OPTIC Vetted Medical Marijuana Policy Data

This is final documentation for the medical marijuana policy variables (1990-2019) included in the OPTIC Vetted Policy Data Sets.

Specific dimensions of marijuana policy data included in this public version of the data are based on variables frequently considered in the marijuana policy research. The primary data come from legal review of laws conducted at RAND with funding from NIDA (PI: Rosalie Pacula) by Anne Boustead (JD, PhD), in consultation with Rosalie Pacula and Rosanna Smart. Updates since December 2017 and March 2019 drew on data reported by NCSL (http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx) in March 2019 with subsequent updates through December 2019 conducted by Jason Blanchard (JD, Boston University) as part of a Boston University-USC-RAND funded project by NIAAA. The early work is described in:

- Powell D, Pacula RL, and M Jacobson (2018). "Do Medical Marijuana Laws Reduce Addictions and Deaths Related to Pain Killers?" *Journal of Health Economics*. 25: 29-42. PMID: 29408153.

- Pacula RL, Powell D, Heaton P and E Sevigny (2015). "Assessing the Effects of Medical Marijuana Laws on Marijuana: The Devil is in the Details" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management,* 34(1): 7-31. PMCID: PMC4315233.

Constructed Variables Contained in Analytic Files

Variable Name	Description
date_effMML	The date (m/d/y) the medical marijuana law (MML) became effective (i.e. patients have legal protection to possess MJ for medicinal purposes).
date_meddisp_leg	Date (m/d/y) medical marijuana dispensaries became legal as a source of supply in the state
date_active_medlegdisp	Date (m/d/y) when first medical marijuana dispensary is legally protected and open for business in the state
medmj_fraction	Fraction of the year in which a state has medical MJ law in effect.
dispMED_fraction	Fraction of the year I which a state has a legally protected and open medical dispensary
date_effREC	The date (m/d/y) the recreational adult-use MML became effective
date_active_dispREC	Date (m/d/y) a rec store opens in the state
recmj_fraction	Fraction of the year in which a state has an adult use MJ law in effect
dispREC_fraction	Fraction of the year in which a state has a legally protected and open rec store in the state

Fractions are calculated based on the number of months out of 12 that a law is effective. A law is considered effective for a given month

- if a law becomes effective by the 7th for January
- if a law becomes effective by the 3rd for February – December

These marijuana variables can be found in the following data files:

- Excel File: WEB_MJ Policy.xls
- Stata File: WEB_MJ Policy.dta

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Please cite the use of these data as "RAND-USC Schaeffer Opioid Policy Tools and Information Center. [YEAR]. OPTIC-Vetted PDMP Policy Data. Obtained from https://www.rand.org/health-care/centers/optic/resources/datasets.html on [DOWNLOAD DATE]."