



**PENNSYLVANIA
CANNABIS
ASSOCIATION**
*...a Benevolent
Trade Association*

Responding to Opposition Remarks

DECRIMINALIZATION FACT SHEET

CONCERNS	FACTS	REFERENCES
Decrim does more harm than good.	In Philly, decrim has reduced arrests by 80%, saved \$4.4 Million, improved police-community relationships.	https://www.greenrushdaily.com/2016/03/29/marijuana-decriminalization-saved-philadelphia-4-4-million/
Decrim will encourage usage among adolescents.	In states with full legalization, usage rates among adolescents has Not increased.	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/06/21/colorado-survey-shows-what-marijuana-legalization-will-do-to-your-kids/
Cannabis is a gateway drug.	Prescription drugs are gateways drugs. States with MMJ programs show 25% fewer opioid overdoses.	https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/heroin/how-heroin-linked-to-prescription-drug-abuse https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/heroin/references (2-4) https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2016/05/study-links-medical-marijuana-dispensaries-to-reduced-mortality-opioid-overdose
State and local marijuana laws will be disjointed.	Decrim needs to start locally, and then state legislators will see its merit for the state.	
Decrim sends the wrong message to our children.	Decrim sends the message that we care about how our laws affect people's futures.	http://www.drugpolicy.org/blog/legalization-marijuana-what-about-kids
Decrim will encourage "pot heads" to come to our community.	There is no evidence to support this. Cities that have decrim don't have an influx of marijuana users.	http://norml.org/aboutmarijuana/item/marijuana-decriminalization-its-impact-on-use-2
Cannabis affects adolescents' developing brains .	As with alcohol and cigarettes, adolescents must be discouraged from cannabis use.	