

Legalize Marijuana?

Consider the options



Goal

Help Utah children, with severe epilepsy, receive access to pharmaceutical grade, cannabis derived, Cannabidiol (CBD), while protecting all youth from increased abuse of marijuana. Utah has two options.

1

Option

FDA’s, Investigative New Drug (IND) program

- Program grants children access to a pure CBD product, while not legalizing marijuana
- Utah physicians administer the CBD. Medical experts research impact of product, monitor side effects, determine effectiveness of treatment, and apply FDA research protocols.
- IND sites can treat 25 patients
- The Health and Human Services Interim Committee can receive reports on the use of CBD; committee members can talk with families in treatment, examine the research, and determine next policy steps.

2

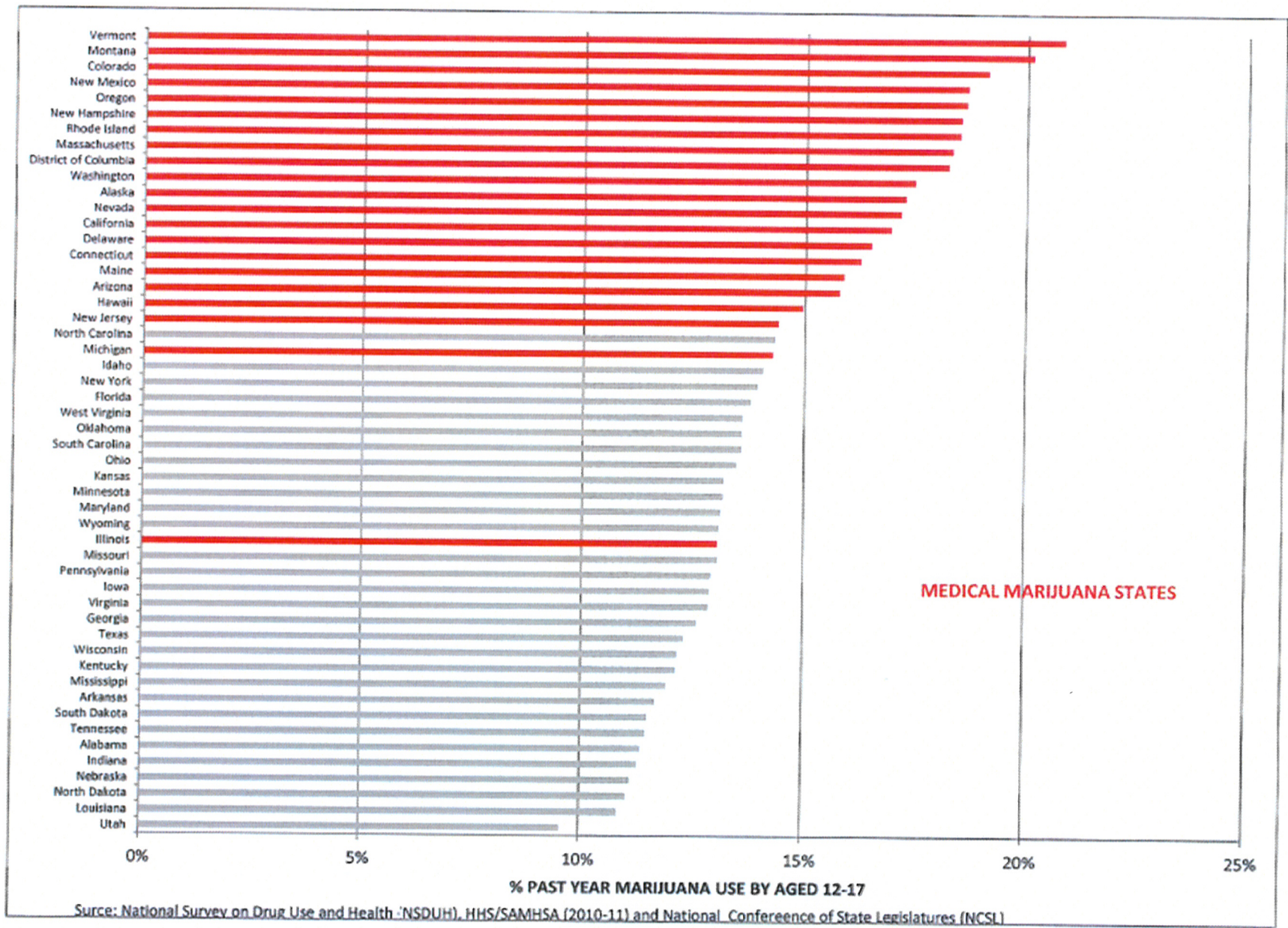
Option

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- Change Utah law to allow the legal use of the marijuana plant
- Legalizing CBD in Utah would be a violation of Federal Law
- To legalize, several questions need to be answered: What agency would regulate CBD products? How would legalizing a part of the marijuana plant influence future legalization of marijuana in Utah?
- States that legalize medical marijuana have higher youth marijuana use rates (see graph on back).

Recommendation—Avoid Legalization

American Epilepsy Society states “. . . scientific evidence for the routine use of marijuana for [treating epilepsy] is lacking . . . the use of marijuana for epilepsy may not be advisable due to lack of information on safety and efficacy, . . . little is known about the long term effects of using marijuana in infants and children (full statement attached).





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Position Statement on Marijuana and Epilepsy

The use of marijuana for various medical conditions, including epilepsy, has received increasing attention in the popular media. While there are some anecdotal reports of marijuana use in treating epilepsy, scientific evidence for the routine use of marijuana for this indication is lacking. The lack of information does not mean that marijuana is ineffective for epilepsy. It merely means that we do not know if marijuana is a safe and efficacious treatment for epilepsy. Healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers are reminded that use of marijuana for epilepsy may not be advisable due to lack of information on safety and efficacy, and that, despite some states legalizing the use of medical marijuana, it is against Federal Law to possess or use marijuana. In addition, little is known about the long term effects of using marijuana in infants and children, and chronic exposure during adolescence has been shown to have lasting negative effects on cognition and mood. Such safety concerns coupled with a lack of evidence of efficacy in controlled studies result in a risk/benefit ratio that does not support use of marijuana for treatment of seizures at this time. The American Epilepsy Society is supportive of well-designed research to determine the safety and efficacy of marijuana in the treatment of epilepsy.

References:

Gloss D, Vickrey B. Cannabinoids for Epilepsy. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.2012; Issue 6. Art. No.: CD009270. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD009270.pub.2

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