

# THE HISTORY OF CANNABIS



**1906**  
The Pure Food & Drug Act is passed, requiring any product with cannabis in it be labeled appropriately.



**1930**  
The Federal Bureau of Narcotics is established, and the federal criminalization of marijuana begins.



**1931**  
The list of states outlawing marijuana rises to 29 as fear & resentment of Mexican immigrants increases during the Great Depression. Numerous accounts say that "marijuana" came into popular usage in the U.S. in the early 20th century because anti-cannabis factions wanted to underscore the drug's "Mexican-ness." It was meant to play off of anti-immigrant sentiments.



**1937**  
Moses Baca is the first person arrested for selling cannabis.



**1950**  
Federal mandatory minimum sentences for marijuana possession and use are established.



**1940**  
A changing political and cultural climate was reflected in more lenient attitudes towards marijuana. Use of the drug became widespread in the white upper middle class. Reports commissioned by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson found that marijuana use did not induce violence nor lead to use of heavier drugs. Policy towards marijuana began to involve considerations of treatment as well as criminal penalties.

**4:20**

**1971**  
The most credible story traces 4:20 to Marin County, Calif. In 1971, five students at San Rafael High School would meet at 4:20 p.m. by the campus statue of chemist Louis Pasteur to partake. They chose that specific time because extracurricular activities had usually ended by then. This group — Steve Capor, Dave Reddix, Jeffrey Nowl, Larry Schwartz, and Mark Gravich — became known as the "Waldos" because they met at a wall. They would say "420" to each other as code for marijuana.



**1974**  
High Times is an American monthly magazine and cannabis brand with offices in Los Angeles and New York City. The magazine was founded in 1974 by Tom Forcade and the publication advocates the legalization of cannabis. The magazine has been involved in the marijuana-using counterculture since its inception.



**1989**  
President George Bush declares a new War on Drugs in a nationally televised speech.



**1996**  
California becomes the first state to legalize medical cannabis.

**2000**  
8 US States have passed legislation for the legalization of medical cannabis.



**2005**  
Federal agents evictate widespread raid on medical marijuana dispensaries in California.

**2012**  
Colorado and Washington become the first states to legalize recreational marijuana.

**2016**  
The voters of MA vote to legalize adult-use cannabis.



**2019**  
The premiere issue of Different Leaf is published.

**2022**  
The Grand Opening of BRICK'S

**1890**

**1890**  
After the civil war, marijuana is sold in many over-the-counter medicinal products and hemp is still a common element in clothes manufacturing.



**1930**



**1920**  
After the Mexican revolution, Mexican immigrants migrate to the US. Recreational use of cannabis spikes and it becomes associated with the immigrant population.



**1936**  
Reefer Madness is released. The cautionary tale features a fictionalized take on the use of marijuana. A trio of drug dealers lead innocent teenagers to become addicted to "reefer" cigarettes.



**1950**

**1952**  
Stricter Sentencing Laws. Enactment of federal laws (Sloggi Act, 1952; Narcotics Control Act, 1956) which set mandatory sentences for drug-related offenses, including marijuana.



A first-offense marijuana possession carried a minimum sentence of 2-10 years with a fine of up to \$20,000.



**1960**

**1964**  
4 in 100 people have smoked marijuana in the past year.

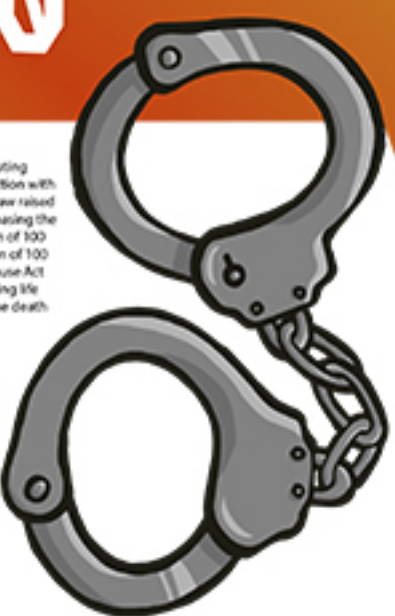
**1970**

**1972**  
President Richard Nixon opposes the policy of cannabis decriminalization. He states: "I do not believe that you can have effective criminal justice based on a philosophy that something is half legal and half illegal — despite what the [Dialer Commission] has recommended."



**1980**

**1984**  
President Reagan signed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, instituting mandatory sentences for drug-related crimes. In conjunction with the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the new law raised federal penalties for marijuana possession and dealing, basing the penalties on the amount of the drug involved. Possession of 100 marijuana plants received the same penalty as possession of 100 grams of heroin. A later amendment to the Anti-Drug Abuse Act established a "three strikes and you're out" policy, requiring life sentences for repeat drug offenders, and providing for the death penalty for "drug kingpins."



**1990**

**1990s**  
Public opposition to the War on Drugs grows amidst mass incarcerations.



**1998**  
Congress Prevents Implementation of Medical Marijuana Law in DC.



**2005**  
US Supreme Court rules Congress may ban marijuana use in Gonzalez v. Raich. California's law conflicted with the Federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA), which banned possession of marijuana. After the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized doctor-prescribed marijuana from a patient's home, a group of medical marijuana users sued in federal district court. The Court held that the commerce clause gave Congress authority to prohibit the local cultivation and use of marijuana, despite state law to the contrary.



**2010**

**2018**  
Lafone Marshall and Adam Vine develop National Engagement Week, an awareness campaign around providing expungement relief and wrap-around services to communities affected by the War on Drugs.



**2020**

**2021**  
The first issue of The Cannabis Quarterly Review is published.



**2021**  
Medical cannabis is legal in 36 states and recreational cannabis is legal in 17 states.

