

How many more studies are needed before politicians have the courage to act on their findings?

1. 1894 Indian Hemp Drugs Commission, "Report of the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission", Simla, India: Government Central Printing Office

"The commission has come to the conclusion that the moderate use of hemp drugs is practically attended by no evil results at all."

2. 1925 Canal Zone Committee, "The Panama Canal Zone Military Investigations"

"The influence of [marijuana]... has apparently been greatly exaggerated... There is no evidence... that it has any appreciably deleterious influence on the individual using it."

3. 1944 Mayor's Committee on Marihuana, "The La Guardia Commission Report"

4. 1969 Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence, "Cannabis", London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

5. 1970 Canadian Government Commission of Inquiry, "The Non-Medical Use of Drugs", Ottawa, Canada: Information Canada. (a.k.a "Le Dain Commission")

"Since cannabis is clearly not a narcotic we recommend that the control of cannabis be removed from the Narcotic Control Act... The Commission is of the opinion that no one should be liable to imprisonment for simple possession."

6. 1972 National Commission of Marihuana and Drug Abuse, "Marijuana: A Signal of Misunderstanding, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

"Marihuana's relative potential for harm to the vast majority of individual users and its actual impact on society does not justify a social policy designed to seek out and firmly punish those who use it... Existing social and legal policy is out of proportion to the individual and social harm engendered by the drug."

7. 1972 Werkgroep Verdovende Middelen, "Background and Risks of Drug Use", The Hague: Staatsuitgeverij.

8. 1977 Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, "Drug Problems in Australia- An Intoxicated Society?", Canberra: Australian Commonwealth Government Printing Office.

"Legal controls [should] not [be] of such a nature as to... cause more social damage than use of the drug... Cannabis legislation should be enacted that recognizes the significant differences between... narcotics and cannabis in their health effects... Possession of marijuana for personal use should no longer be a criminal offence."

9. 1982 National Research Council, "An Analysis of Marijuana Policy", Washington D.C.: National Academy Press.

"The advantages of a policy of regulation include... the savings in economic and social costs of law enforcement... better controls over the quality and safety of the product, and, possibly, increased credibility of warnings about risks."

10. 1994 McDonald D., et al., "Legislative Options for Cannabis in Australia", Report on the National Task Force on Cannabis", Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.

"Australian experiences more harm... from maintaining cannabis prohibition policy than it experiences from the use of the drug... We conclude that cannabis law reform is required in this country."

11. 1995 Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport, "Drug Policy in the Netherlands: Continuity and Change", The Netherlands.

"It has been demonstrated the more or less free sale of... [marijuana] for personal use in the Netherlands has not given rise to levels of use significantly higher than in countries which pursue a highly repressive policy... Dutch policy on drugs over the last twenty years... can be considered to have been successful."

12. 2002 Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs, "Cannabis: Our Position for a Canadian Public Policy Summary Report", Ottawa, Canada.

"Scientific evidence overwhelmingly indicates that cannabis is substantially less harmful than alcohol and should be treated not as a criminal issue but as a social and public health issue."