



Preventing Marijuana Commercialization

Status of Marijuana in the U.S. and Minnesota:

- **8 states** in 2018 opposed recreational marijuana measures, including North Dakota, Illinois, New Jersey, Delaware, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island (1)
- **10 states** have legalized recreational marijuana
- Medical marijuana is legal in **33 states**, including Minnesota as of 2014
- Minnesota has a medical marijuana program with **10,738 patients** actively enrolled in the patient registry, as of June 30, 2018 (2)
- Minnesota has **decriminalized** possession of small amounts of marijuana **since 1976**
 - “A personal who unlawfully sells (less than 42.5 grams of marijuana) for no remuneration, or who unlawfully possesses (less than 42.5 grams of marijuana) is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and participation in a drug education program” (Minn. Stat. § 152.027(a))
- **Less than ½ of 1%** of those individuals in Minnesota prisons are there for a marijuana offense – and 70% of those individuals had prior felony convictions

References:

1. Public Health's Biggest Victories Over Big Pot in 2018. (December 2018). Smart Approaches to Marijuana: Alexandria, VA. Retrieved from <https://learnaboutsam.org/public-healths.-biggest-victories-over-big-pot-in-2018/>
2. Minnesota Department of Health: Medical Cannabis: Retrieved from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/cannabis/about/update0718.pdf>