



# A Look into Prohibition and the War on Drugs

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# Origins of Prohibition

The idea of alcohol prohibition was popularized by the Temperance movement and government war efforts

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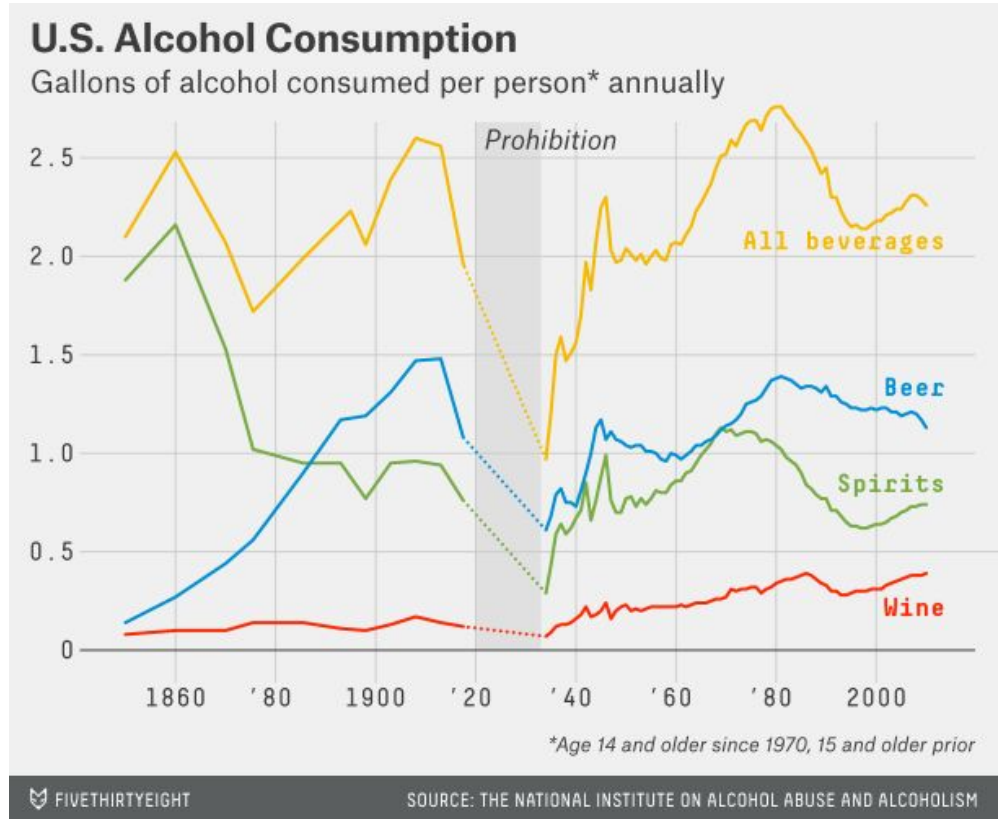
By The New York Times newspaper (published January 17, 1919) -  
Public Domain,  
<https://newspaperarchive.com/new-york-times-jan-17-1919-p-1/https://newspaperarchive.com/new-yok-times-jan-17-1919-p-4/>



# The effects of Prohibition on alcohol consumption

- Illegal imports of alcohol from Canada, Mexico, and other countries were made by bootleggers
- People gathered at speakeasies to drink alcoholic beverages in secret
- Organized crime syndicates controlled the production and sales of alcohol
- Homebrewing and distilling led to poisonous product
- The US government played a part in poisoning citizens

Prohibition slightly reduced the consumption of alcoholic beverages but was ineffective at total prevention. Many Americans believed that the government restricting personal choices was an assault on personal liberties.

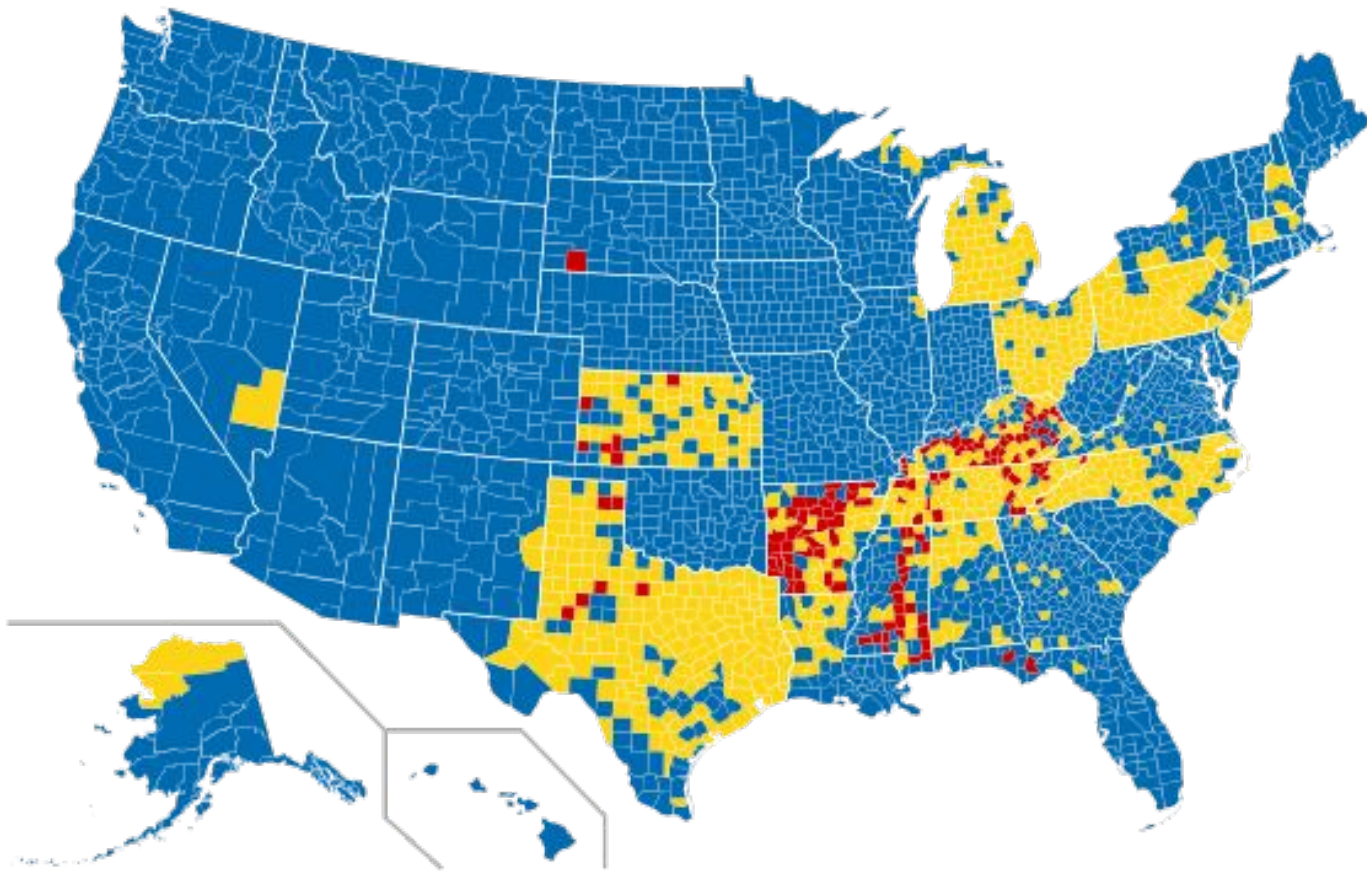


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# Repealing Prohibition

Prohibition was repealed in two parts:

1. The Cullen-Harrison Act which allowed the sale of beer and wine was passed in March 1933
2. The Twenty-first Amendment which nullified the Eighteenth Amendment was ratified in December 1933



Map showing wet (blue), mixed (yellow), and dry (red) counties in the US as of March, 2012.  
Public domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18798115>



# Drug Prohibition

Prior to addiction awareness, opium, cocaine, morphine, and heroin were commonplace.

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An evocative graphic showing President Nixon with a marijuana leaf,

<https://www.pulj.org/the-roundtable/the-war-on-drugs-and-people-who-buy-use-or-sell-them-a-look-in-to-mass-incarceration>

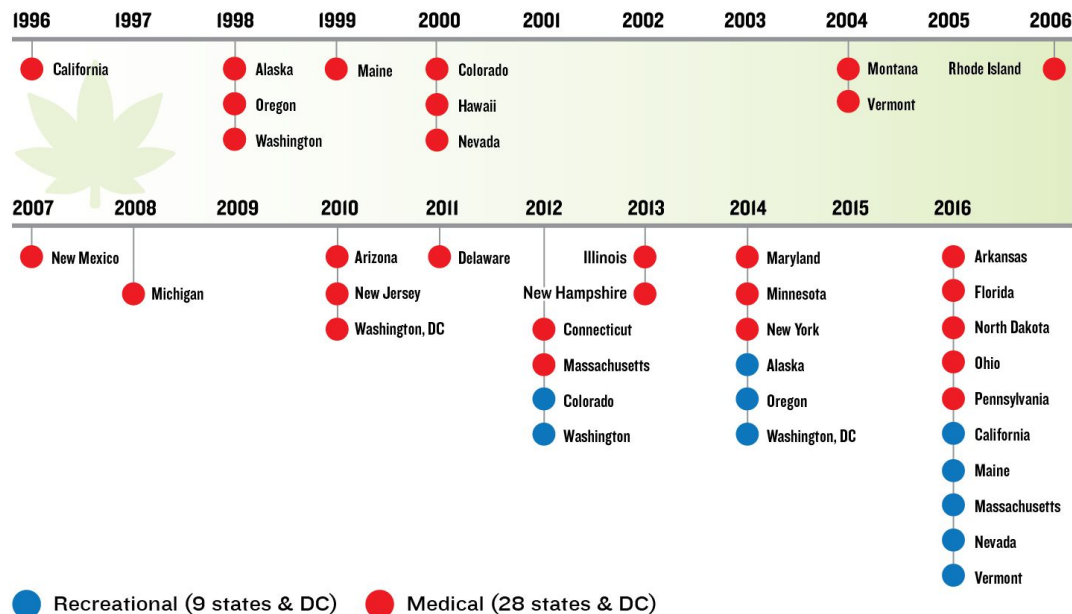


# Anti-drug Legislation and the War on Drugs

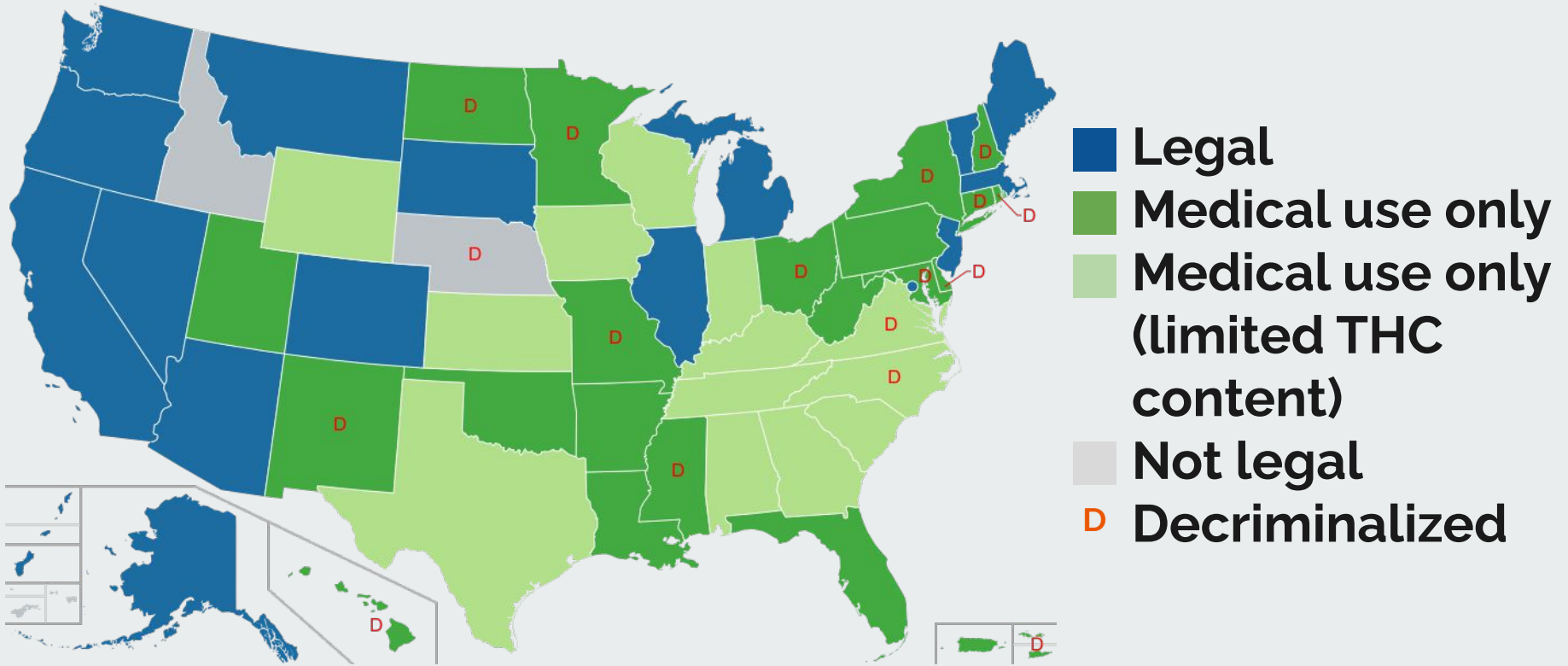
- The Harrison Narcotics Act, 1914
- Webb et al. v. United States, 1919
- The Boggs Act, 1951
- Narcotics Control Act, 1956
- Controlled Substances Act, 1970
- The War on Drugs, 1971

Due to the belief that cannabis is less dangerous than other controlled substances, there has been a push nationwide to decriminalize and legalize this drug.

## Timeline of State Marijuana Legalization Laws



This chart from Third Way shows the history of states passing laws regarding the legalization of cannabis from 1996 to 2016

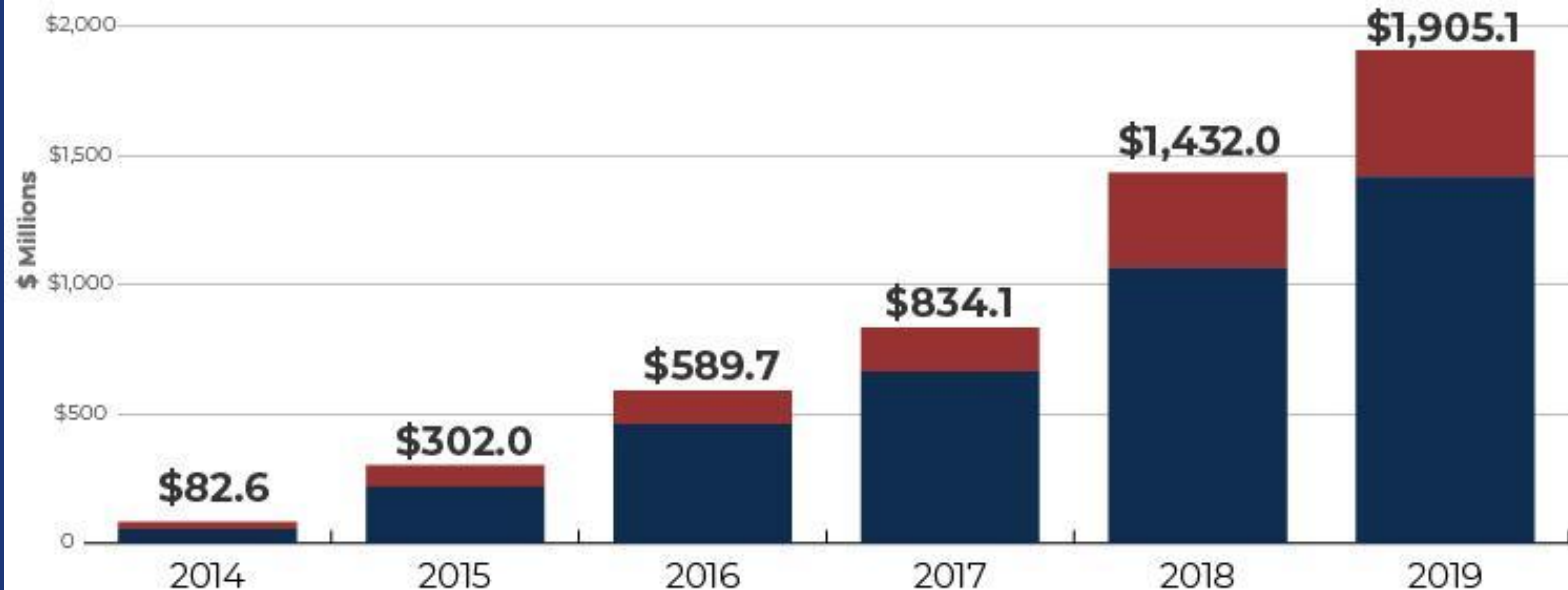


## Map showing legality of cannabis

By Lokal\_Profil, CC BY-SA 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2370050>

## Tax Revenue from Cannabis Sales Exceeded \$1.9 Billion in 2019

*State and local revenue in states with legal recreational sales*



Source: ITEP analysis based on state revenue data in eight states with legal sales of recreational cannabis underway for any portion of 2019 (Alaska, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington). Data are reported for calendar years. Figure does not include revenue raised through gross receipts taxes, license fees, income taxes, or other levies. Includes data published through March 6, 2020.

**ITEP**.org

The above chart shows tax revenue from legal recreational marijuana sales in the US from ITEP  
<https://itep.org/state-and-local-cannabis-tax-revenue-jumps-33-surpassing-1-9-billion-in-2019/>

# Repealing Drug Prohibition?

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Voters in the following states voted for marijuana measures in 2020:

- Arizona
- Mississippi
- Montana
- New Jersey
- South Dakota



A marijuana-themed vote button,

<https://www.keystonecannabiscoalition.org/political-landscape-cannabis-pa/votepot/>

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