

State of disunion: different tokes for different folks

Around the world and across the United States, authorities are trialling different versions of legalisation. Each jurisdiction has a different set of rules around the growth, sale and use of pot. These early adopters act as social laboratories of cannabis policy. Countries looking to reform their drug laws should take note of the successes and failures of the various approaches.

AMERICA



1970

USA CLASSIFIES CANNABIS AS A SCHEDULE I DRUG

Under federal law, it is illegal to possess, use, buy, sell or cultivate cannabis, since the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug, claiming it has a high potential for abuse and has no acceptable medical use. However, although cannabis remains illegal under federal law, the Obama Administration said it will allow state-level rules to stand without much federal interference.

27 STATES

27 states and the District of Columbia have passed state laws either legalising or decriminalising cannabis. Four states have voted to legalise it, and Native American tribes can grow and sell marijuana, even in states where it's illegal.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CAN GROW AND SELL MARIJUANA



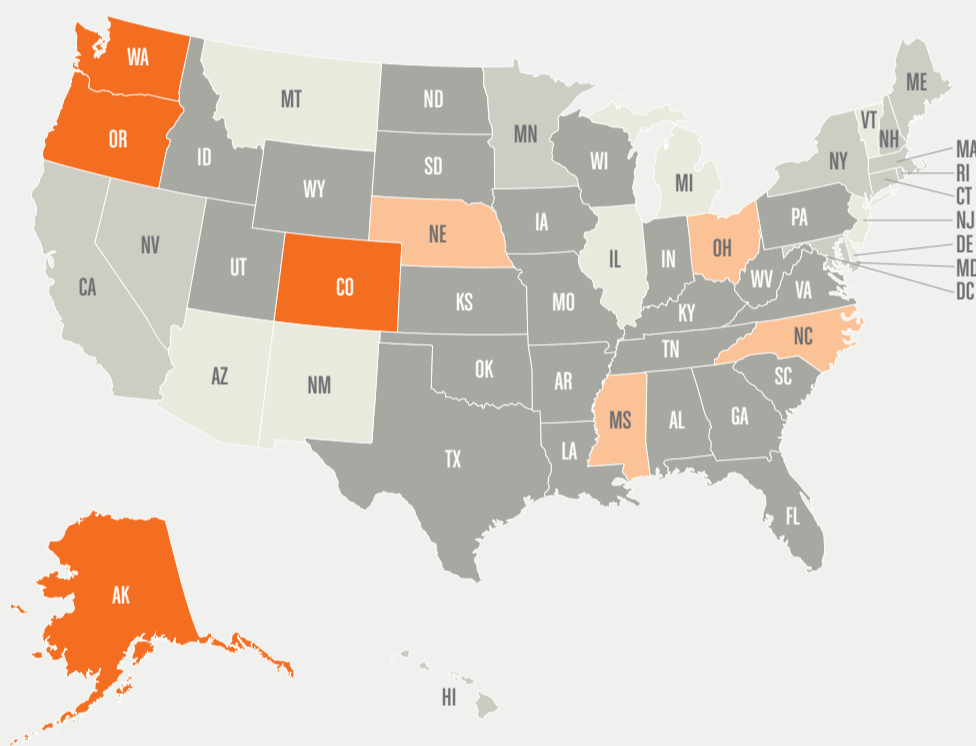
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THE CANNABIS LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES ★★★★★

Cannabis is now legal in some form or decriminalised in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

KEY

- LEGAL
- MEDICINAL USE ONLY AND DECRIMINALISED
- DECRIMINALISED
- MEDICINAL USE ONLY
- ILLEGAL



NOTE: Federal law prohibits the possession, selling or harvesting of cannabis. Decriminalisation laws reduce the penalties associated with the use or possession of small amounts of cannabis.
Sources: National Conference of State Legislature; National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, Pew Research Center.

4 DIFFERENT MODELS



THE FOUR STATES THAT HAVE LEGALISED POT HAVE ALL FOLLOWED DIFFERENT MODELS, MEANING THAT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CANNABIS ARE DIFFERENT IN EACH STATE.

THE COLORADO MODEL

★ COLORADO VOTERS APPROVED AMENDMENT 64 IN NOVEMBER 2012

- Regulated retail sales
- Possession of up to one ounce legal for adults 21 years and over
- Driving rules similar to those of alcohol
- Households may grow up to six plants
- 15 percent excise tax on the average market rate in addition to a 10-15 percent sales tax
- Tax directed to the public school capital construction assistance fund

THE WASHINGTON MODEL

WASHINGTON VOTERS APPROVED WASHINGTON INITIATIVE 502 IN NOVEMBER 2012

- State licences required to grow and sell
- Possession of up to one ounce legal for adults 21 years and over
- Driving allowed with up to five nanograms of THC per millilitre of blood
- Households are prohibited from home growing except for medical use
- 25 percent excise tax on all wholesale and retail transactions
- Tax revenue is directed to a dedicated cannabis fund and split between health-care, addiction services and research

THE OREGON MODEL

★ OREGON VOTERS APPROVED MEASURE 91 IN NOVEMBER 2014

- Possession of up to eight ounces legal for adults 21 years and over
- Households may grow up to four plants
- Retail sales outlets will be set up by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission
- \$35 tax per plant, \$10 tax per ounce of leaf
- Products must be tested for mould, mildew, pesticides and potency before sale
- Tax revenue is split between local schools, law enforcement, and mental health and addiction

THE ALASKA MODEL

★ ALASKA VOTERS APPROVED MEASURE 2 IN NOVEMBER 2014

- Possession of up to one ounce legal for adults 21 years and over
- Households may grow up to six plants, three of which may be flowering
- The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board will regulate and license cannabis producers
- Adults are not allowed to consume cannabis in public
- \$50 per ounce tax on all cannabis sold by cultivation facilities at wholesale
- Tax revenue not earmarked to any specific funds
- Driving under the influence prohibited

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