**An Analysis of the Relationship Between Marijuana Liberalization and Violent Crime Rates**

1. **Introduction:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an initial literature review, and outline the data collection strategy of the project examining the potential relationship between marijuana liberalization and violent crime rates in the United States. The project aims to understand the impact of state-level marijuana laws on violent crime, taking into account various factors that may influence both the adoption of marijuana laws and violent crime rates.

1. **Literature Review:**
   1. **Academic Articles:**
2. Title: " How and why have attitudes about cannabis legalization changed so much? "

Authors: Jacob Felson , Amy Adamczyk , Christopher Thomas

Summary: Over the last three decades, there has been a significant shift in public opinion favoring cannabis legalization, with consistent changes across sociodemographic groups. Notable exceptions include slower shifts among Hispanics since 2006 and an earlier trend of liberalization among Democrats. Factors such as region, media framing (especially in outlets like the New York Times), and a decline in religious affiliation were identified as influencers. While attitudes towards the criminal justice system were not a major impetus for the change, reciprocal effects between changing views on cannabis and criminal justice may have played a role. Future research should explore additional influences like internet usage, evolving views on individual liberty, and celebrity endorsements. Understanding these dynamics is crucial as cannabis legalization continues to evolve.

1. Title: " Trends in U.S., past-year marijuana use from 1985 to 2009: An age–period–cohort analysis."

Authors: Richard Miech∗, Stephen Koester

Summary: Recent research findings indicate a pervasive rise in past-year marijuana use across cohorts, challenging the perception that it solely affects the youngest groups. Notably, the influence of cohort membership on marijuana use has declined for today's youngest cohorts, hitting its lowest point in thirty years. This surge aligns more closely with a historical period effect impacting all cohorts uniformly. Furthermore, there are significant variations in period and cohort trends for Hispanics. In conclusion, the dominant forces driving past-year marijuana use trends are shifting away from cohort-specific factors towards broader influences affecting cohorts of all ages. Strategic public health and policy efforts should adapt to these overarching trends to effectively address the recent increase in past-year marijuana use.

1. Title: “Social and Political Factors Associated With State-Level Legalization of Cannabis in the United States”

Author(s): Joanne Spetz, Susan A. Chapman, Timothy Bates, Matthew Jura, and Laura A. Schmidt

Summary: This paper explores the liberalization of marijuana policies in 33 U.S. states and DC for medicinal use and 10 states and DC for recreational use, aligning with a global trend of easing marijuana restrictions. Analyzing U.S. state-level data on demographics, economics, and cultural/political factors, the study investigates the social forces driving this shift from conservative to liberal marijuana policies. Examining patterns in decriminalization and authorization for medical and recreational use, the analysis highlights underlying demographic, cultural, economic, and political variations influencing marijuana policy liberalization in the U.S. context.

1. title: “Crime and the legalization of recreational marijuana”

Authors: Davide Dragone, Giovanni Prarolo, Paolo Vanin, Giulio Zanella

Summary: This study investigates the impact of the legalization of the cannabis market in the U.S., focusing on the staggered legalization in Washington and Oregon. Using county-level difference-in-differences and spatial regression discontinuity designs, the research finds a significant reduction in rapes and property crimes on the Washington side compared to Oregon and pre-legalization years (2010–2012). The legalization correlates with increased marijuana consumption and decreased consumption of other drugs and alcohol. Possible mechanisms include the direct psychotropic effects of cannabis, substitution away from violence-inducing substances, reallocation of police efforts, and reduced criminal involvement in the marijuana business. Graphical evidence supports the causal effect of legalizing recreational marijuana, indicating a notable crime drop in Washington post-legalization.

**2.2 Popular Articles:**

1. Title: “Crime down and revenue up in Colorado since start of marijuana legalization”

Source: RT News

Summary: The impact of marijuana legalization in Colorado, the first U.S. state to do so, reveals positive results after five months. In Denver, crime has dropped by over 10%, with significant reductions in violent and property crimes. Statewide, marijuana taxes are expected to generate around $30 million this year, benefiting child drug use prevention and outreach programs. Economically, the repeal of the marijuana ban in Colorado has led to substantial revenue, exceeding initial estimates by 40%. This success has prompted federal lawmakers to consider national marijuana reform, as demonstrated by a recent House of Representatives vote supporting an amendment preventing federal interference in medical marijuana programs in states where it is legal.

**3. Data Description:   
Treatment selection Model variables:**

1. Historical Marijuana Policy Stance:

Description: The historical position of each state on marijuana policies, serving as a treatment selection criterion.

2.Political Ideology:

Description: Measurement of political ideology distribution within each state, influencing the likelihood of adopting marijuana liberalization.

Source: Pew Research Center (https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/compare/political-ideology/by/state/)

3.Religious Affiliation:

Description: Percentage of the state population affiliated with major religious groups, influencing attitudes towards marijuana liberalization.

Source: Pew Research Center ( <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/compare/religious-tradition/by/state/> )

4.Unemployment Rate:

Description: The percentage of the labor force unemployed in each state, potentially influencing policy decisions.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2014/ted\_20140319.htm)

**Outcome Model Control Variables:**

5.Demographic Data (Age Distribution):

Description: Distribution of population by age groups within each state, potentially impacting crime rates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html>)

6. Gender Distribution:

Description: The distribution of the population by gender within each state.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ( <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html> )

1. Percentage of Education attainment

Source: National centre for education statistics (<https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d95/dtab011.asp>)

1. Average state Poverty rate

Source: U.S census Bureau(<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.html>)

**Dependent Variable Data:**

7.Violent Crime Rates:

Description: Violent crime rates (e.g., homicide, assault) per 100,000 people in each state, the primary outcome variable.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation - Uniform Crime Reporting (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-4>)