



How We Got Here & Where We Go from Here

Kevin Sabet
CEO and President

Vision



A culture of prevention,
a climate of recovery

We envision a world in which children and families thrive, substance use is prevented, and there is rapid access to quality treatment and meaningful pathways to recovery for individuals with substance use disorders.

Pillars



Policy

Drive science-based policies throughout all levels of government

Research

Incorporate research results from academic papers into legislation and involve scientists in policy formulation

Education

Educate decision-makers and the public about the impacts of drugs on society

Advocacy

Advocate for good policies centered around each of The Foundation's focus areas



WHAT WE DO

Public Awareness

Publishing research and educating the community

Legislative Outreach

Promoting good drug policy among decision makers

Change Policy

Using science and research to enact positive reform



STATE VICTORIES

Our efforts focused on defeating legalization at the state level have produced significant results.

In North Carolina, SAM and our partners worked to defeat legalization efforts and earned victory on July 7, 2023.

HAWAII

ARKANSAS

OKLAHOMA

NORTH AND
SOUTH DAKOTA

**Meet people where they
are, but don't leave them
where they're at.**

- PATRICK J. KENNEDY, co-founder

ONGOING PROGRAMS



THE DRUG REPORT

A new way of communicating about national drug issues.



BALLOT ADVOCACY

Trying to fix the mistakes caused by bad laws and create good laws.



NEW FEDERAL POLICY

We co-authored the first new law on marijuana in 40 years.

Sections for the Blueprint for Effective Drug Policy

Prevention

Intervention and Treatment

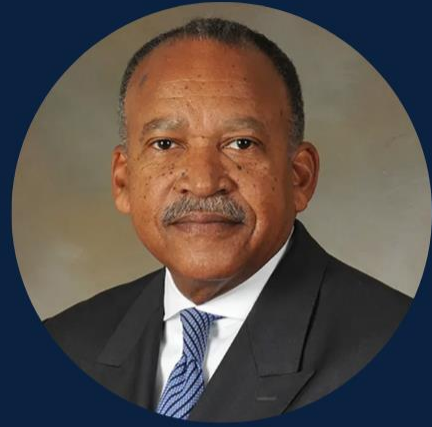
Equity & Social Determinations of Health

International Cooperation and Supply Reduction

Recovery Support

Criminal Justice

Leadership Council



Ben Tucker

Former US Dep. Drug Czar and
Former NYPD First Deputy
Commissioner



Howard Koh

Former US Asst. Secretary
of Health



Bob Troyer

Former Colorado US Attorney



John Kelly

Professor of Psychiatry in
Addiction Medicine,
Harvard Medical School



Mike Marshall

Oregon Recovers



Lauren Davis

Washington State Representative
(D-WA)



**Dr. Leslie
Walker-Harding**
Science Advisor



Billy Williams

Former Oregon US Attorney

Why do we need *this*
drug policy organization?

In the late
1970s...

In five years, 11 states “decriminalized”
marijuana, led by Oregon

Keith Stroup of NORML bragged in 1978:

**“We are trying to get marijuana reclassified
medically. If we do that, (*we'll do it in at
least 20 states this year for chemotherapy
patients*) we'll be using the issue as a red
herring to give marijuana a good name.”**

-Emory Wheel, 1978

—
In the 1980s...

The Legalization Train Stopped





A

H

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D

S

V

Harm reduction as a legalization strategy

Grew out of good intentions in the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s

- to help injection drug users not get HIV

What is meant by “harm reduction” when advocates for permissive drug policy use the term?

What is meant by “harm reduction” when scientists use the term?

What is meant by “harm reduction” when national drug policy officials use the term?

Proponents of drug legalization believe that illegal drug use is an inherent aspect of the human condition; that society should simply accept the fact that people are going to use drugs and that it is in everyone's best interest to assist drug users by teaching them "safe use."

Taking Harm Reduction to the Next Level

Ethan Nadelmann,
“The Godfather of Drug Legalization”:

“even the black blessing of AIDS is helping us
move forward.”

“Make prohibition work on our terms, not their
terms....Work within the mainstream to move it in the
right direction.”

“any step taken for “harm reduction” by the
government is a move closer to legalization.”

Bridgeport,
Connecticut - 1997
*Kit to use crack
"safely"*

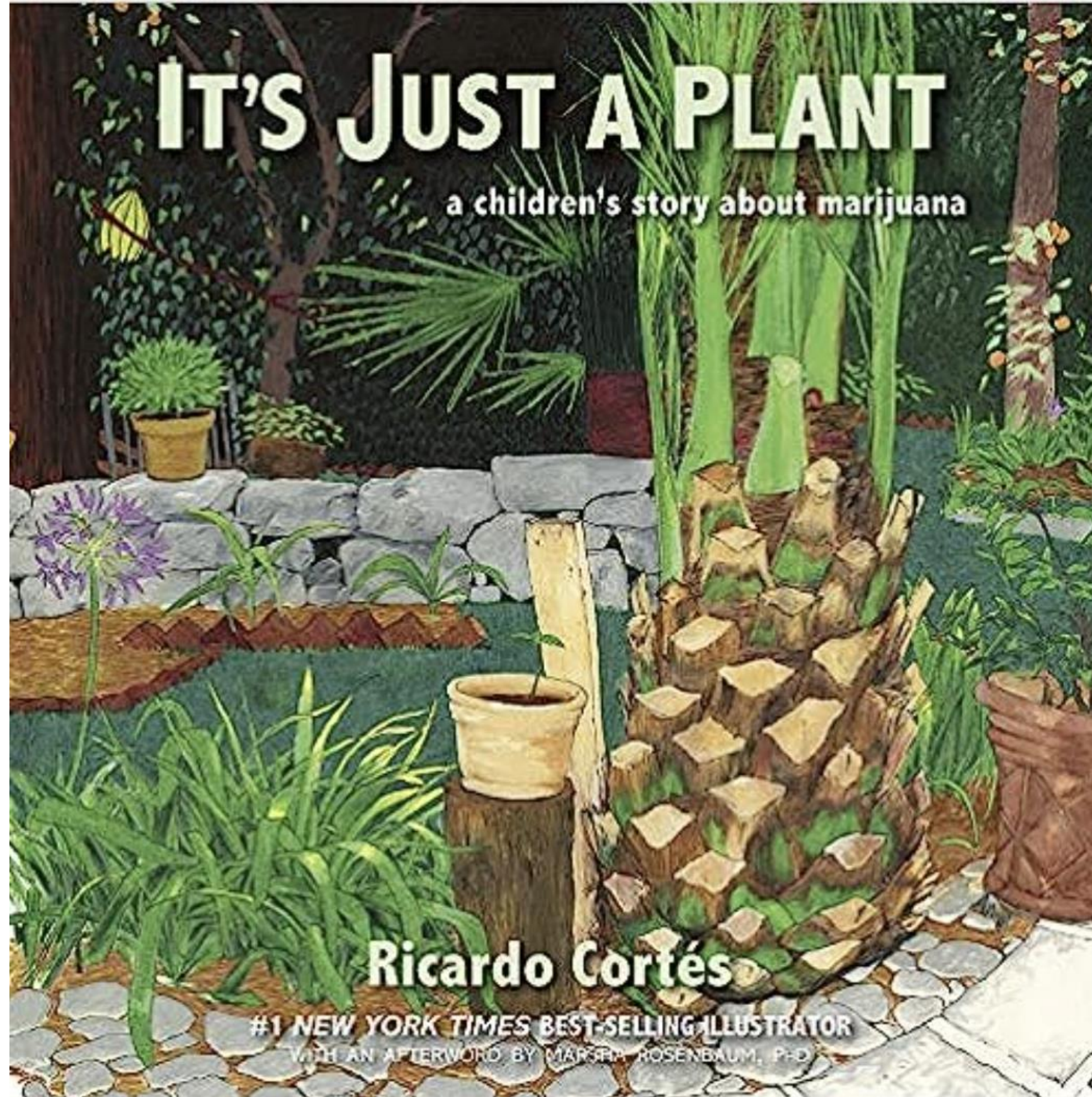


Excerpts from “Safe” Crack Kit Brochure

■ **“If you smoke indoors, make sure it is ventilated. Poorly aired rooms can be risky for tuberculosis (TB). Cover your mouth when coughing.”**

■ **“If you have problems breathing or are coughing up dark stuff, slow down or stop smoking for a while. See a doctor is [if] it continues!”**

Marijuana Harm Reduction



Marijuana



- Most misunderstood drug
- Daily use has skyrocketed under legalization
- Car crashes, poisonings, mental illness all going up
- The legalization pattern is marijuana, psychedelics, then other drugs

ary Election Endorsements! 🗳️

Cheat Sheet! 📄

Tacoma Just Got Cooler 🎸

WEED | Apr 15, 2019 at 9:00 am

The Little-Known Story of Marijuana Legalization

How billionaire George Soros and a few of his friends gave us bong
full of legal weed.

LESTER BLACK



George Soros and Ethan Nadelmann are working to change pot laws. JESSICA STEIN



Ultra Potent Marijuana

Yale

SAM Smart
Approaches to
Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco



Not this...



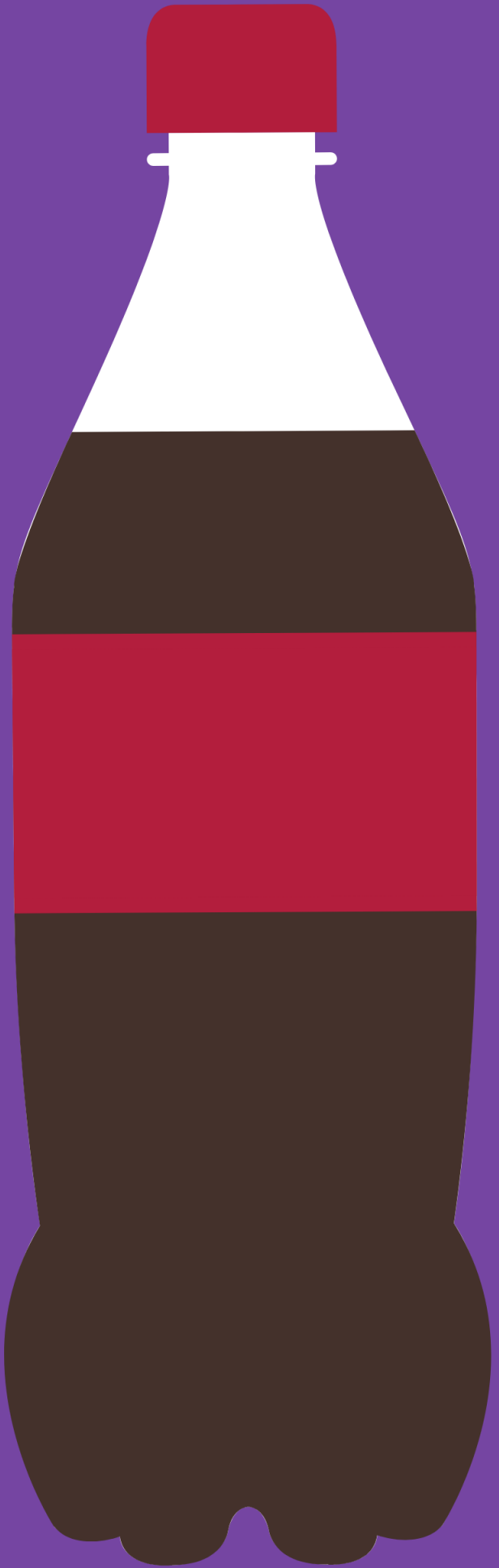
Yale

SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco



...but this

**A new kind of
consumer:
Drinking 33
cappuccinos
to get 65x
caffeine in one
20 oz Cola**



Yale

Caulkins, 2019

SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco

Altria Makes \$1.8 Billion Investment in Big Marijuana



Altria

Majority shareholder



Cronos Group holds 100% ownership of the only two Canadian companies licensed to cultivate and sell medical marijuana



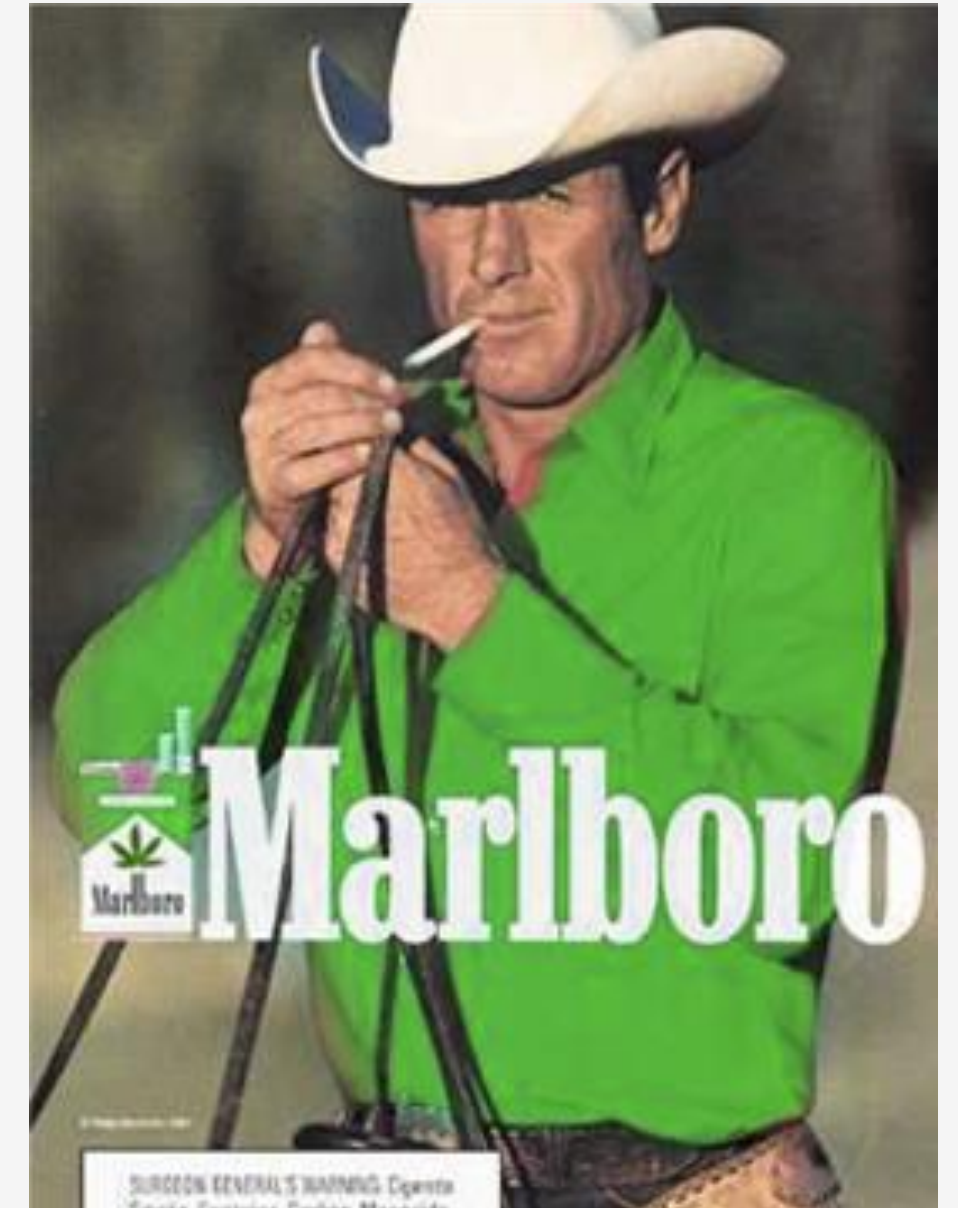
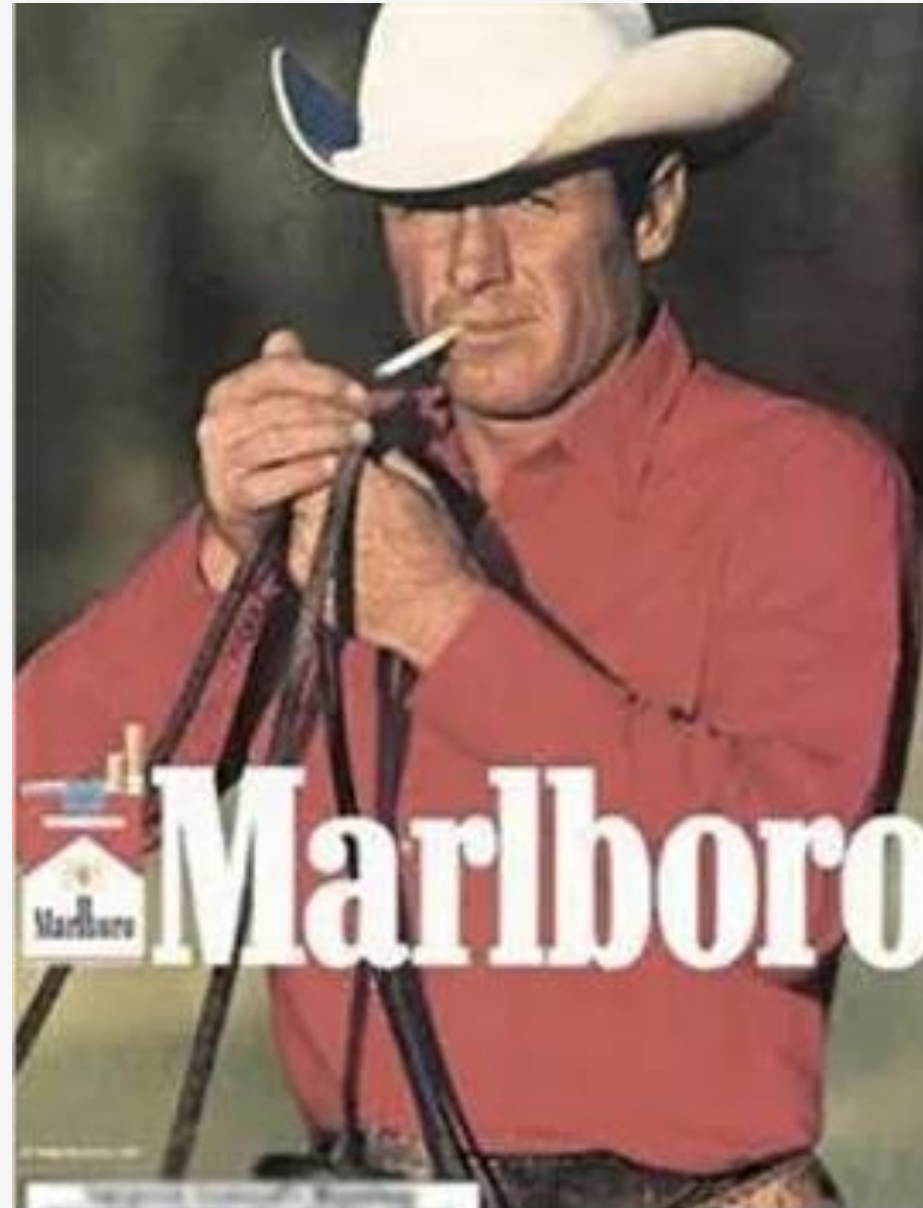
PEACENATURALS
MEDICINAL CANNABIS



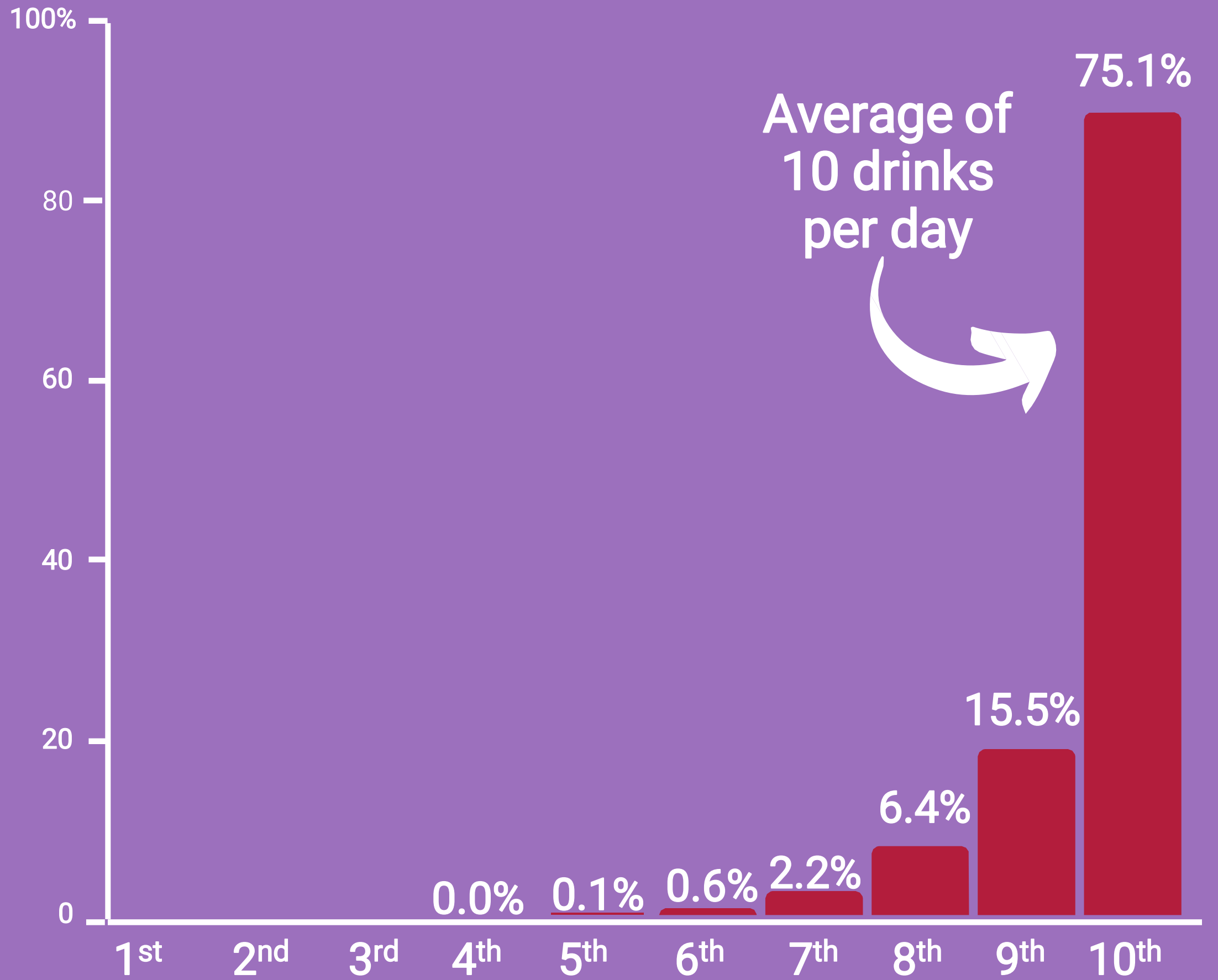
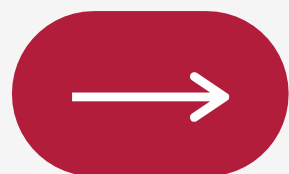
SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco

Big Tobacco is Big Marijuana

same players, slightly
different marketing

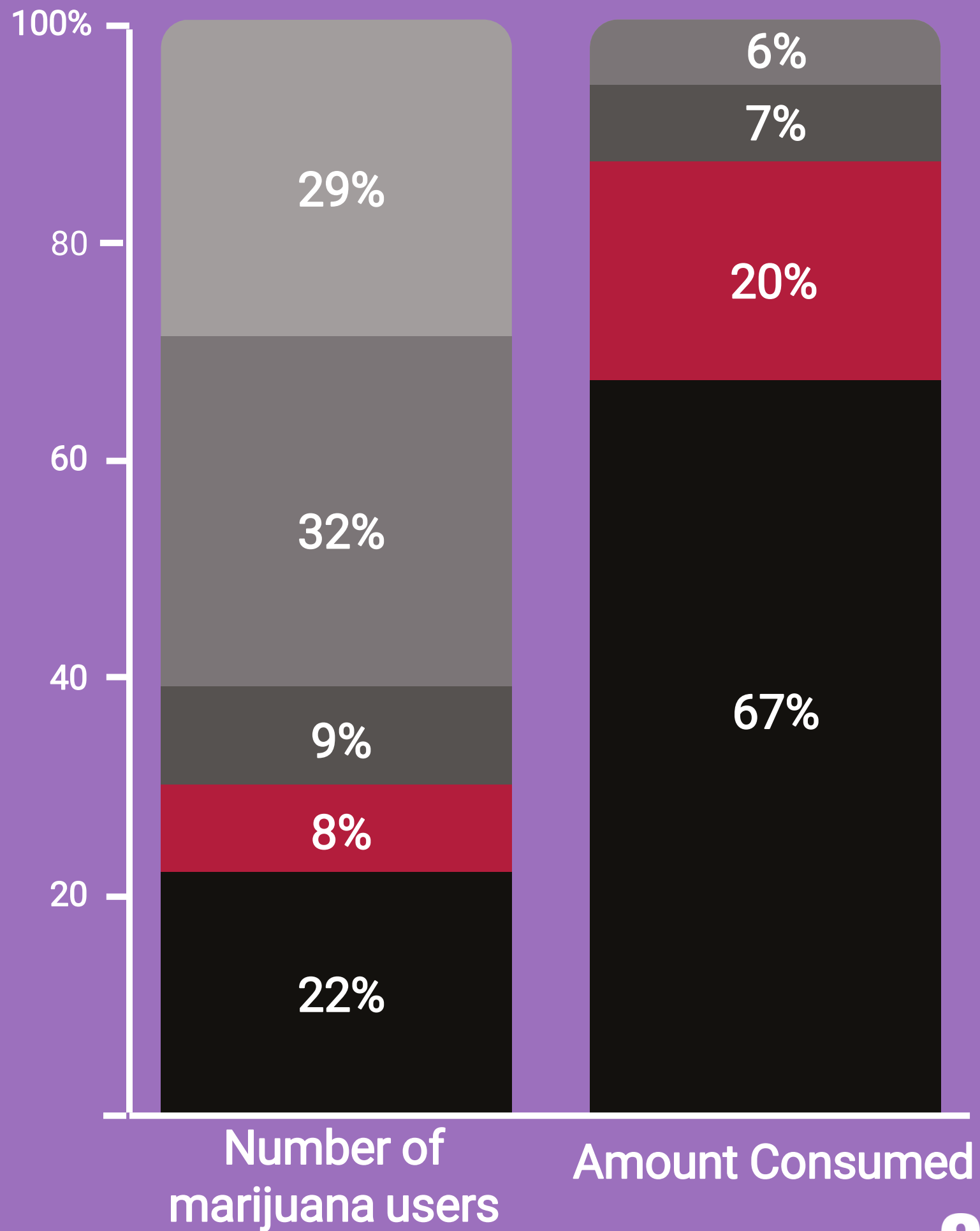


Top 10% of the population make up 75% of the Alcohol Industry's U.S. Sales



Source: Cook, P. J. (2007). Paying the tab: The economics of alcohol policy. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

The addiction for profit model



Source: Colorado Department of Revenue: Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado

Despite
legalization,
the illicit
THC
market has
grown



The New York Times

April 27, 2019

"Getting worse,
not better"

Illegal Pot Market Booming in
California Despite Legalization

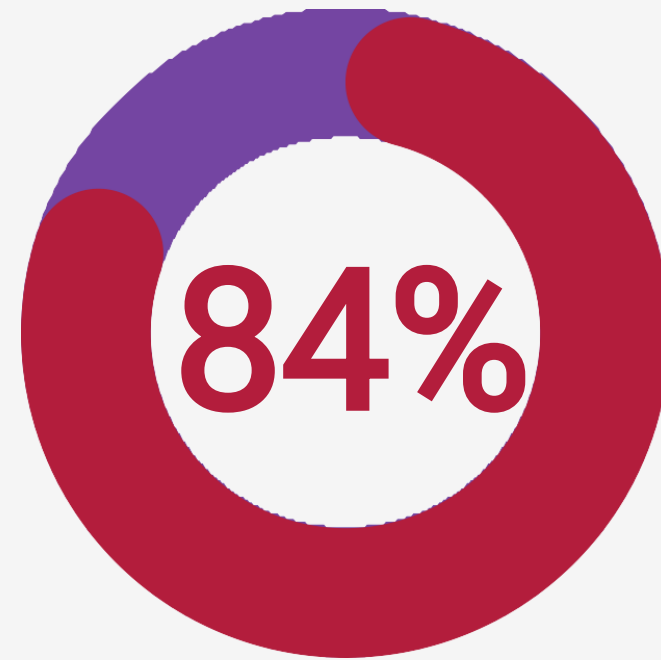
Photo: NBC News

SAM Smart
Approaches to
Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco

STUDY: Living Near Marijuana Dispensaries Increases Likelihood of Youth Use, Favorable Opinions



A study published in the journal *Addiction* in 2019 found that living near a marijuana dispensary increases the likelihood of marijuana use and frequency of use among young people aged 18-22



84% of the nearly 2,000 participants had 10+ pot shops within 4 miles of their homes

Led to increased marijuana use and normalization of the drug



Background of the Drug Policy Alliance

**DRUG
POLICY
ALLIANCE.**

We are
the Drug
Policy
Alliance.

Founded in 2000 in New York by Ethan Nadelmann, who was a professor at Princeton University

Merged the Lindesmith Center, led by Nadelmann, and the Drug Policy Foundation

Receives a significant amount of its funding from George Soros and his Open Society Foundation. In 2014, [Forbes reported](#) that George Soros has donated about \$200 Million to efforts to legalize drugs. George Soros has been called the “Daddy Warbucks” of drug legalization by LBJ advisor and Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) founder Joe Califano.



“When I started looking to do something in the United States, [I saw that] one of the areas where policy has unintended adverse consequences is drug policy,” Soros says. “That was the insight that got me involved.”

“...I would make most drugs, excluding the most dangerous ones like crack, legally available. Initially, I would keep prices low enough to destroy the drug trade. Once that objective was attained, I would keep raising the prices...”

Background of the Drug Policy Alliance

**DRUG
POLICY
ALLIANCE.**

Kassandra Frederique, who had been the New York State Director of DPA, has been the Executive Director since September 2020

Others: [John Sperling](#), the billionaire University of Phoenix founder who died in August, had [supported drug reform](#) after marijuana helped him curb side effects from prostate cancer treatment in the 1970s.

Insurance billionaire [Peter Lewis](#), who died in 2013, had also pushed for [medical marijuana legalization](#), and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws estimated that he had donated more than \$40 million towards the cause since the 1980s. (New Approach PAC)

Drug Policy Alliance Vision

**DRUG
POLICY
ALLIANCE.**

The Drug Policy Alliance's overarching goal is to end the war on drugs

Like their work in Oregon, the Drug Policy Alliance supports the decriminalization of all drugs, arguing that individuals should not be incarcerated for drug use

They support the legalization of all illicit drugs, arguing that a safe and regulated supply of drugs is preferable to an unregulated illicit supply

They support harm reduction programs, including safe injection sites, syringe exchange programs, and the distribution of fentanyl tests strips and naloxone

They support the legalization of marijuana, arguing that "No one should be criminalized for marijuana use or supply"

They support "reducing arrest and incarceration of people who sell drugs," arguing that "Many [dealers] are experiencing poverty and selling drugs for survival"

**They have major donors
who fund their work and
messages.**

They've organized at the state level to push their initiatives.

**They've secured
legislative champions at
all levels – local, state and
federal.**

**They've gotten the attention
of editorial boards and media
– including print, television
and social media.**

**They've mobilized major
grassroots and student
supporters.**

They are present and active in every single academic, think-tank, UN, and other international and domestic discussion on drug policy.

The result? Measure 110 in Oregon

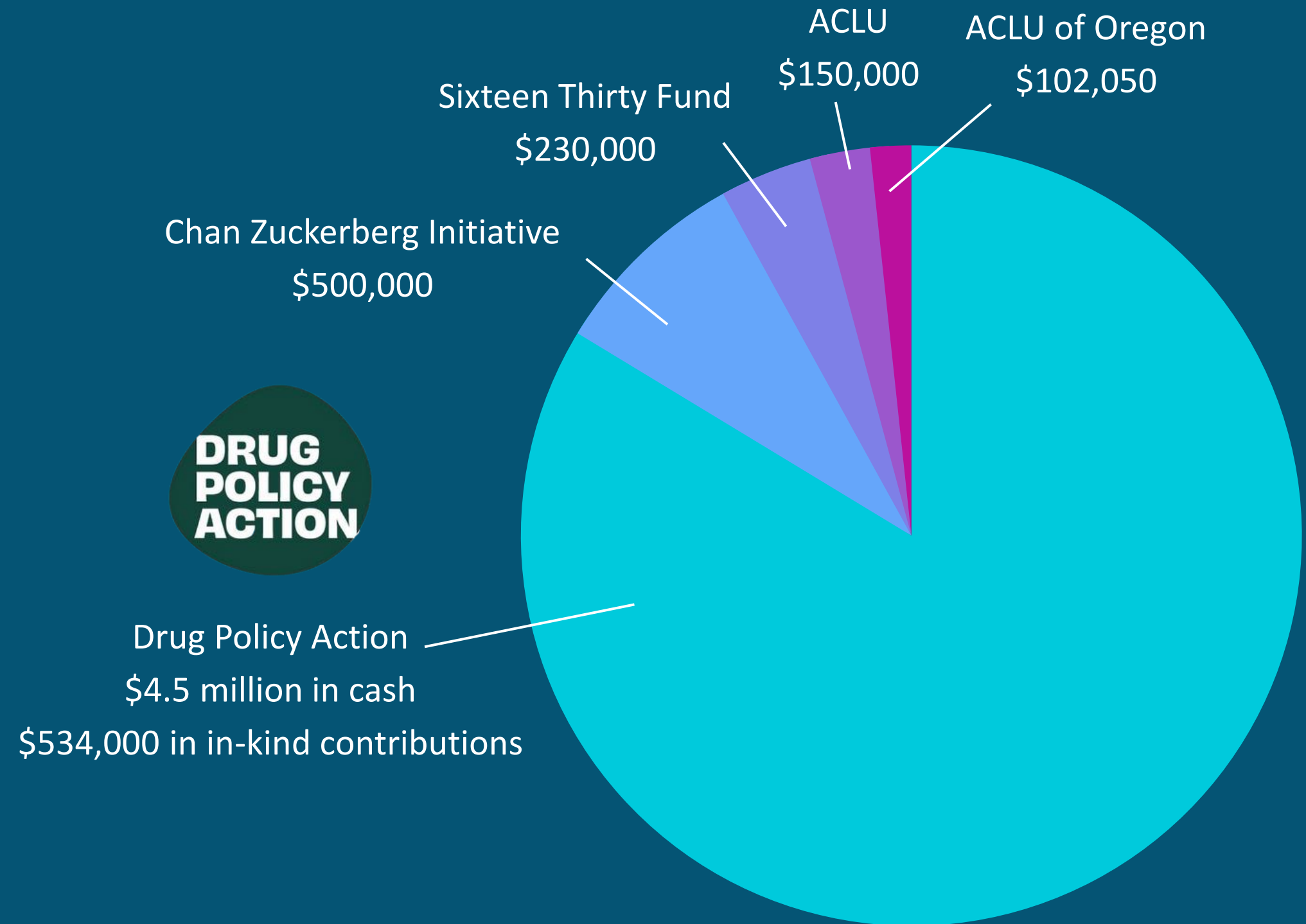
The Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative, also known as Measure 110, was a ballot measure passed in Oregon in 2020

Measure 110 decriminalized the personal possession of illicit drugs—including fentanyl, heroin, meth, and cocaine—meaning individuals would no longer be sent to jail for possession

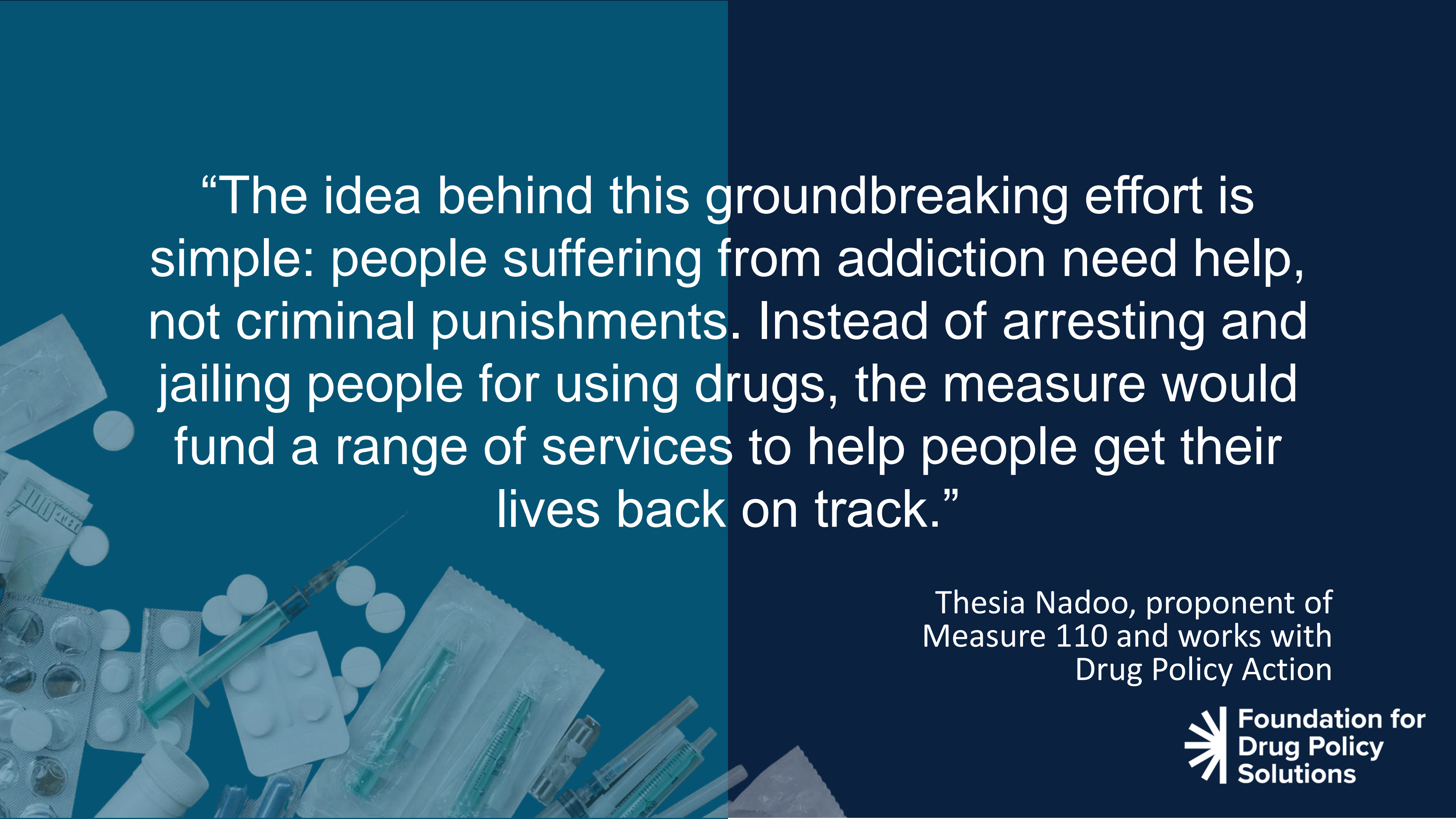
Rather than arresting individuals for possession, they would be given a choice: pay a \$100 fine or call a hotline to complete a health assessment

Proponents of Measure 110

The campaign for Measure 110 raised \$6.0 million and spent \$6.2 million

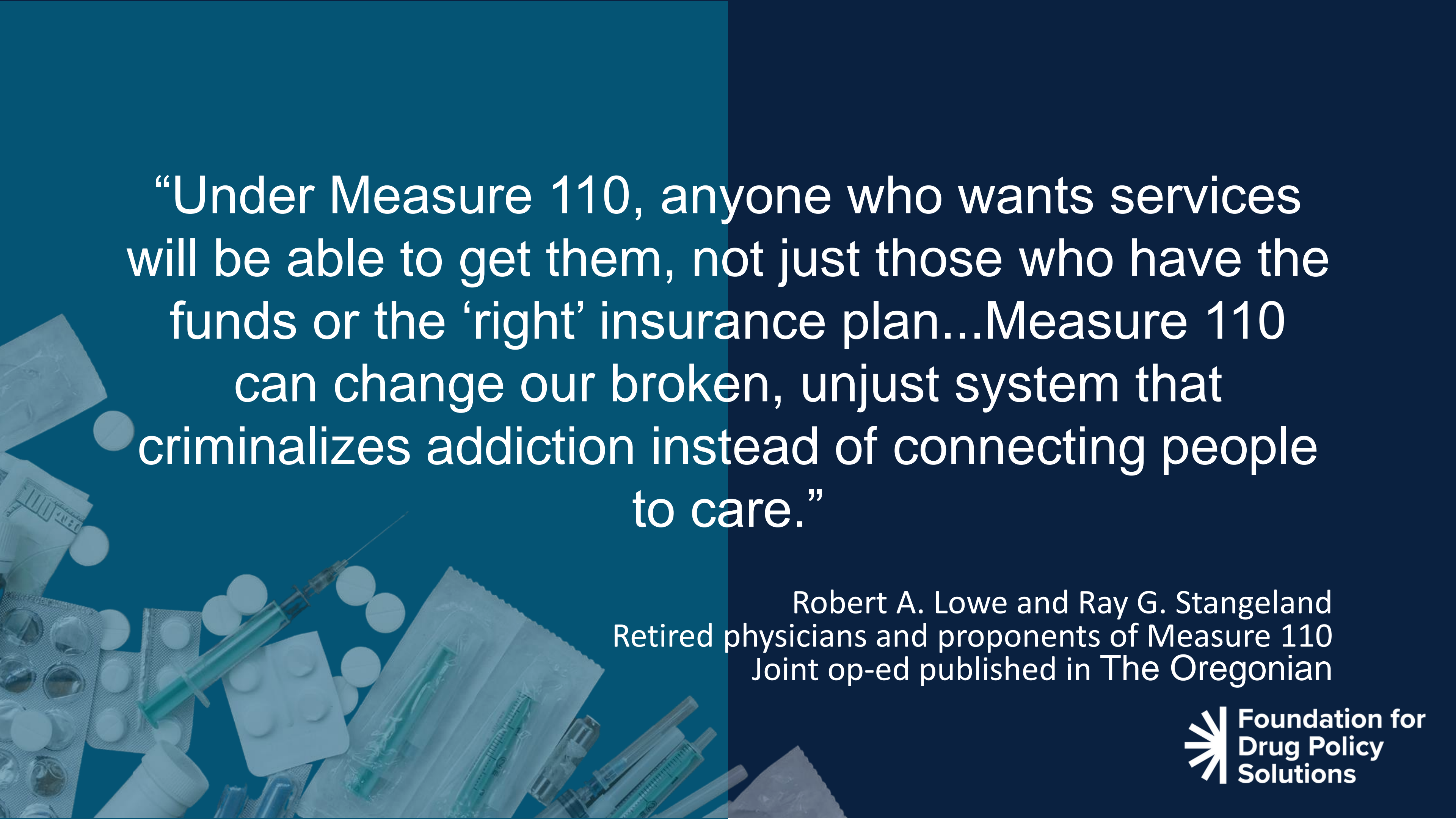


Measure 110 was also endorsed by the Democratic Party of Oregon, the Oregon Nurses Association, Human Rights Watch, NAACP Portland, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, and Students for Sensible Drug Policy, among other groups



“The idea behind this groundbreaking effort is simple: people suffering from addiction need help, not criminal punishments. Instead of arresting and jailing people for using drugs, the measure would fund a range of services to help people get their lives back on track.”

Thesia Nadoo, proponent of
Measure 110 and works with
Drug Policy Action

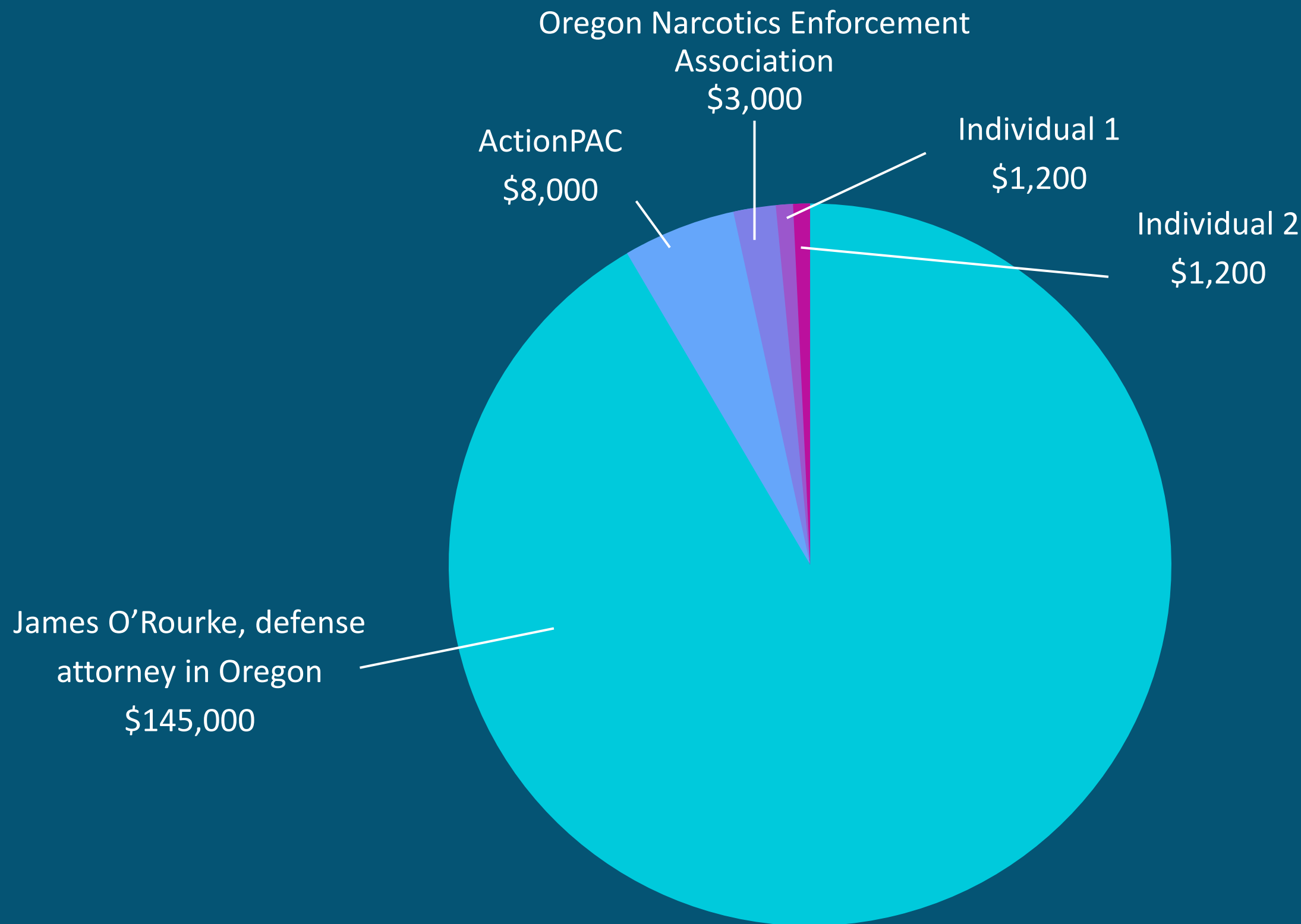


“Under Measure 110, anyone who wants services will be able to get them, not just those who have the funds or the ‘right’ insurance plan...Measure 110 can change our broken, unjust system that criminalizes addiction instead of connecting people to care.”

Robert A. Lowe and Ray G. Stangeland
Retired physicians and proponents of Measure 110
Joint op-ed published in The Oregonian

Opponents of Measure 110

The campaign against Measure 110 raised approximately \$168,000 and spent \$167,000



Measure 110 was opposed by former Democrat Governor John Kitzhaber, the Washington County Republican Party, the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, the Mental Health Association of Portland, the Oregon Catholic Conference, the Oregon Council for Behavioral Health, and Oregon Recovers, among others

Outcomes of Measure 110

>1%

of those helped with Measure 110 dollars last year entered [treatment](#), but many utilized harm reduction services,” such as syringe exchange programs and naloxone

The Lund
Report

 Foundation for
Drug Policy
Solutions

Outcomes of Measure 110

A [study](#) released in May 2023 by Portland State University found that many police officers believe giving a citation is “not worth the time,” given that there is no accountability for individuals to enter treatment

Washington County District Attorney Kevin Barton said there’s been an increase in “[Crimes](#) like car theft, car break-ins, catalytic converter theft. Things that really impact the quality of life for regular Oregonians”

A January 2023 report the Oregon Health Authority argued it’s “[too early to tell](#)” whether Measure 110 has worked as promised



Portugal

Did not legalize drugs

Kept supply illegal

Divert users to “dissuasion” commissions

Considerations:

Culture, culture, culture

Mixed results

Portugal

We're learning the wrong lessons.

The Washington Post

Portugal

Once hailed for decriminalizing drugs, Portugal is now having doubts

July 7, 2023

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/07/07/portugal-drugs-decriminalization-heroin-crack/>

Support for M-110 has steadily dropped

65%

of voters polled felt that Measure 110 has made drug addiction and overdoses in the state of Oregon worse

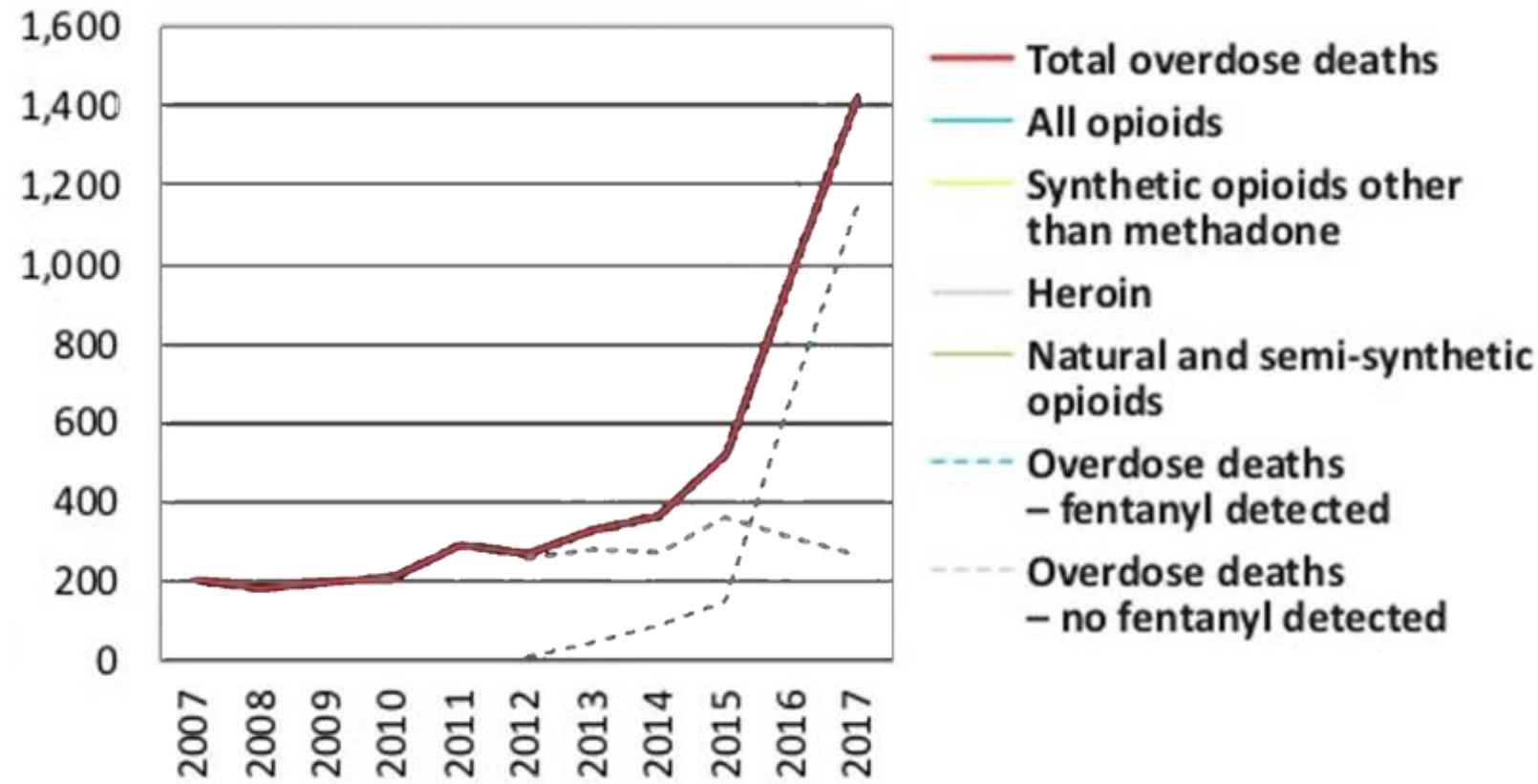
63%

of voters polled felt that the policy has worsened the homelessness crisis

Things *can* get worse!

Drug Overdose Deaths: US versus British Columbia, Canada

British Columbia, Canada



United States of America

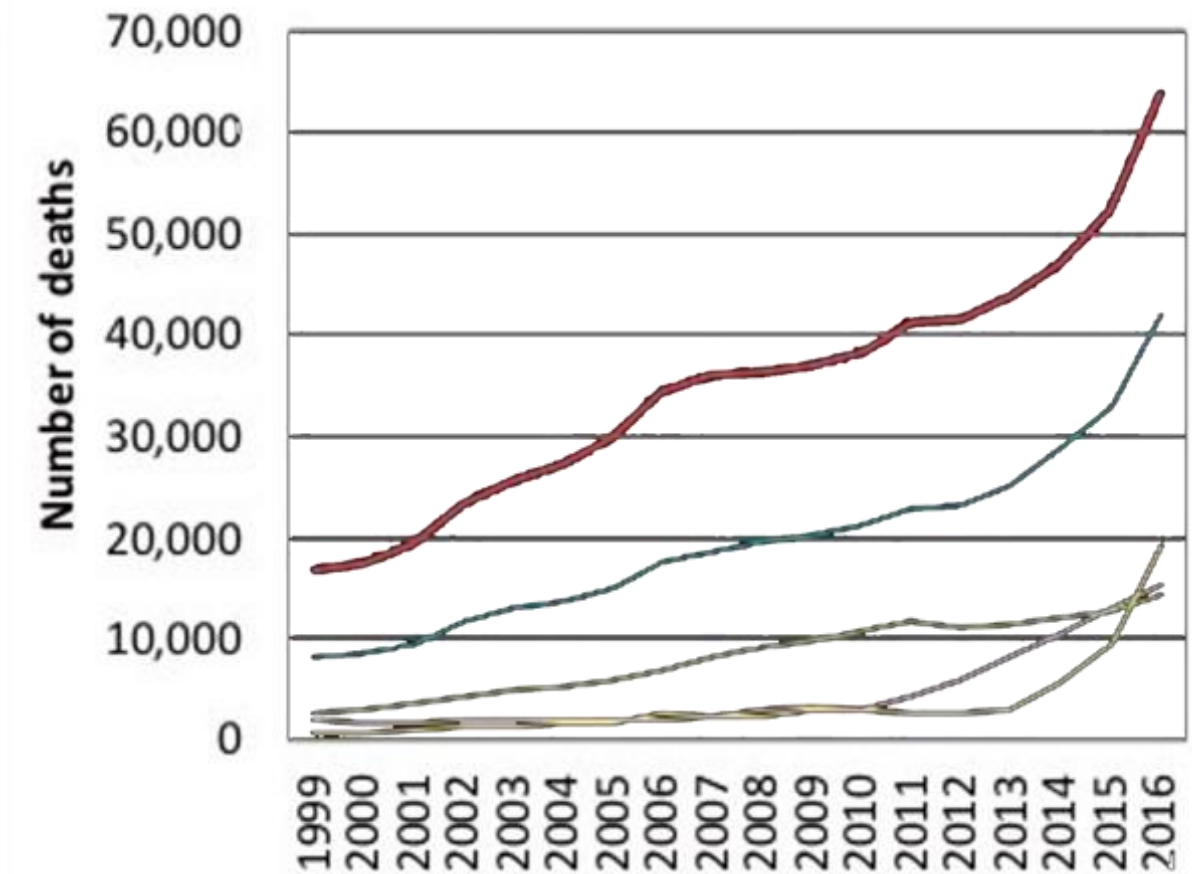


Table 1: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths by Month, British Columbia, 2011-2021^[3]

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	24	20	20	23	43	85	147	134	94	81	174
Feb	24	17	21	38	31	58	124	108	85	75	155
Subtotal	48	37	41	61	74	143	271	242	179	156	329
Mar	25	25	33	28	32	76	130	158	116	114	-
Apr	27	31	31	29	34	72	154	136	83	122	-
May	22	19	28	40	41	51	149	119	88	176	-
Jun	22	25	25	29	34	71	128	116	74	185	-
Jul	33	29	39	25	40	74	123	147	75	183	-
Aug	22	20	21	37	53	64	127	123	84	160	-
Sep	22	16	28	32	50	63	97	136	61	139	-
Oct	23	19	19	35	53	76	98	118	76	175	-
Nov	27	28	31	28	52	140	112	131	83	161	-
Dec	24	21	38	25	66	161	104	124	66	153	-
Total	295	270	334	369	529	991	1,493	1,550	985	1,724	329
Average	24.6	22.5	27.8	30.8	44.1	82.6	124.4	129.2	82.1	143.7	164.5

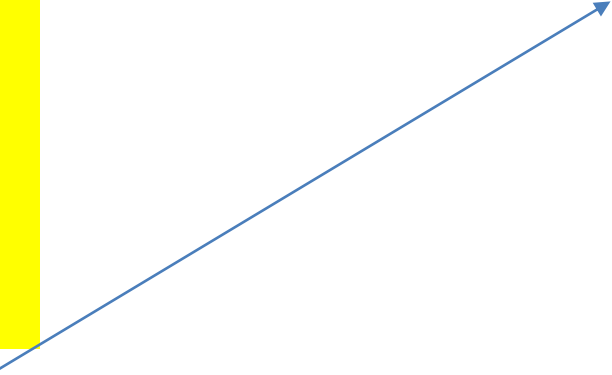
British Columbia, Canada, may have the worst opioid addiction and overdose problem in the developed world.



**US: 30 per
100,000**

**BC: 46 per
100,000**

**50%
higher in
BC**



The time to act is now.

Where do we go from here/considerations?

- Treatment Capacity
- Sobering Centers
- Drug Courts
- ...is there a better way?

Thank you for joining today!

info@learnaboutsam.org

www.learnaboutsam.org

www.gooddrugpolicy.org