



STUDIES SHOW MEDICAL CANNABIS REDUCES OPIOID USE

A mounting body of scientific research shows that medical cannabis is being used by chronic pain patients as an effective harm-reduction substitute for opioids and other more dangerous prescription drugs.

Medical Marijuana Laws May Be Associated With A Decline In The Number Of Prescriptions For Medicaid Enrollees (Bradford & Bradford, *Health Affairs*, Apr 2017)

Medicaid prescription drug costs were lower in states with medical marijuana laws in five of nine clinical areas, including pain. Est. cost savings > \$1 billion.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2017/04/13/hlthaff.2016.1135>

Substitution of medical cannabis for pharmaceutical agents for pain, anxiety, and sleep. (Piper et al, *J. Psyopharmacol*, May 2017)

Survey of 1,513 New England dispensary members reported 76.7% reduced use of opiates starting use of medical cannabis

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28372506>

Medical Marijuana Policies and Hospitalizations Related to Marijuana and Opioid Pain Reliever (Y Shi, *Drug Alcohol Depend.* Apr 2017)

Medical marijuana legalization associated with reductions if 23% in hospitalizations due to opioid dependence and 13% due to overdose.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28259087>

Medical Marijuana Laws Reduce Prescription Medication Use In Medicare Part D (Bradford & Bradford, *Health Affairs* Apr 2017)

National overall reductions in Medicare program and enrollee spending in states with medical marijuana laws estimated to be \$165.2 million per year in 2013.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/35/7/1230.abstract>

Cannabis as a substitute for prescription drugs – a cross-sectional study (Corroon, Mischley, Sexton, *J of Pain Research*, Mar 2017)

46% of 2,774 cannabis users reported using it as a substitute for RX drugs, the most common being narcotics/opioids (35.8%).

<https://www.dovepress.com/cannabis-as-a-substitute-for-prescription-drugs-ndash-a-cross-sectiona-peer-reviewed-article-JPR>

Do Medical Marijuana Laws Reduce Addictions and Deaths Related to Pain Killers? (Powell, Pacula, Jacobson, NBER Working Paper Jul 2015)

States permitting medical marijuana dispensaries experience a relative decrease in both opioid addictions and opioid overdose deaths compared to states that do not.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w21345>

Medical Cannabis Laws and Opioid Analgesic Overdose Mortality in the United States, 1999-2010 (Bachhuber et al, JAMA Intern Med. Oct 2014)

Conclusion: Medical cannabis laws are associated with significantly lower state-level opioid overdose mortality.

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1898878>

Cannabis Use Is Associated With Decreased Opiate Medication Use in a Retrospective Cross-Sectional Survey of Patients With Chronic Pain (Boehnke, Litinas, Clauw, J. Pain Jun 2016.)

Survey of 244 chronic pain patients found medical cannabis use associated with a 64% decrease in opioid use, decreased number and side effects of medications, and an improved quality of life.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27001005>

Splendor in the Grass? A Pilot Study Assessing the Impact of Medical Marijuana (Gruber et al, Front Pharmacol, Oct 2016)

Study of 24 medical cannabis patients found notable decrease in use of conventional pharmaceutical agents, with opiate use declining more than 42%

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27790138>

The Effect of Medicinal Cannabis on Pain and Quality of Life Outcomes in Chronic Pain: A Prospective Open-label Study (Haroutounian et al, Clin J Pain, Dec 2016)

The treatment of chronic pain with medicinal cannabis in 176 patients resulted in improved pain and functional outcomes, and a significant reduction in opioid use.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26889611>

Among veterans, opioid prescription requests down in step with rise in medical pot (Vancouver Globe and Mail, Jun 7, 2016)

Fewer Canadian veterans have sought prescription opioids and tranquilizers in recent years, while at the same time prescriptions for medical marijuana have skyrocketed.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/among-veterans-opioid-prescription-requests-down-in-step-with-rise-in-medical-pot/article30285591/>

U. New Mexico study suggests medical marijuana could decrease prescription opiate abuse, (Study by UNM Prof. Jacob Vigil and Prof. Sara Stith)

18-month study finds 31% reduction in opioid use among chronic pain patients using medical cannabis.

<http://www.dailylobo.com/article/2017/03/medical-cannabis-research.>

Other reports about the potential benefits of medical cannabis in addressing the opioid epidemic:

The opioid crisis in America's workforce

<http://www.castlighthhealth.com/typ/the-opioid-crisis/>

Could Pot Help Solve the U.S. Opioid Epidemic?

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/could-pot-help-solve-us-opioid-epidemic>

Cannabidiol: Swinging the Marijuana Pendulum from 'Weed' to Medication to Treat the Opioid Epidemic

[http://www.cell.com/trends/neurosciences/fulltext/S0166-2236\(17\)30001-2](http://www.cell.com/trends/neurosciences/fulltext/S0166-2236(17)30001-2)

Substituting cannabis for prescription drugs, alcohol and other substances among medical cannabis patients: The impact of contextual factors

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dar.12323/abstract>

Medical Cannabis in Arizona: Patient Characteristics, Perceptions, and Impressions of Medical Cannabis Legalization

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26317379>

Profiles of medicinal cannabis patients attending compassion centers in Rhode Island

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25715068>

Who are medical marijuana patients? Population characteristics from nine California assessment clinics

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21858958>

Patients Are Ditching Opioid Pills for Weed

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2017/02/marijuana-cannabinoids-opioids/515358/>

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