Pragmatic use of cannabis products for chronic pain

Context: Definitions, history, legality

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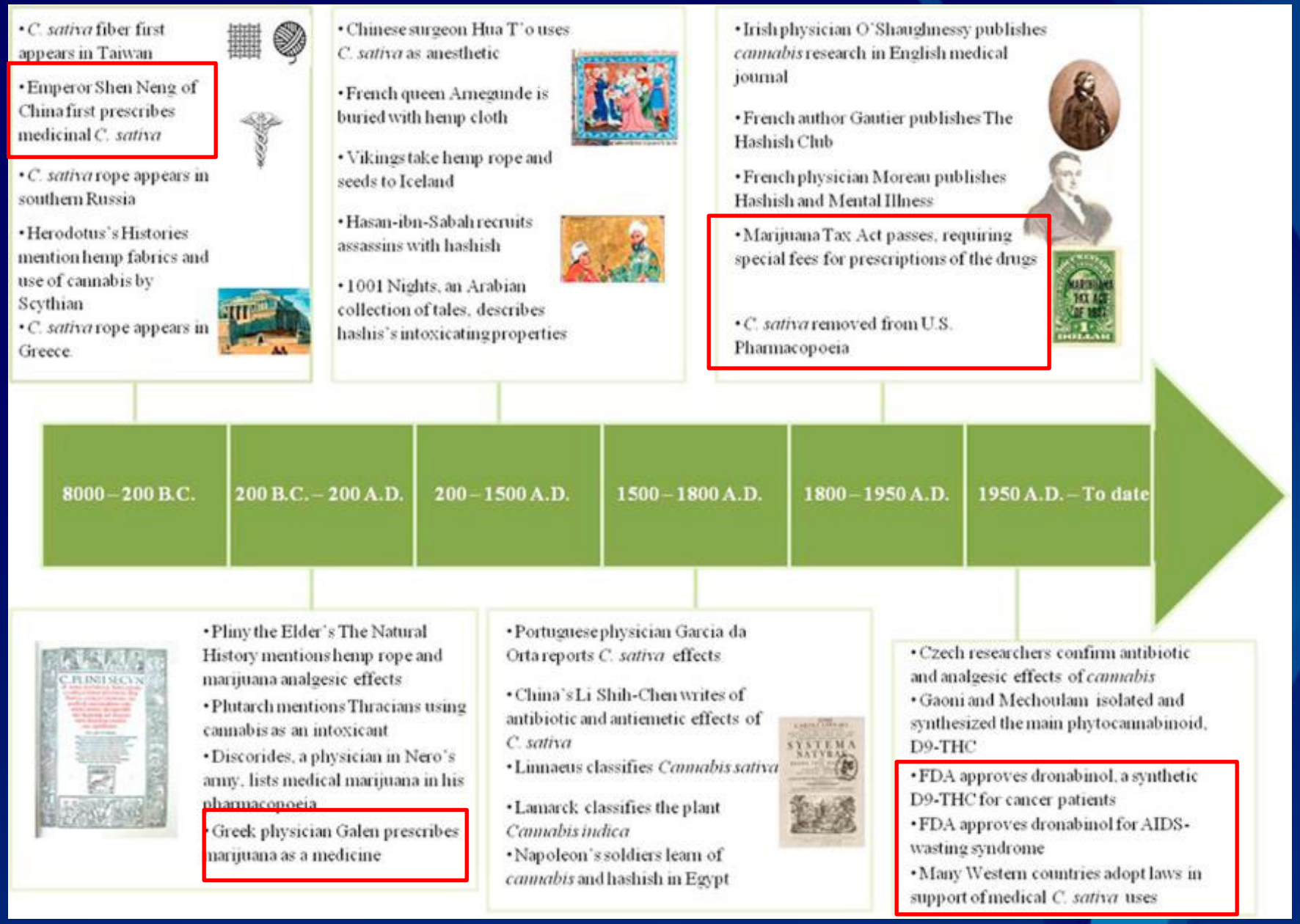
Disclosures

Sponsor Name	*Honoraria/ Expenses*	*Consulting/ Advisory Board*	*Funded Research*	*Royalties/ Patent*	*Stock Options*	*Ownership/ Equity Position*	*Employee*	*Other (please specify)*
Vireo Health								Data Safety and monitoring committee (unpaid)
Tryp Therapeutics			X					Protocol development funding
National Institutes of Health			X					R01AT010381 (NCCIH), K01DA049219 (NIDA) , and R34AR078435 (NIAMS)
State of Michigan			X					State of Michigan Veteran's Marijuana Research Program

Hemp? Cannabis? Marijuana?

- All are *Cannabis sativa*
- Hemp: <0.3% THC → no longer a controlled substance
- Marijuana: >0.3% THC, used in cannabis prohibition campaigns → Schedule I
- Cannabis: Most accurate term scientifically



Bonini, Sara Anna, et al. "Cannabis sativa: A comprehensive ethnopharmacological review of a medicinal plant with a long history." *Journal of ethnopharmacology* 227 (2018): 300-315 .

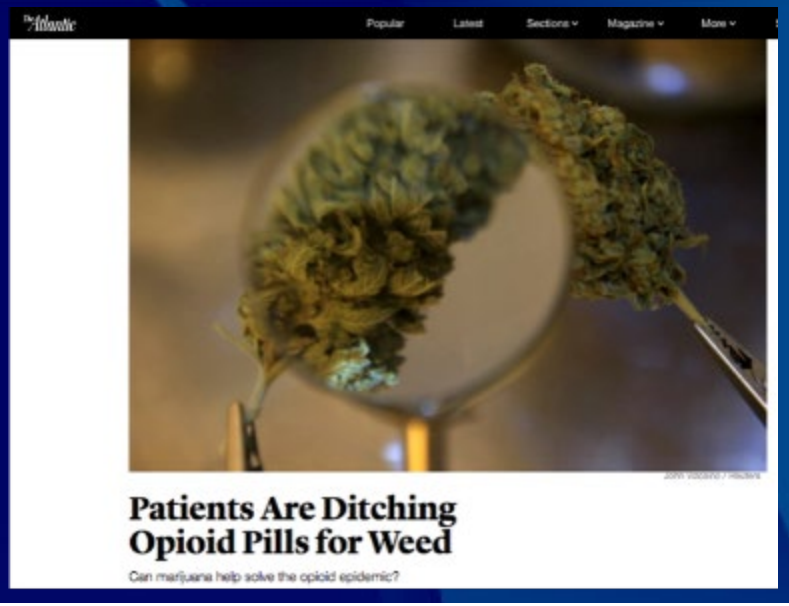
PAIN NEWS NETWORK

HOME ABOUT US STAFF ADVERTISING PATIENT RESOURCES

Big Decline in Opioid Use by Marijuana Users

March 23, 2016

By Pat Anson, Editor



Patients Are Ditching Opioid Pills for Weed

Can marijuana help solve the opioid epidemic?

RollingStone Medical Pot Is Our Best Hope to Fight the Opioid Epidemic

Medical Pot Is Our Best Hope to Fight the Opioid Epidemic

"There are direct reasons why [cannabis] could actually help people get off of opioids," says one leading marijuana researcher

It's time we start talking seriously about medical marijuana as a way to end the opioid epidemic. John

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Could Medical Cannabis Break the Painkiller Epidemic?

A body of research suggests yes, but scientists are having to fight red tape to study whether medical marijuana could substitute for opioid drugs

Vox

EXPLAINERS POLITICS & POLICY WORLD CULTURE SCIENCE & HEALTH IDENTITIES ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT MORE

One way to fight the opioid epidemic? Medical marijuana.

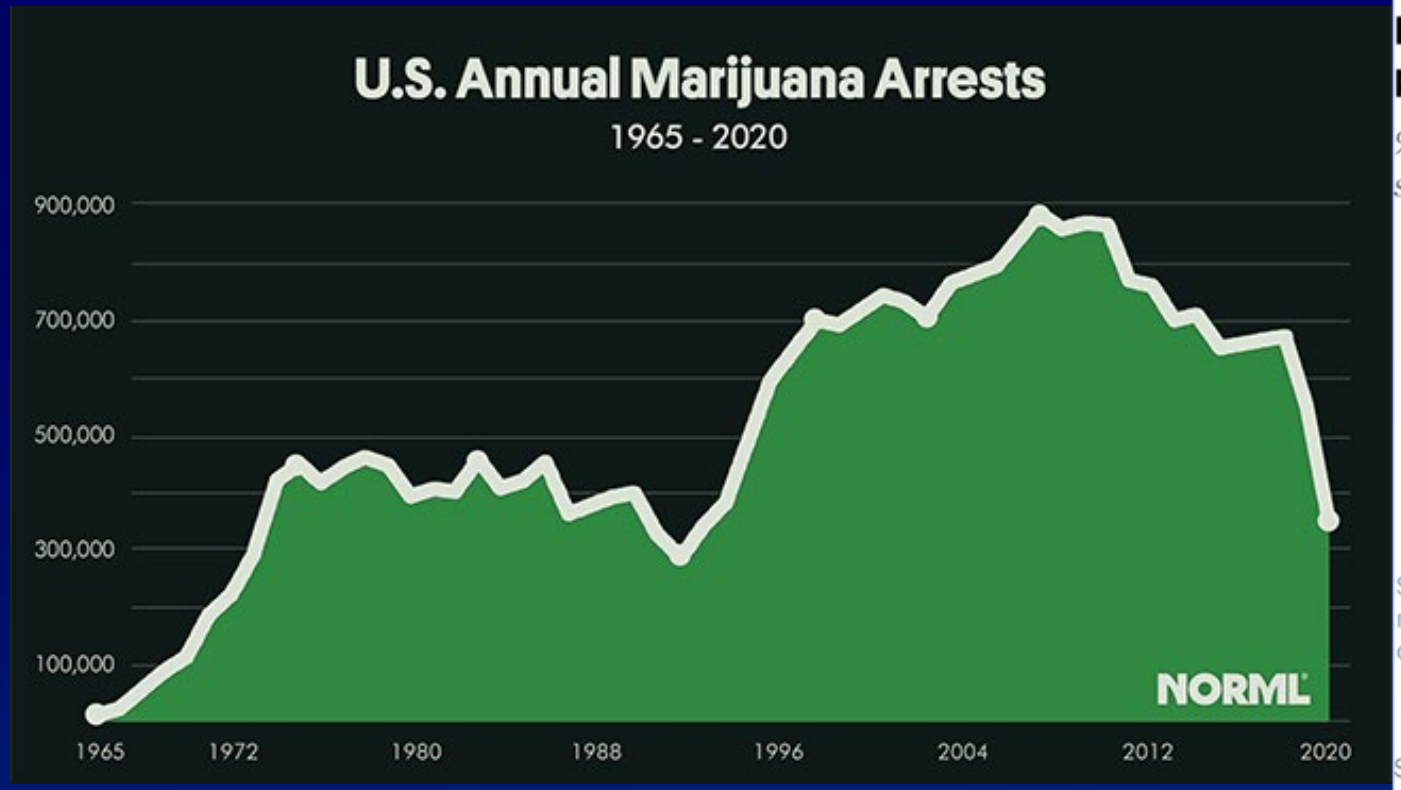
An innovative, but evidence-based, idea.

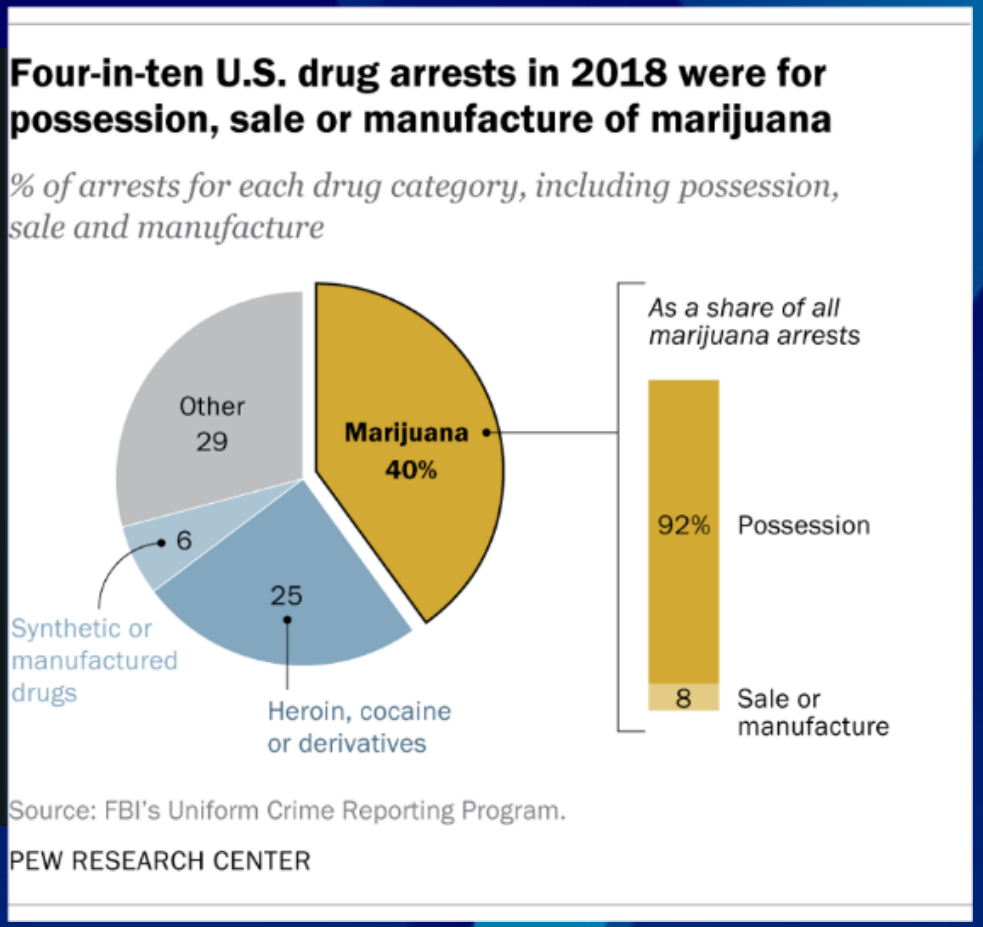
By German Lopez | @germanrlopez | german.lopez@vox.com | Updated Jan 18, 2017, 1:10pm EST

Cannabis in US

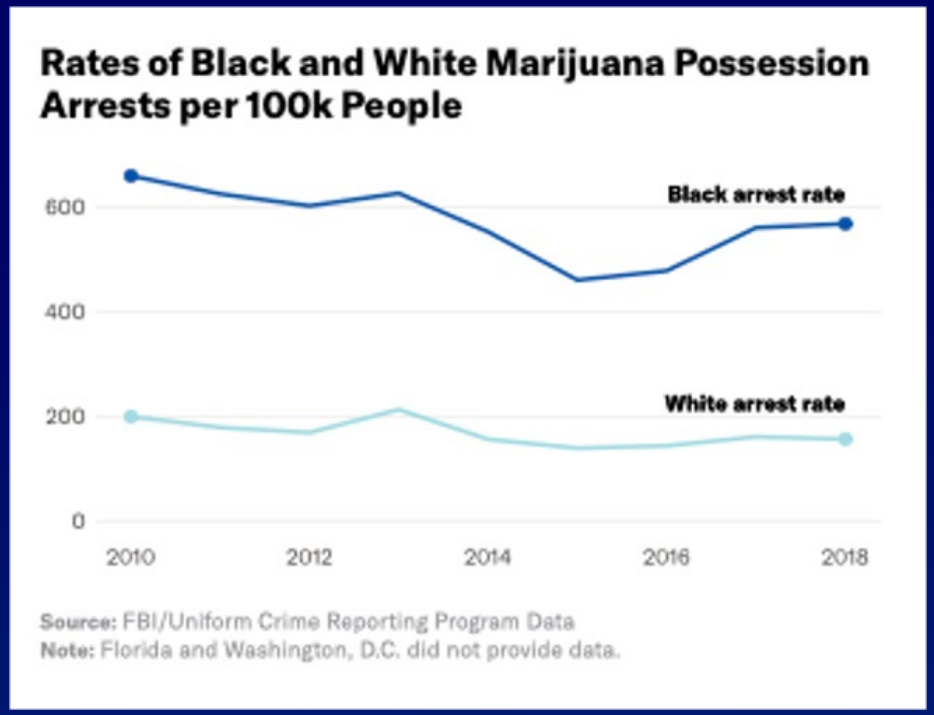
https://images.procon.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/37/mj-map-apr-12-2021.png

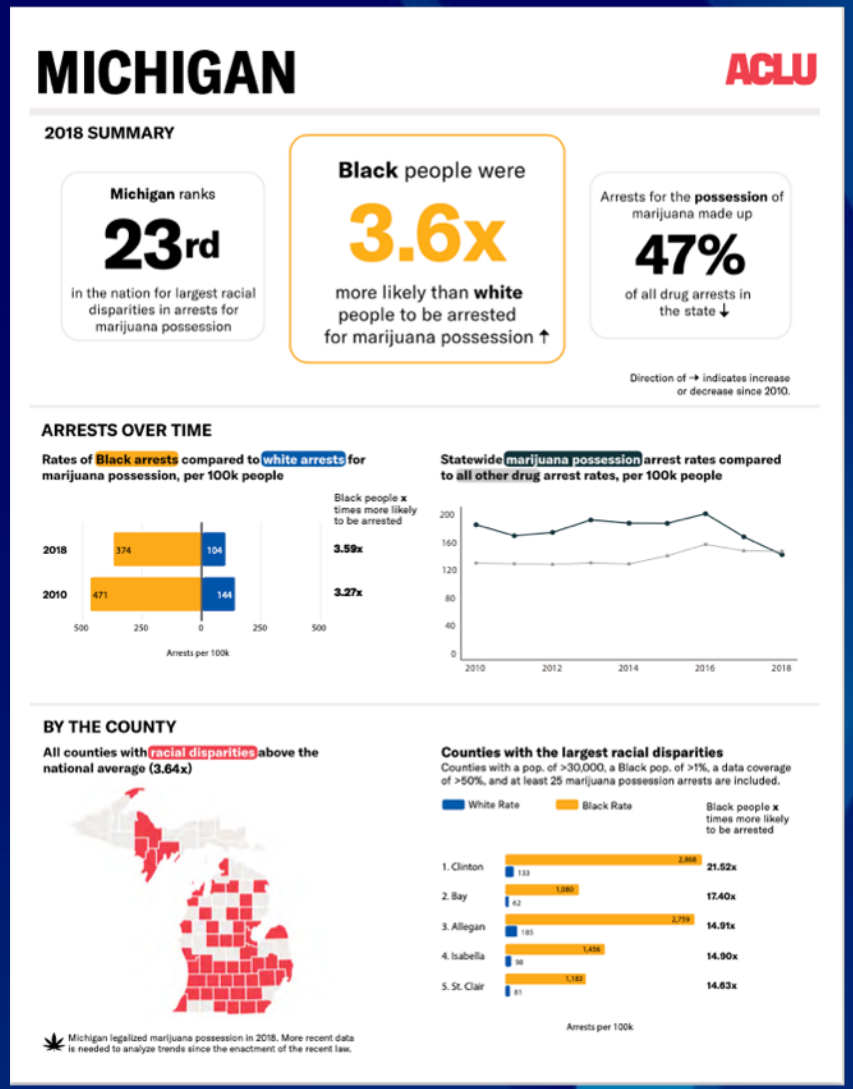
Societal pain from criminalization





https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/topic-pages/persons-arrested
https://norml.org/blog/2021/09/27/marijuana-arrests-fall-precipitously-nationwide-in-2020/





American Civil Liberties Union. 2020. A Tale of Two Countries: Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform

New Online | Views 2,851 | Citations 0 | Altmetric 34 | Comments

Viewpoint

ONLINE FIRST

September 2, 2020

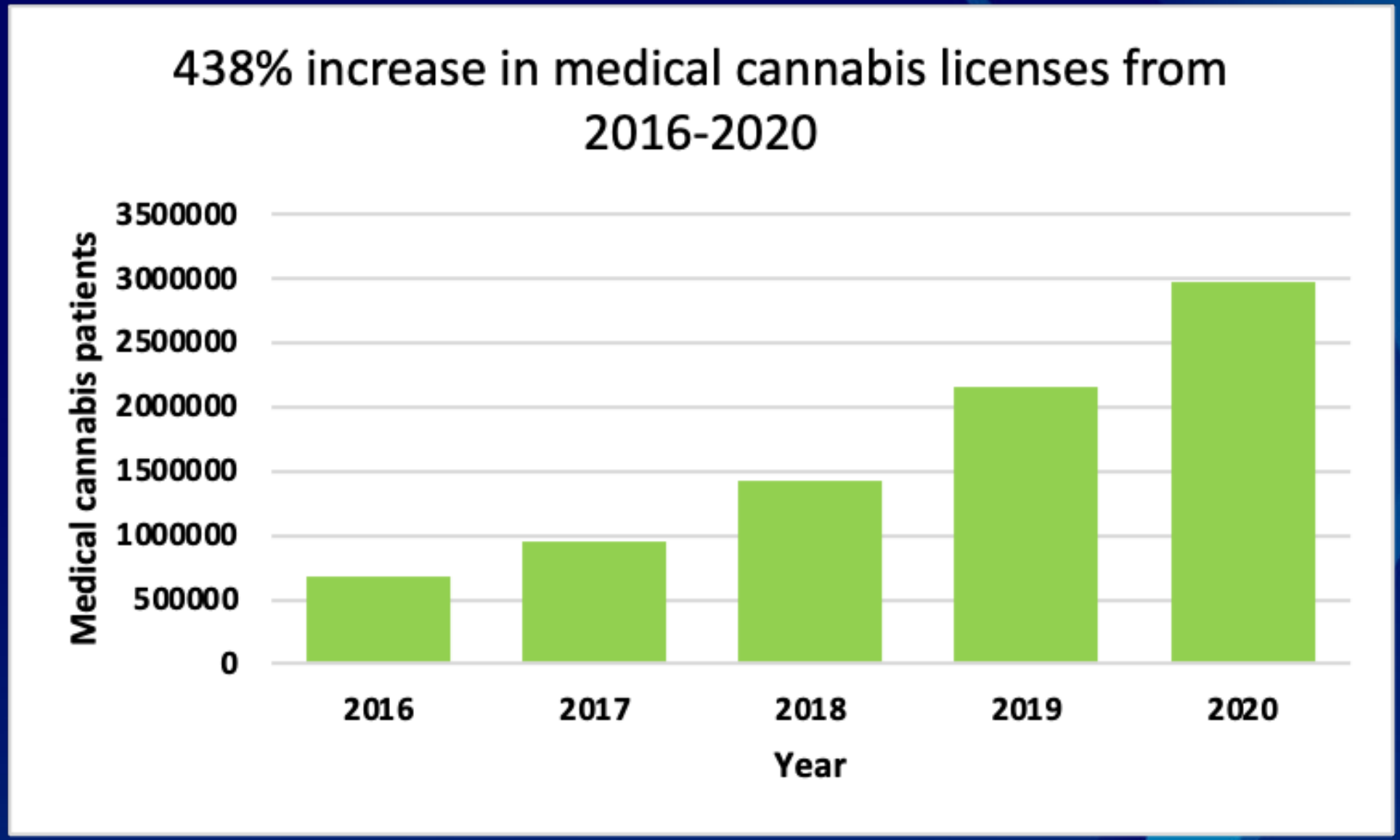
Balancing the Public Health Costs of Psychosis vs Mass Incarceration With the Legalization of Cannabis

Jordan E. DeVylder, PhD[1]; Vijay A. Mittal, PhD[2]; Jason Schiffman, PhD[3,4]

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA Psychiatry. Published online September 2, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.2591

- "We must also consider a broad range of other potential psychosocial outcomes of incarceration, including depression, anxiety, and trauma-related psychiatric symptoms; years of life lost while incarcerated; loss of income; loss of family and social ties; and in some states, continued policy-level ramifications after release, such as voting disenfranchisement."



Data from Boehnke et al., 2022, *Annals of Internal Medicine*

Figure 2. Most common patient-reported qualifying conditions 2016-2020

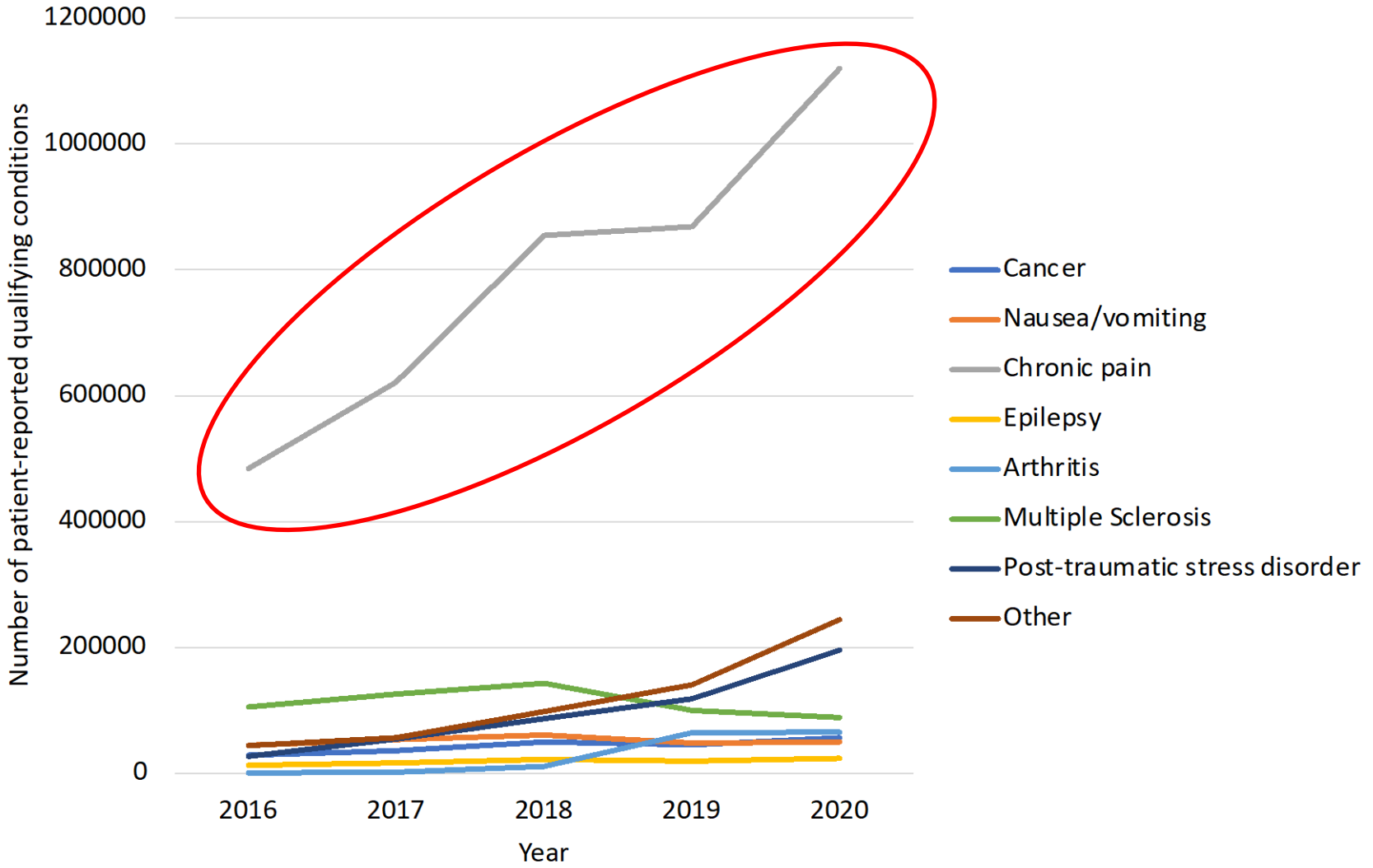


Figure 2. Chronic pain was the most common reason patient-reported qualifying condition, accounting for more licenses than all other conditions combined. Patients could report ≥1 qualifying condition or symptom. Significant contributors to the "Other" category include: vague categories such as "chronic or debilitating disease or condition", "Psychiatric conditions", "multiple conditions", or "other" in state reports. The years for which each state contributed data are as follows:

From Boehnke et al., 2022, *Annals of Internal Medicine.* (In Press)

Cannabis in Michigan

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Michigan Medical Marihuana Program
Application/Renewal Instructions and Checklist
www.michigan.gov/mmp
(517) 284-6400

Michigan Medical Marihuana Program
Application for Registry Identification Card

Instructions

- This application is for a person who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of Michigan.
- Type or print legibly when completing the application.

- Michigan Medical Marihuana Act of 2008:
  - In September 2023: 129,099 patients in Michigan[1]
    - 59.4% for chronic pain
    - 45.8% for severe and chronic pain
    - 20.6% for arthritis

- Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act of 2018:
  - 12 plants at home
  - 2.5 ounces on person, 10 ounces at home
  - 15 grams of concentrate

1: 2023 Cannabis Regulatory Agency Monthly Report: September 1, 2023-September 30, 2023[12]

Summary

- Cannabis has a rich history of historical medical and other use
- Prohibition has caused immense societal harm and blocked research
- Medical use is rising
- We need to understand how to effectively support patients using cannabis for pain and develop better cannabis-based treatments