



# Fact Sheet

## RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IN NEVADA

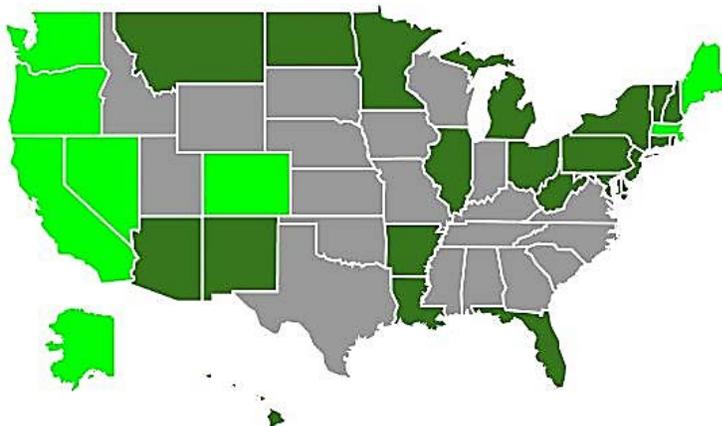
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In 2016, Nevada voters approved Ballot Question 2, the [Initiative to Regulate and Tax Marijuana](#). As a result, on January 1, 2017, the purchase, possession, and consumption of recreational marijuana for adults became legal in Nevada. Recreational marijuana use is regulated by Nevada's Department of Taxation (NDT) under [Chapter 453D](#) of *Nevada Revised Statutes*. The Department provides some helpful information on its *Marijuana in Nevada* [website](#) that describes how to purchase and use marijuana legally in Nevada. A person who is 21 years of age or older is allowed to possess and consume retail marijuana. A marijuana consumer may possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana or 1/8 of an ounce of concentrated marijuana. Marijuana can only be purchased legally from state-licensed retail marijuana stores.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law. The 2013 "[Cole Memorandum](#)" moved the federal drug enforcement focus away from marijuana. In early 2018, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions released a [memorandum](#) revising instructions on how U.S. attorneys should approach prosecutions related to marijuana offenses in their jurisdictions.

According to NDT, in May 2018, there were 61 licensed recreational retail stores in the state. In August 2018, NDT announced that revenue from adult-use marijuana far exceeded original estimates, generating \$69.8 million in tax revenue in the first year of legal adult-use sales. This is approximately 140 percent of the combined marijuana tax revenue that was projected for the entire fiscal year. The total taxable sales of adult-use marijuana was \$424.9 million for Fiscal Year 2018–2019.



### Marijuana Legalization Status

- Medical marijuana broadly legalized
- Marijuana legalized for recreational use
- No broad laws legalizing marijuana

### Other States

In addition to Nevada, seven other states and the District of Columbia have legalized adult-use recreational marijuana through ballot initiatives. In July 2018, Vermont was the first state to legalize marijuana through legislation. See the map for states that have legalized adult-use recreational marijuana.

Source: "[State Marijuana Laws in 2018 Map](#)," *Governing: The States and Localities*, March 30, 2018.

Prior to legalizing adult-use recreational marijuana, several states legalized the medical use of marijuana or decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Information on Nevada’s medical marijuana program can be found in the Research Division’s brief titled, [\*Nevada Medical Marijuana Program\*](#). Lastly, some states have chosen to reduce penalties or expunge criminal records related to marijuana convictions.

### **Other Sources**

- *Marijuana in Nevada*, Department of Taxation, <http://marijuana.nv.gov/>.
- “Marijuana Overview,” National Conference of State Legislatures, July 10, 2018, <http://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/marijuana-overview.aspx>.
- “Deep Dive: Marijuana,” National Conference of State Legislatures, 2018, <http://www.ncsl.org/bookstore/state-legislatures-magazine/marijuana-deep-dive.aspx>.