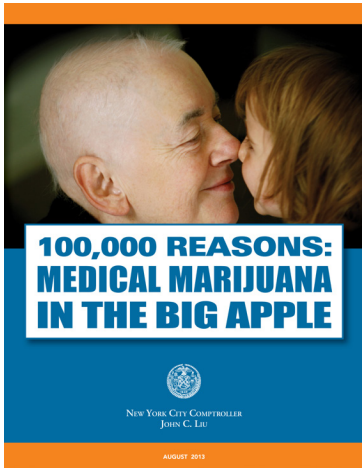


100,000 Reasons: Medical Marijuana In The Big Apple

AUGUST 2013

Published by the New York City
Comptroller's Office



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KEY FACTS

- More than 100,000 New York City residents could benefit from medical marijuana if it were legal today.
 - Possible patients include those suffering from chronic or severe pain, cancer, multiple sclerosis, seizures, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, and more.
 - As research on medical marijuana discovers more uses and the social stigma dissipates, even more New Yorkers would benefit in years to come.
- Medical marijuana is legal in 20 states plus the District of Columbia.
 - More than 116 million Americans (37 percent) live in a state where medical marijuana is legal.
 - In those states, more than 1 million patients have registered to receive medical marijuana.
- New Yorkers overwhelmingly support the legalization of medical marijuana.
 - 82 percent of State and 79 percent of City registered voters support it, according to a recent poll.
 - It enjoys majority support among New Yorkers regardless of age, race, gender, and political affiliation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Establish a New York City Medical Cannabis Research Fund:** Such a fund could be created through a public-private partnership that harnesses the City's strong bioscience industry, hospitals, and diverse academic institutions. The City could provide \$5 million in start-up funds and then match up to \$50 million of private donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis to finance up to \$100 million of medical marijuana research over the next five years.
- **Finance City-Owned and Operated Medical Marijuana Greenhouses:** The City should provide the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) with the necessary capital funds to construct one or more medical marijuana greenhouses on its grounds or inside its facilities.
- **Require Health Insurance Providers to Cover Medical Marijuana:** New York State's medical marijuana bill should include a provision requiring health-insurance providers to cover the costs associated with medical marijuana and create provisions to make medical marijuana accessible for Medicaid and Medicare patients.



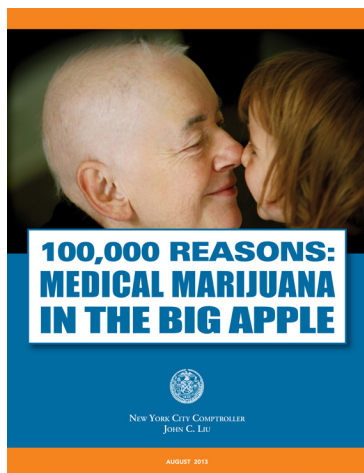
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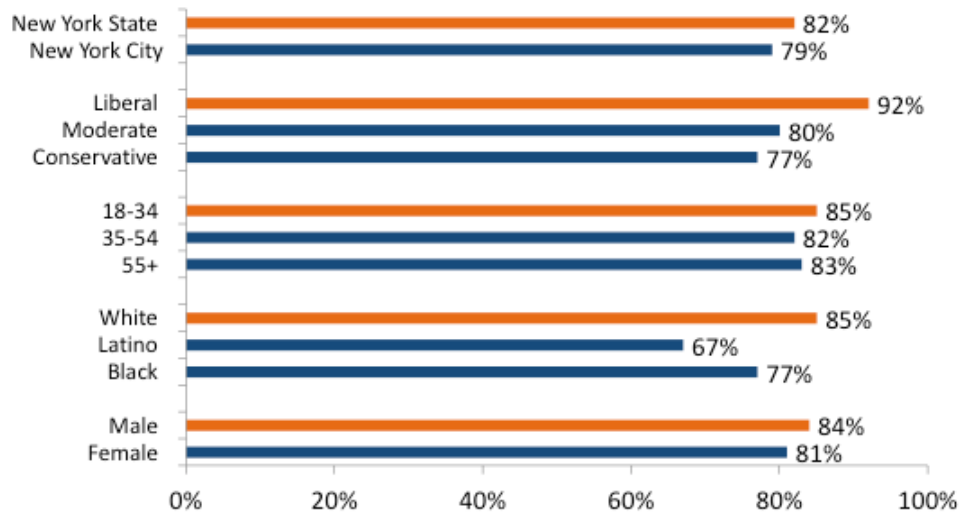
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KEY GRAPHS

NEW YORK STATE AND CITY RESIDENTS OF ALL TYPES OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT MEDICAL MARIJUANA.



Source: Sienna College Research Institute and Drug Policy Alliance, May 2013

Medical Marijuana Programs

State	Year	Population	Patients
Alaska	1998	731,449	1,246
Arizona	2010	6,553,255	36,634
California	1996	38,041,430	553,684
Colorado	2000	5,187,582	106,817
Hawaii	2000	1,392,313	11,183
Maine	1999	1,329,192	16,444
Michigan	2008	9,883,360	124,131
Montana	2004	1,005,141	7,099
Nevada	2000	2,758,931	4,173
New Mexico	2007	2,085,538	8,188
Oregon	1998	3,899,353	55,937
Rhode Island	2006	1,050,292	4,849
Vermont	2004	626,011	559
Washington	1998	6,897,012	99,943
TOTALS		81,440,859	1,030,887
New York City	2013	8,336,697	105,527

NOTE: The District of Columbia and Six states that have legalized medical marijuana are excluded from the above chart because their programs are new and have few or no patients. Comparing the above 14 states' registered medical marijuana patients (MMPs) with their total population yields an MMP rate of 1.27 percent. When we apply this rate to the NYC population, we find that about 105,000 residents could benefit.

Sources: Census Bureau; ProCon.org; Arizona Medical Marijuana Act, Monthly Report, 2013; Colorado Department of Health; Hawaii Department of Public Safety, Annual 2012 Report; Michigan Department of Health; Montana Marijuana Program May 2013 Registry Information; Nevada Health Division, Medical Marijuana Program; Oregon Health Authority; and Rhode Island Department of Health.

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