National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information in the Fight Against Crime

Overview of Marihuana in Mexico

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In 2016, 192 million people used marihuana.

Marihuana remains the drug most used worldwide.

In 2016, the amount of marihuana seized worldwide dropped by 27%.

Compared to 2015, the number of users increased by 16%.

We are seeing a decrease, mainly in the North American region.

Over the last six years, marihuana seizures dropped by 53% on the southern border of the United States.

U. S. authorities indicate that marihuana production in the U.S. is increasing.

Starting in 2017, the non-medical use of marihuana was approved in nine U.S. states, in addition to the District of Columbia.

At an international level, laws concerning marihuana are very different, and the definition of its legal status is a subject of critical discussion.

- Laws that apply to cannabis in most countries also apply to other drugs.
- In many countries marihuana is classified as a narcotic, in the same category as cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, opium, amphetamines and LSD.
- These different international regulations distinguish between possession for personal use and possession for distribution and supply to third parties.
- In almost all local jurisdictions, punishment is far greater for production and distribution of cannabis, than for possession.
- In the case of Mexico, laws applicable to marihuana are contained mainly in the General Health Law and Federal Criminal Code.
Anti drug laws have been based on containing the supply through criminal prosecutions aimed at drug production, trafficking and marketing.

Experience suggests that consumption has not decreased, which means that anti drug laws have not succeeded. In turn, a powerful underground economy has emerged. This is a relentless black market that amplifies the social costs of drug use.
In the North American region we are seeing a change in legal policies.

The Canadian Senate legalized marihuana. Starting on October 17, 2018, production and use will be allowed.

Medical marihuana is legal in 46 U.S. states, and is legal for recreational use in 9 states.

In 2017, the Mexican House of Representatives approved reforms to the General Health Law and the Federal Criminal Code, to allow medical and scientific use of cannabis sativa, or marihuana.

Legal use for medical or recreational purposes.

Legal use for medical purposes.
The Law for Small Scale Drug Trafficking was published in August 2009.
- State and federal agencies will have equal responsibility for actions.
- The guidelines were updated relating to maximum doses for personal use.

In April 2017 a proposal was approved allowing the use of marihuana in Mexico for medical and scientific purposes.

In the Americas, three countries allow recreational use of cannabis: the U.S., Uruguay and Canada.

At the 39th general meeting in Jamaica of the heads of state of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), its Commission for Marihuana of this organization suggested that member countries review their laws on this substance.
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