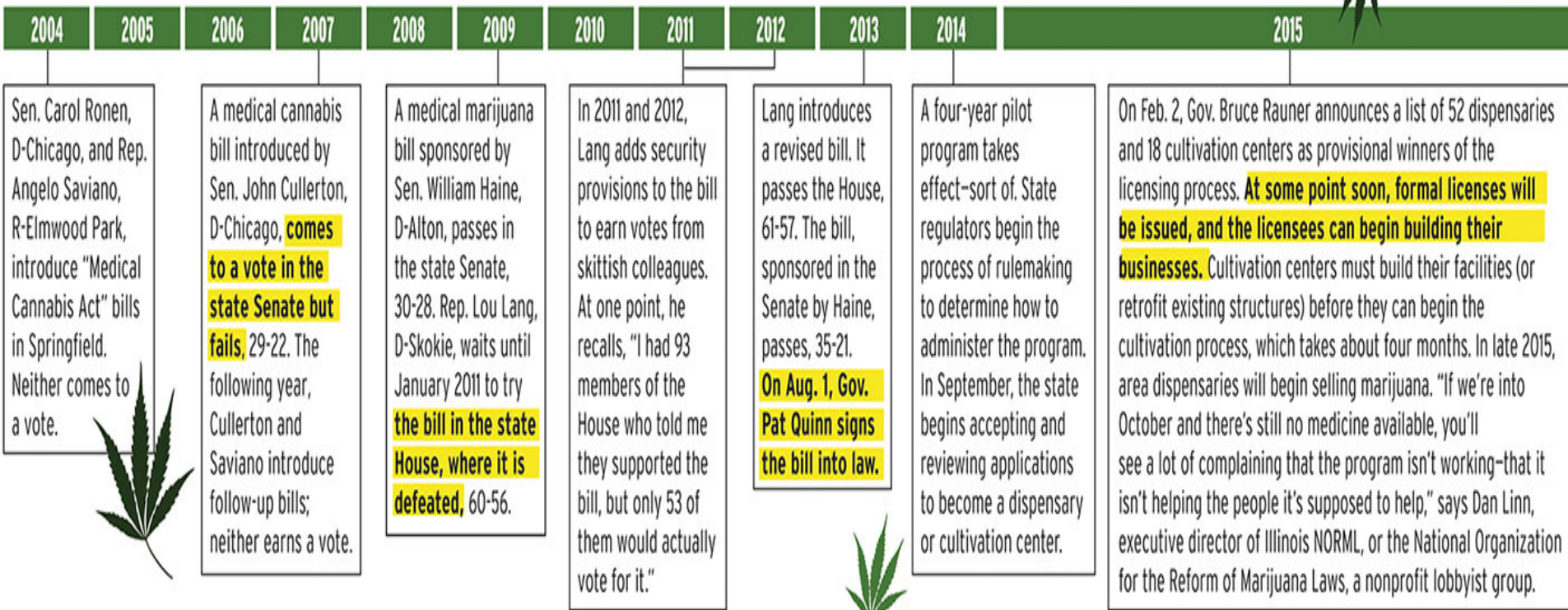
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MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN ILLINOIS: A TIMELINE



Source: Reporting by Steve Hendershot



How do I Qualify to obtain an Illinois Card allowing me to obtain marijuana from a dispensary?

There is a long list of conditions...

With lobbying continuously **adding conditions** to the list..

Allows you to be issued a **permission card.**



If I have one of the conditions, how do I obtain a card?

NOTE:

There are strict limits on the amount of marijuana which will be issued at any one time and within a month.

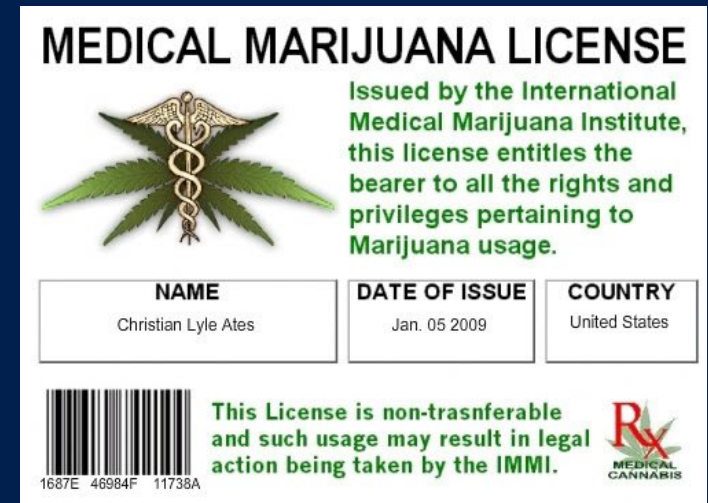
- △ Your treating physician **must certify** (using State form) that you have one of the conditions for which marijuana can be dispensed to treatment.
- △ The physician then will have to **send the card to the State.**
- △ You will be then **mailed a card** allowing you to obtain marijuana from a licensed dispensary.
- △ To be considered a **treating physician**, based on what has gotten other physicians in trouble, it generally **requires** a minimum three trips to the physician who can then complete the form sent to the State of Illinois certifying you have a qualifying condition.



△ While it would be nice if your true ongoing treating physician would complete the paperwork, most do not want to step up and become known as the doctor who will prescribe marijuana.

△ Many will prescribe a drug with cannabis but very little THC. This drug is reportedly less effective and not considered a Schedule I Drug.

△ Schedule I drugs are considered to have no medical or therapeutic purpose and my cause harm or addiction.



Will my usual treating physicians likely be willing to provide the certification document?



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What can I do to convince my physician to certify my condition?

Usually nothing unless you have a personal relationship.

Some doctors say their insurance will not cover this because prescribing a Schedule I drug would be outside of practicing medicine.

This is really not a barrier because they are certifying a condition, not prescribing marijuana, a Schedule I drug.

Lawyers for physicians groups acknowledge insurance should cover if any claim were filed. There is no reported case of anyone suing and they would likely be unsuccessful.

Other physicians assert that could be considered a conspirator with the patients to illegally obtain a Schedule I drug under Federal Law should the US Attorney General change its policy.

Again there are defenses.

The other assertion by physicians is that ingestion of marijuana with other drugs the person is likely prescribed for the condition has not been studied for safe and effective use of the prescribed drug or marijuana. Thus, they are unwilling to prescribe a drug without research on how it would interact with other drugs.



How do I find a physician who will certify the condition and what do they require?

YOU CAN OBTAIN 2.5 GRAMS AT ONE VISIT AND WITHIN 14 DAYS.

Once the State reviews the certification, the State will send you a card identifying that you are eligible to purchase marijuana from a State licensed facility.

You cannot purchase if from a different State's dispensary or cross states lines without violating Federal laws as was as the other state's law.

Online you can find a few physicians, one outside the Chicago area who will prescribe the certification.

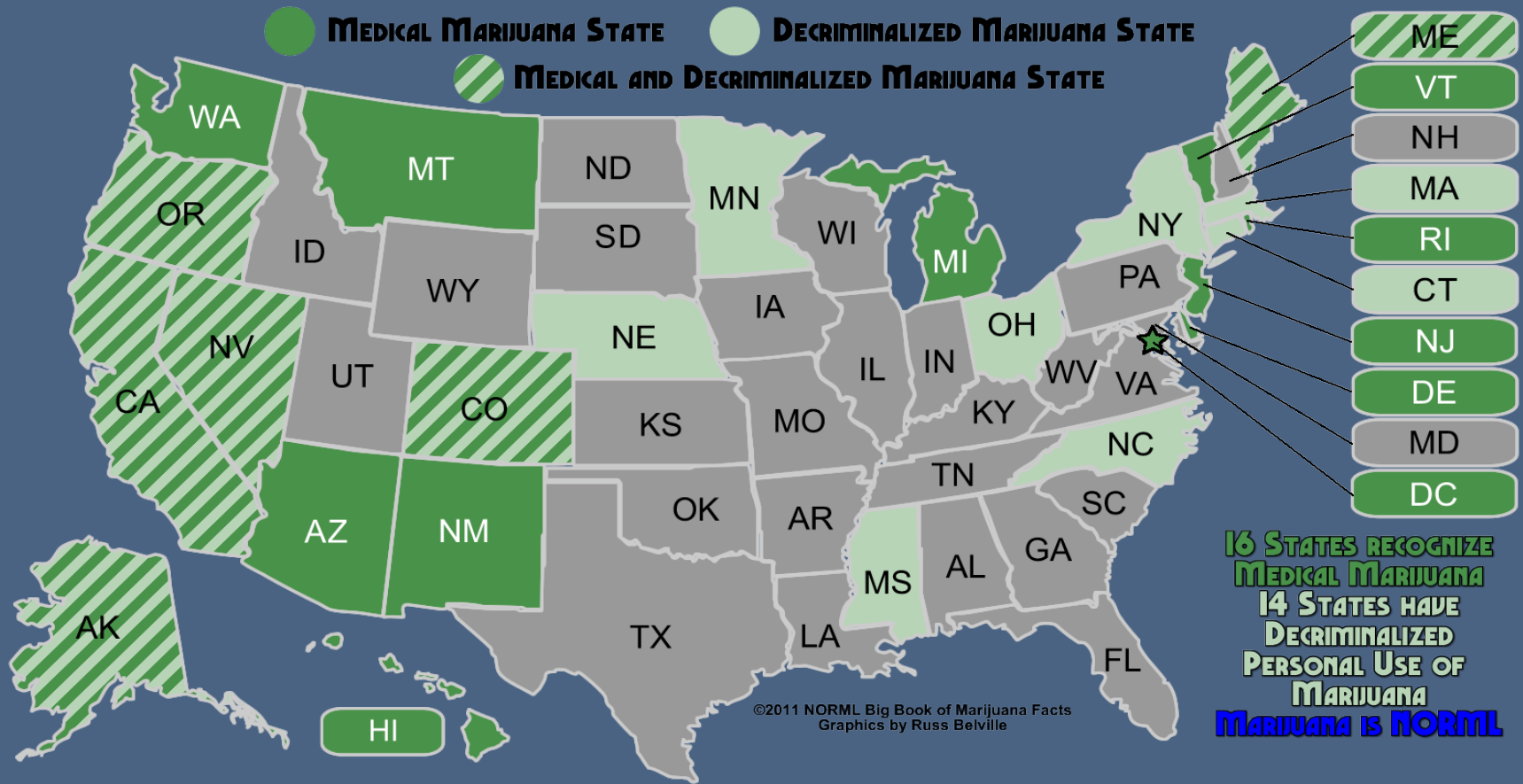
They require you to come for 3 visits at which they conduct an exam. They do not schedule appointments so it is first come first serve.

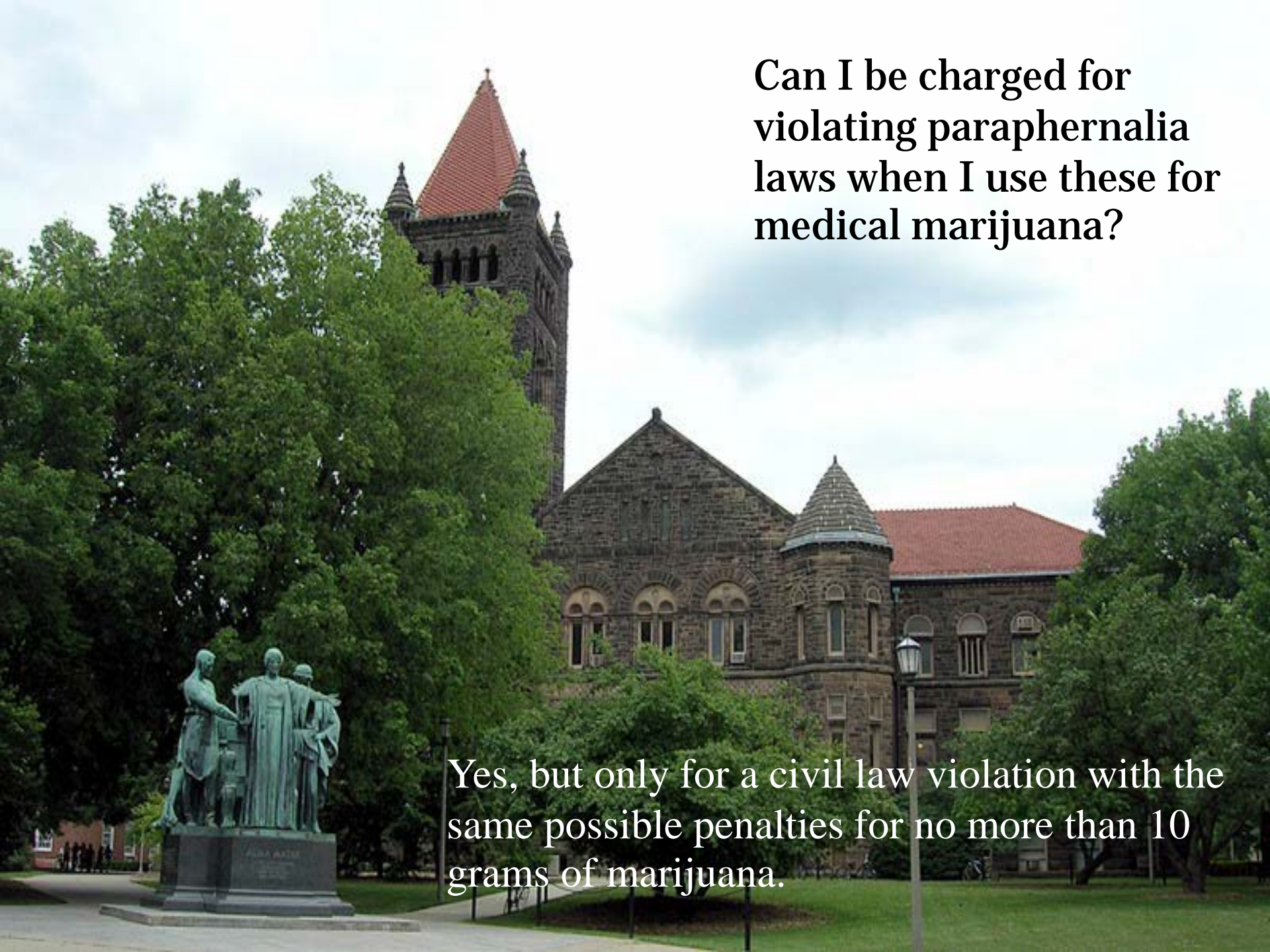
Many in Central Illinois are not healthy enough to make the trip or wait for the appointments or otherwise go through this process.

Some in need of the drug are not physically able to travel and wait at the doctor's office for the appointment, especially three different days, usually over the course of two to three months depending on the physician.



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A photograph of a large, historic stone building, likely a university or government structure, featuring a prominent red-tiled tower and a statue in the foreground. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Can I be charged for violating paraphernalia laws when I use these for medical marijuana?

Yes, but only for a civil law violation with the same possible penalties for no more than 10 grams of marijuana.

PROS and CONS **Medical marijuana**

PROS

Prevents nausea caused by chemotherapy.

Helps HIV patients **regain appetite**.

Reduces seizures associated with epilepsy.

Reduces pressure in the eyes related to glaucoma.

Mild **pain reliever**.

Alleviates tremors, muscle spasms and pain of multiple sclerosis.



Image:
CBD Depot

CONS

Impairment of problem-solving skills, memory and balance.

Structural changes in the brain.

Risk of heart attack, chronic cough and hallucinations.

Potentially addictive and can lead to harder drug use.

Weakens respiratory systems.

Compromises immune systems.

Information from the Mayo Clinic Health Library and other sources.

What about a violation of Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

If you drive and have more than 5 nanograms of marijuana in your blood or 10 nanograms in other bodily fluids (saliva) and you are legally stopped for probable cause of a violation and that develops into probable cause to check you for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs (legal or illegal), you will be violating the DUI laws if the amount of THC in your system exceeds these amounts.

Until the civil conviction for no more than 10 grams of marijuana possession was passed, if the tests showed any amount of TCH, you would be found guilty since any amount of an illegal drug is a violation under the DUI law, regardless of whether you show other signs of impaired judgment.



Generally, it takes more than 20 days and up to 30 days for all traces of marijuana to clear your system. However, it seems that red blood cells rapidly decrease the amount of T in saliva CH that stays in the system and the same with saliva.

Some compare 13 nanograms of TCH to be the amount equivalent to impairment of .08 alcohol in the blood system though the types of impaired conditions may differ. There is still no consensus on this.

Generally, if you feel any effects of ingestion of marijuana it is strongly recommended you not drive. If you are over the legal limit according to test, it is a violation regardless of the reason for ingestion.

It also does not matter if the officer says you had no signs of impairment. This might affect whether the officer had probable cause to request at risk of the penalties for refusal the tests for TCH tests.



Medical Marijuana Facts

50/50 Gender Split Uses Technology to Obtain meds.



Women are 39% favoring legalization



39% of Woman AGREE

A 2010 Rasmussen poll of Colorado residents revealed that a solid 58 percent of men supported outright pot legalization, while only 39 percent of women did.

Men Usage

58% More

Usage Hierarchy

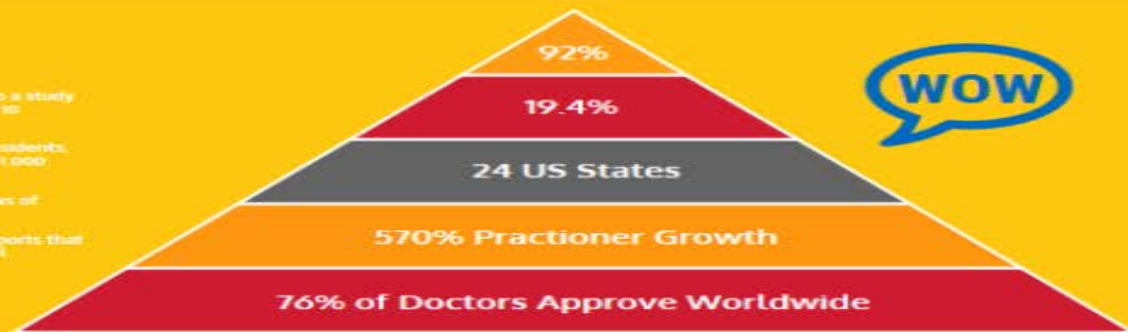
92% of medical marijuana patients say that the drug works, and according to a study in the New England Journal of Medicine that was published in 2013, 8 out of 10 doctors approve of the use of medical marijuana.

California has the second largest number, with 19.4 patients per thousand residents, and Washington State and Oregon each come in third with 16.2 patients per 1,000 state residents.

Currently, 24 states and the District of Columbia have medical marijuana laws of varying degrees.

The Minnesota Department of Health's Office of Medical Cannabis (OMC) reports that 570 health care practitioners are registered and authorized to certify medical marijuana patients.

76% of doctors worldwide approve of medical marijuana use.



What other risks are there for having no more than 10 grams of marijuana?

You cannot take the marijuana across state lines. The Federal government will enforce this. The other state, likely has different conditions may have harsh penalties for possession of any amount of marijuana.

These laws are rapidly changing so you should check on the status of the laws in the States in which you will be traveling by checking the web before entering the state. Be sure to check for pending legislation and its effective date as well.



At the SLS website is a summary of State laws current as of the date of the summary.



**Illinois House
approves
medical
marijuana!**



MPP.org

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Office Hours: 8:30-Noon & 1-4:30pm, M-F

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