

# Support Cannabis Decriminalization

**Position:** The Coalition believes that trauma caused by the criminality of cannabis possession should and can be avoided by eliminating the criminality thereof.

**The Problem:** The detainment, arrest, civil asset seizure, jailing and stigma that follows an interface with law enforcement due to the possession of cannabis is trauma inducing to all populations especially individuals who are trauma sensitive.

**Why This Matters:** Law Enforcement and Healthcare resources are limited and scarce. Priority must be made to incapacitate or help those most in need and not the creation of need through the draconian status and enforcement of cannabis possession criminality.

**The Bottom Line:** Nobody should be arrested for cannabis possession.

Need more information? Drill deeper into this issue on the back of this page.

## The rest of the Story

To fulfill this position completely, cannabis should be considered an exempt substance, like alcohol and tobacco and de-scheduled from the 'Kansas Uniform Controlled Substances Act' and regulated similarly. This along with eliminating criminalization will eliminate officer discretion regarding cannabis possession, whereby, taking it off the table for the use as a weapon of discrimination and promoting public trust by eliminating asset seizure opportunities, as well as, mitigating trauma.

<https://norml.org/marijuana/library/state-marijuana-arrests/kansas-marijuana-arrests/>

### Kansas Marijuana Arrests

Kansas	2018	2019	2020	2021
Possession	1,166	4,564	4,360	3,967
Sales	222	566	486	373
Total	1,388	5,130	4,846	4,340
MJ Arrests	55%	21%	53%	50%
Agencies	59%	63%	53%	47%

State-specific marijuana-related arrest data is provided in rows 1, 2, and 3. This arrest data is provided to the FBI on an annual basis by the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). **In most instances, the data provided is incomplete and represents an underreport of the total number of actual marijuana-related arrests that occurred in the state because not all participating law enforcement agencies provide data to NIBRS in a timely fashion.**

Row 4 provides data regarding what portion of all drug-related arrests reported for any given year are specific to marijuana.

Row 5 provides information on the percentage of state law enforcement agencies that reported arrest data for any given year.