

CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS

July Workshop Series:

HISTORY OF WAR ON DRUGS, EQUITY & JUSTICE



CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS

Workshop Series Calendar

JUNE

CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS
UNDERSTANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS



More Info:
CANNABIS.LACOUNTY.GOV



JULY

CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS
HISTORY OF WAR ON DRUGS, EQUITY & JUSTICE




More Info:
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AUGUST

CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS
INFORMED CANNABIS USE



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SEPTEMBER

CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS
CANNABIS 101: THE SCIENCE BEHIND CANNABIS



More Info:
CANNABIS.LACOUNTY.GOV



Disclaimer

The Los Angeles County Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) does not encourage the consumption or use of cannabis.

This session is to educate the community on the historical context for the War on Drugs, examining the impact of punitive and targeted cannabis enforcement policies and practices on marginalized communities, and efforts being taken to repair past cannabis criminalization through Senate Bill 1294 (California Cannabis Equity Act) and social equity programs.

This presentation should not be construed as expressing conclusions or opinions from OCM about the appropriate use of cannabis or cannabinoids for medical purposes or taken as medical advice. We encourage participants to seek out additional information and consult with your personal healthcare providers when making decisions about cannabis use.

WHO ARE WE?



Suzette Beamon
Senior Program Manager



PUBLIC HEALTH
ADVOCATES

Dr. Flojuane Cofer
Senior Director of Policy

WHAT WE WILL COVER TODAY

Provide historical context behind the War on Drugs & its impact on social equity

Purpose SB1294: CA Cannabis Equity Act

What's Next for LA County

Q&A, and open conversation

POP QUIZ



In what year did President Nixon declare a War on Drugs by signing a law that federally criminalized cannabis?

- 1968
- 1970
- 1972



POP QUIZ

In what year did President Nixon declare a War on Drugs by signing a law that federally criminalizes cannabis?

- 1968
- 1970
- 1972

ANSWER:

**1970
Controlled
Substance Act**

DR. FLO COFER



When The Smoke Clears

CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO

A new window will open.

MARIJUANA

JUSTICE.EQUITY.REINVESTMENT.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ADVOCATES

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY

Flojaune Griffin Cofer, PhD, MPH

Senior Director of Policy

Twitter: [@WearePHA](https://twitter.com/WearePHA)

THE FIRST US DRUG LAW



- San Francisco 1875
- Ban smoking opium in dens
- Targeted Chinese immigrants
- Focused on smoking, not other methods of ingestion

"Many women and young girls, as also young men of respectable family, were being induced to visit the Chinese opium-smoking dens, where they were ruined morally and otherwise." – HH Kane, MD, author of Opium-Smoking in America and China

REEFER MADNESS



There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others.

— *Harry J. Anslinger* —

*“Reefer makes **darkies** think they’re as good as **white men**.”*

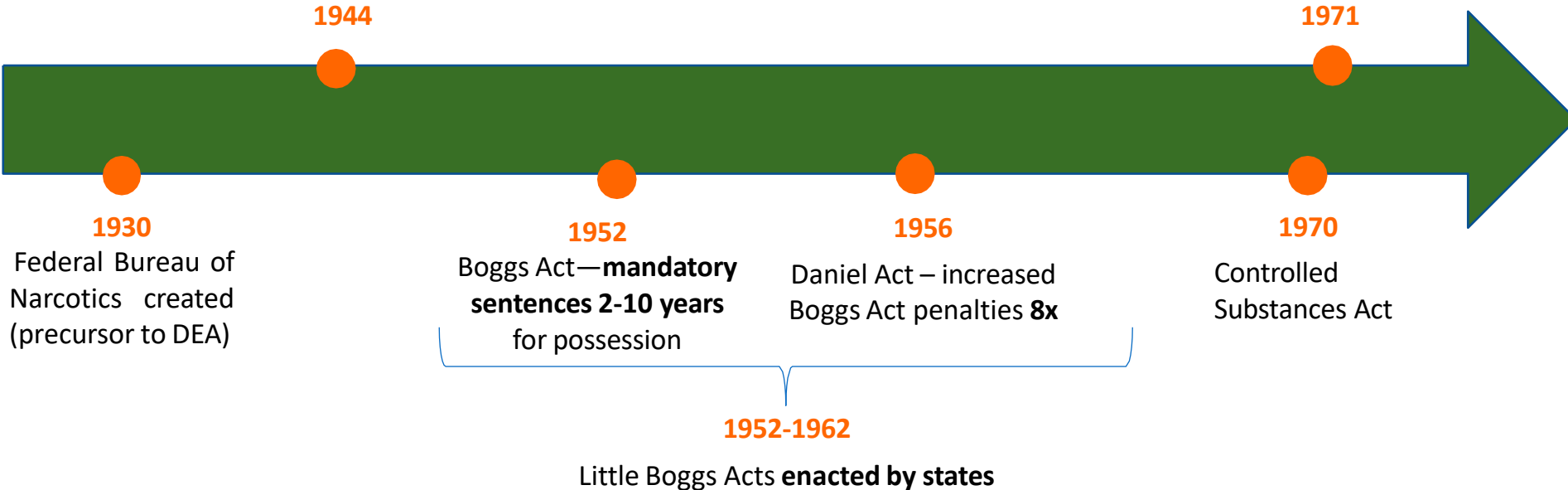
— Harry Anslinger, the first commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (1930-1962)



TIMELINE

New York Academy of Medicine report concluded that marijuana use “did not cause violent behavior, provoke insanity, lead to addiction, or promote opiate use” – dismissed by Anslinger

Nixon declares War on Drugs: **Public enemy #1**



TIMELINE

Shafer Commission report **advocated decriminalizing** marijuana for personal use—Nixon rejected

1972

DEA had acknowledged that **decriminalization was worth considering** (Carter Administration)

1977

DEA called marijuana the **most urgent drug problem** facing the United States (Reagan Administration)

1981

1984
Comprehensive
Crime Control
Act

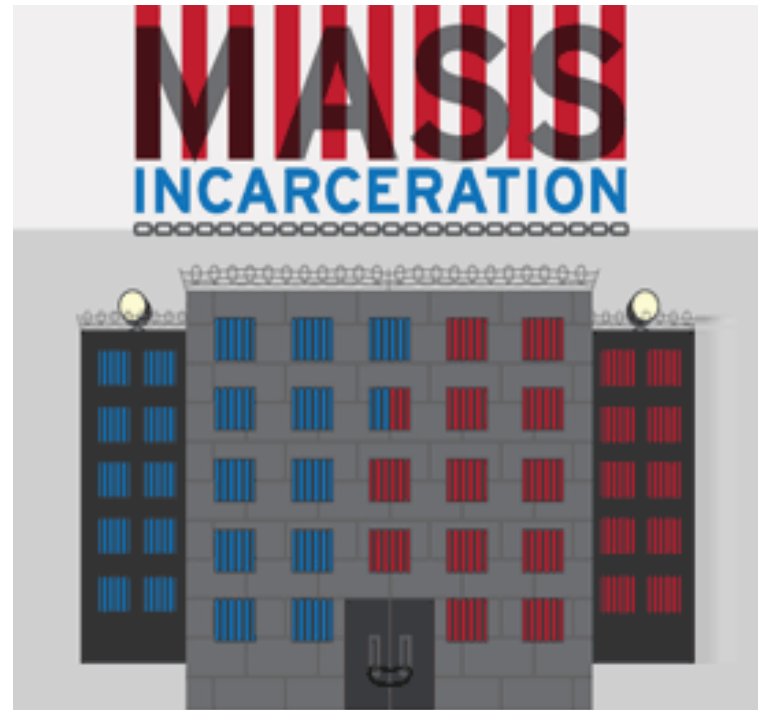
1986
Anti-Drug
Abuse Act

1988
Anti-Drug
Abuse
Amendment
Act

Raised federal penalties for marijuana possession, cultivation, and trafficking; sentences were determined by amounts

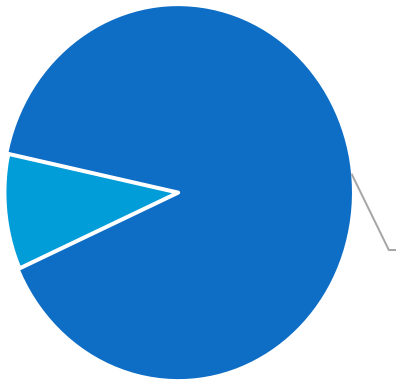
IMPACT OF THE WAR ON DRUGS IN CALIFORNIA

- Community **trauma**
 - Incarceration and family separation
- Felony convictions **jeopardized**
 - Immigration Status
 - Child custody
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Social services
- Marijuana prosecution concentrated
 - Black and Latino communities
 - **Entirely attributable to racial bias** in law enforcement
 - 90% simple possession



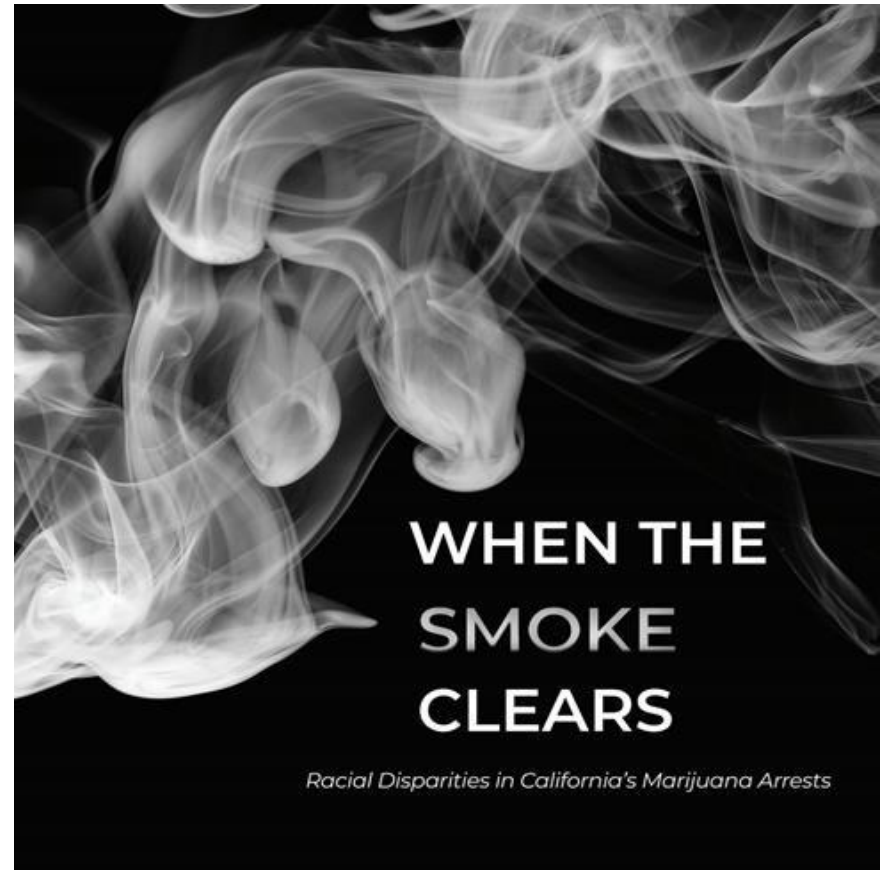
THE IMPACT IN NUMBERS

CA Arrests for Marijuana



90% Simple Possession

Access the report!



Disparities in Arrest Rates

Across race/ethnic groups people **use marijuana at the same rates**, yet...

Statewide Black people were **4X** more likely to be arrested than whites

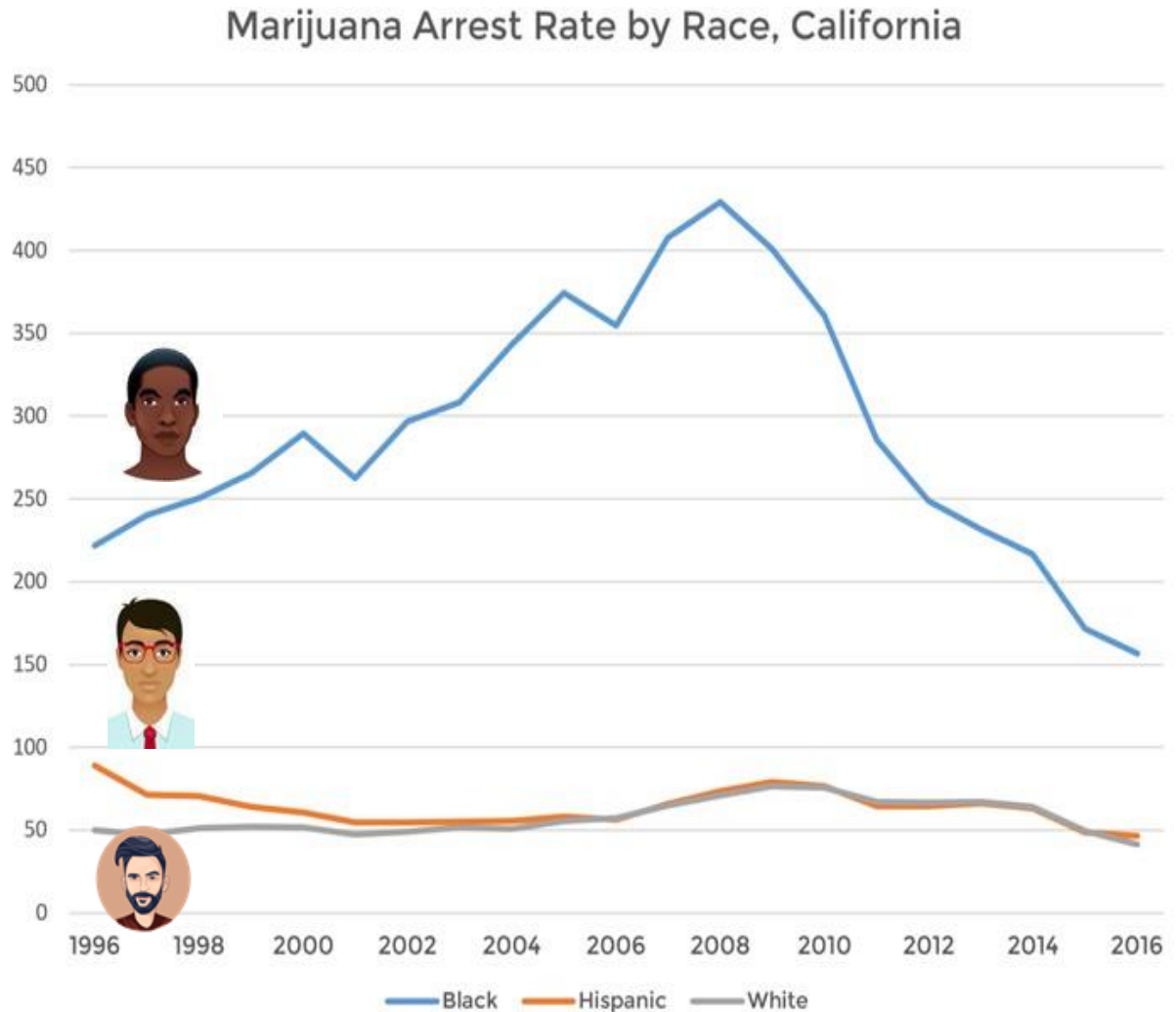
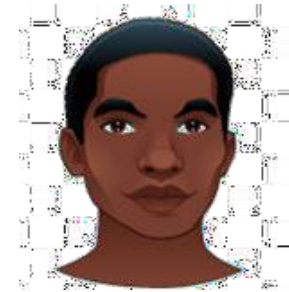


Figure 3. Trends in marijuana arrest rates by race in the state of California.

THE IMPACT IN NUMBERS

CA Arrests for Marijuana

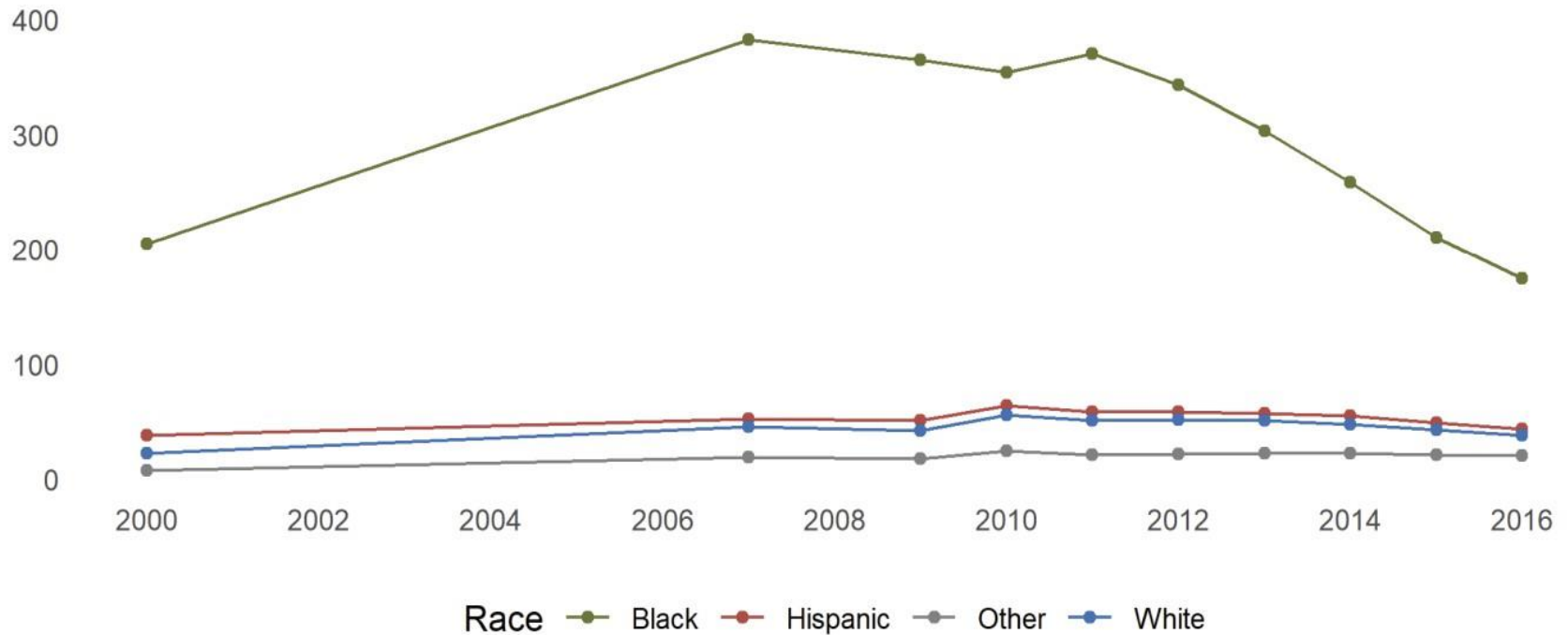


MISDEMEANORS 45% ↑ 100% ↑

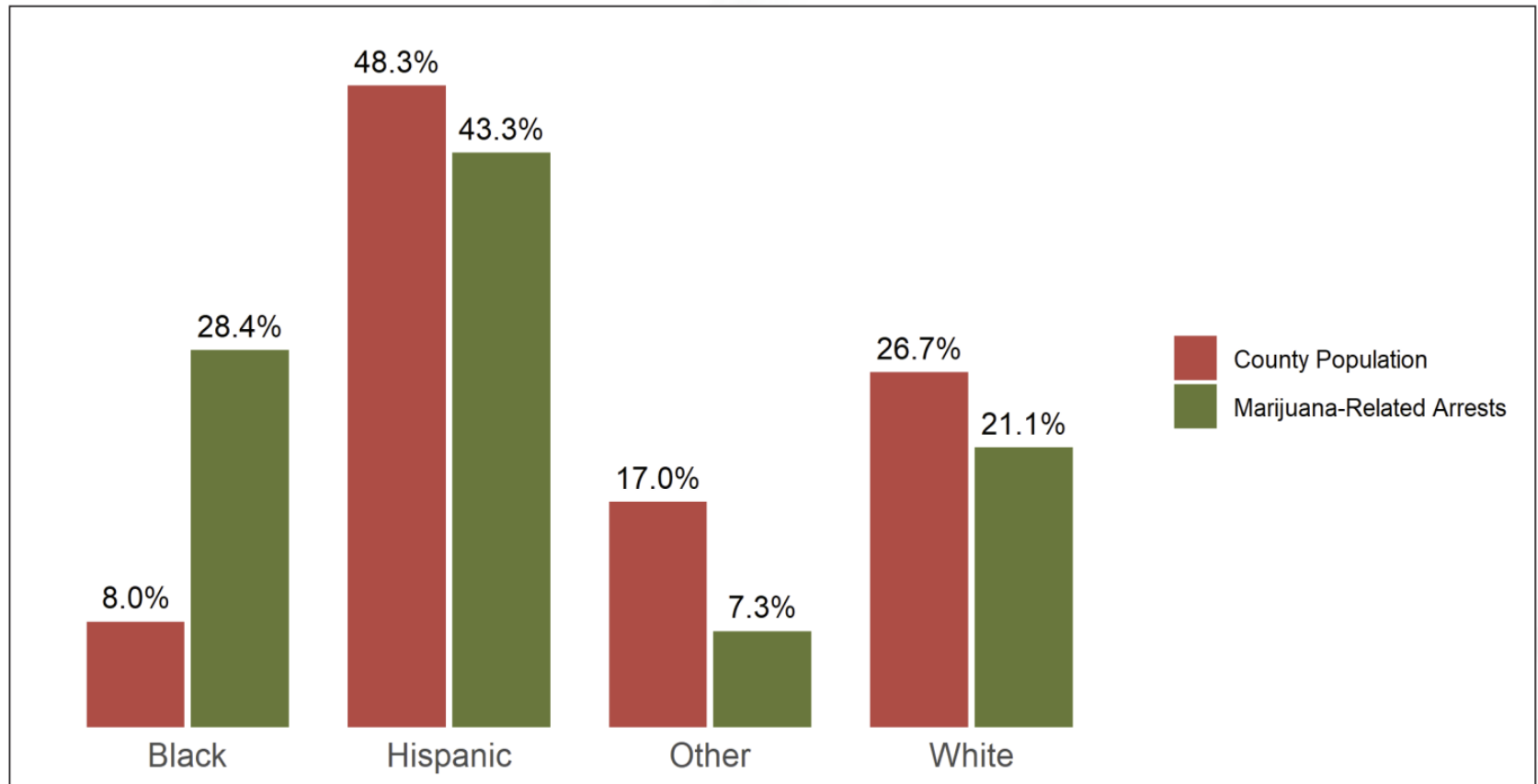
FELONIES 26% ↑ 500% ↑



LA COUNTY MARIJUANA-RELATED ARRESTS

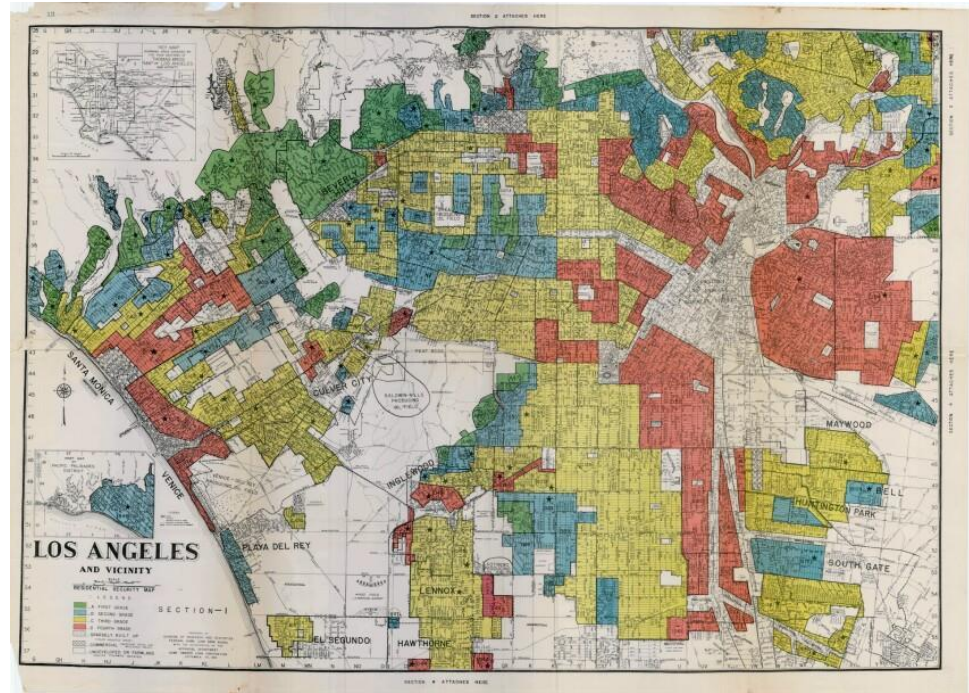


LA COUNTY MARIJUANA-RELATED ARRESTS



REDLINING: An Example of Institutional Racism

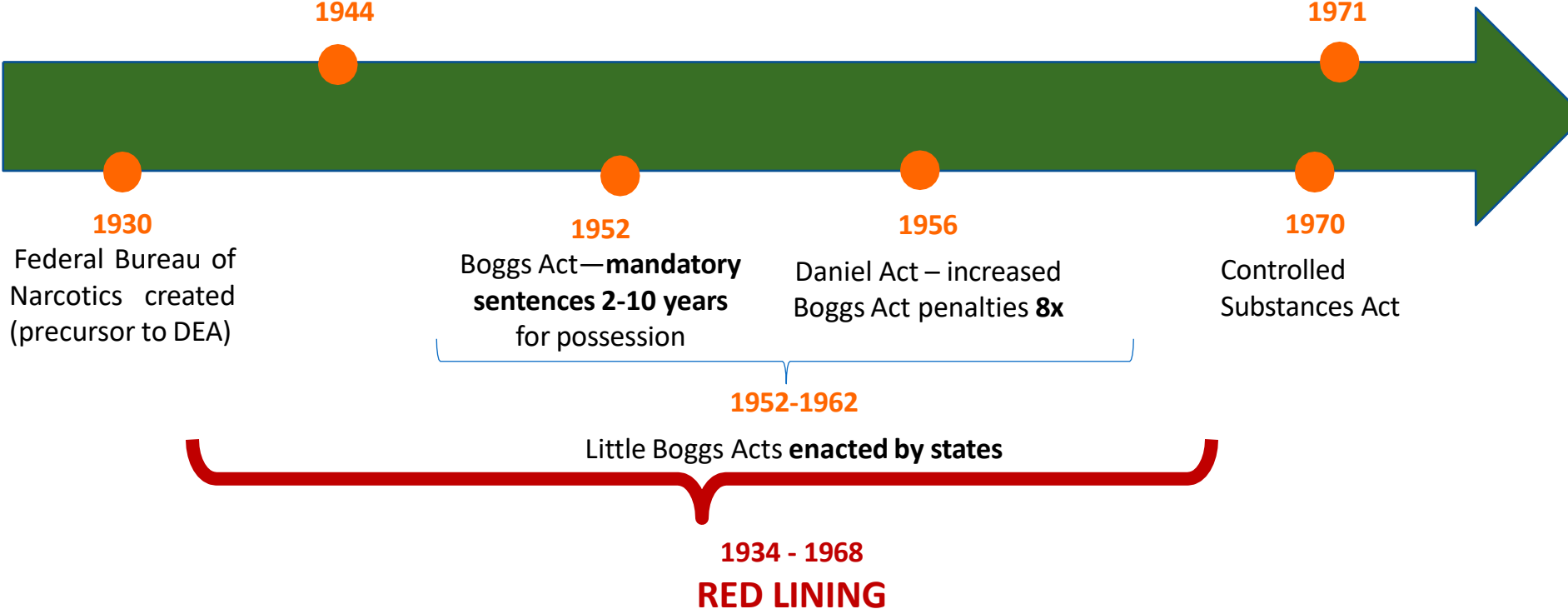
- Official Practice 1934-1968
- Grades that FHA gave to neighborhoods
- **Green (A)** - “best”
- **Blue (B)** - “still desirable”
- **Yellow (C)** - “definitely declining”
- **Red (D)** for “hazardous”
- System based on white supremacy and proximity to blackness



TIMELINE

New York Academy of Medicine report concluded that marijuana use “did not cause violent behavior, provoke insanity, lead to addiction, or promote opiate use” – dismissed by Anslinger

Nixon declares War on Drugs: **Public enemy #1**



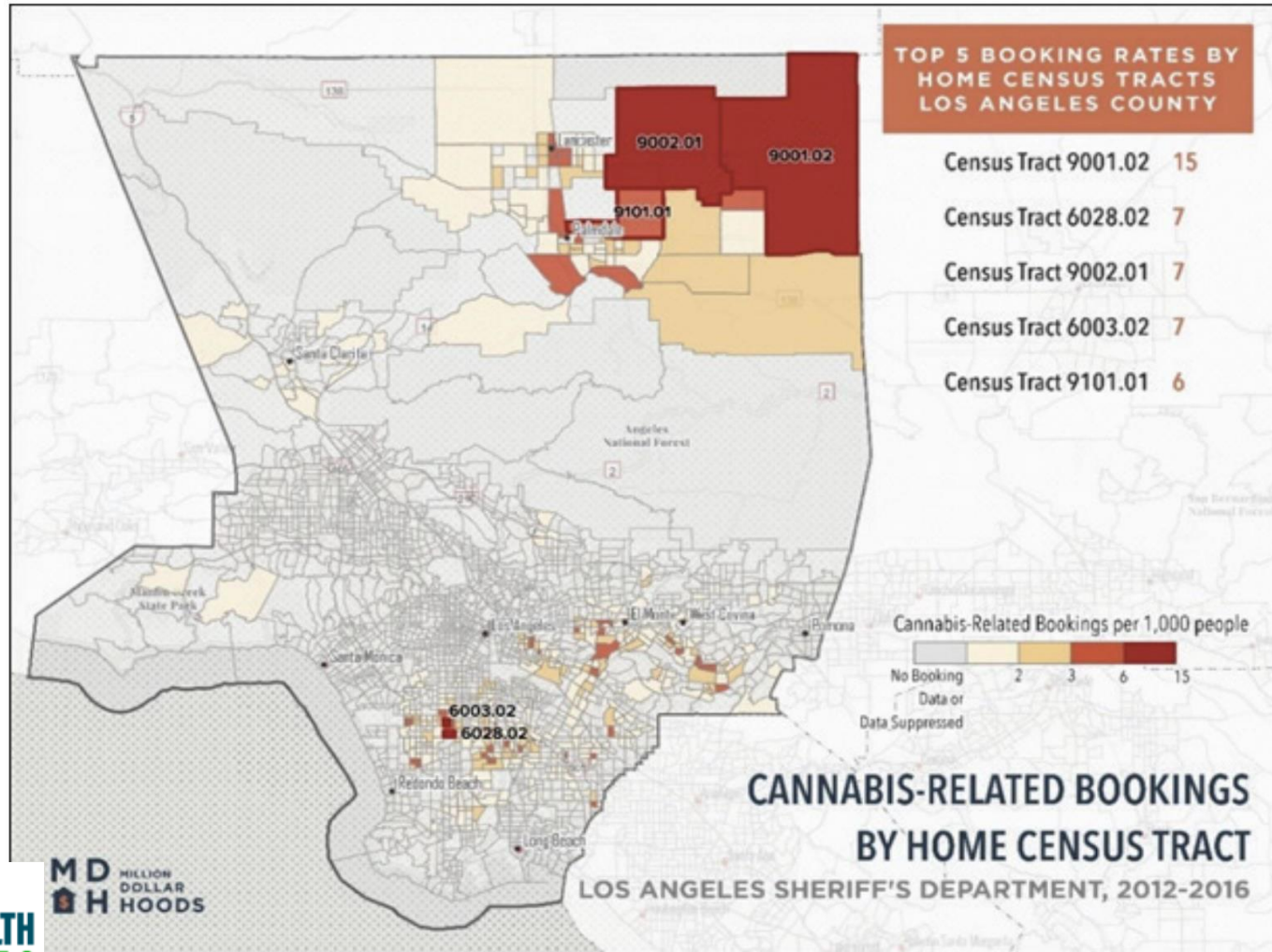
THE LEGACY OF REDLINING

Fifty Years later in 2018...

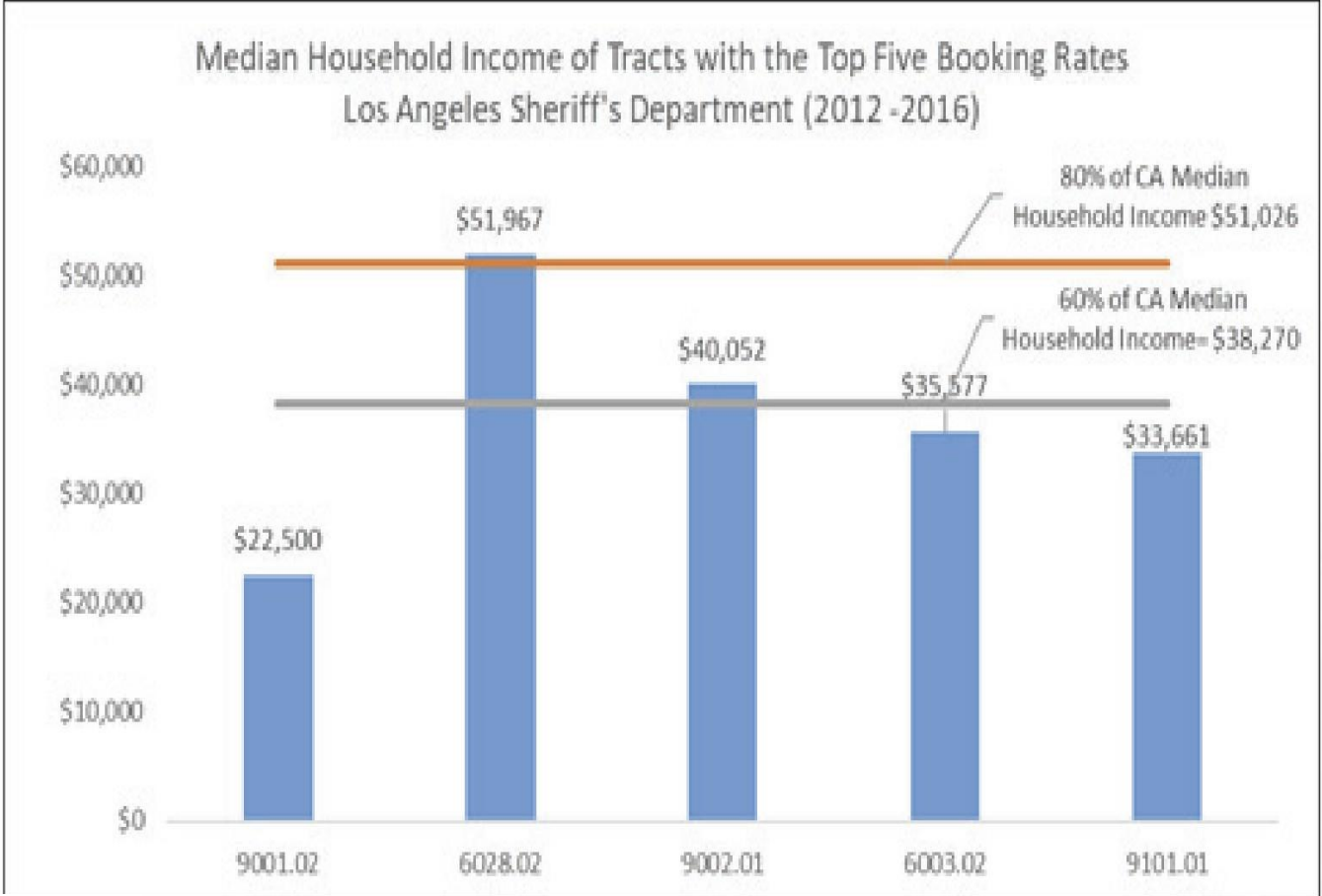
- **2/3** of **D areas** are inhabited by mostly Black and Latinos
- **3/4** of **D areas** continue to struggle economically
- **91%** of **A areas** remain middle-to-upper-income today
- **85%** of **A areas** still predominantly white



GEOGRAPHY OF MARIJUANA BOOKINGS IN LA

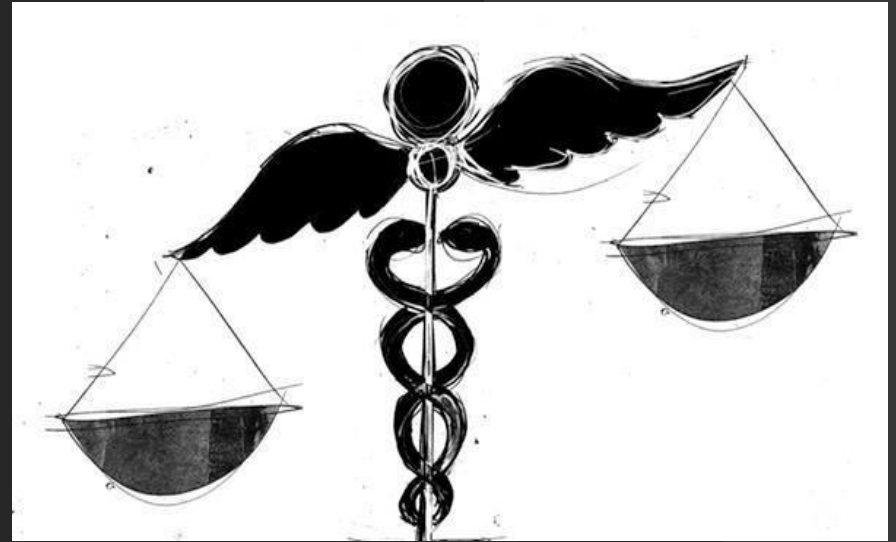


GEOGRAPHY OF MARIJUANA BOOKINGS IN LA



HEALTH INEQUITY

- A **systematic and unjust** difference in health and wellness
- Based on **membership** in an oppressed group with historical/ongoing restricted access to societal resources
- Not “natural”
- We have a **responsibility** to address and correct inequities



THE PROBLEM WON'T GO AWAY ON ITS OWN

- We have **begun to stop** the discriminatory practice of incarceration for drug offenses
- Focus on **systems**
- **Restoration** for historic wrongs
- Culture change takes **courage**; is costly and uncomfortable

Hope is
NOT a
Strategy

PROP 64 OVERVIEW

Adult Use of Marijuana Act

- **Legalizes** personal use and cultivation for adults **21+**
- Reduces criminal **penalties**
- Authorizes resentencing, dismissal and sealing of **past convictions**
- Regulation, licensing, taxation

PROP 64

PASSED NOV. 8, 2016
EFFECTIVE NOV. 9, 2016

 **57%**
APPROVAL RATE

PROP 64: THE FUNDING

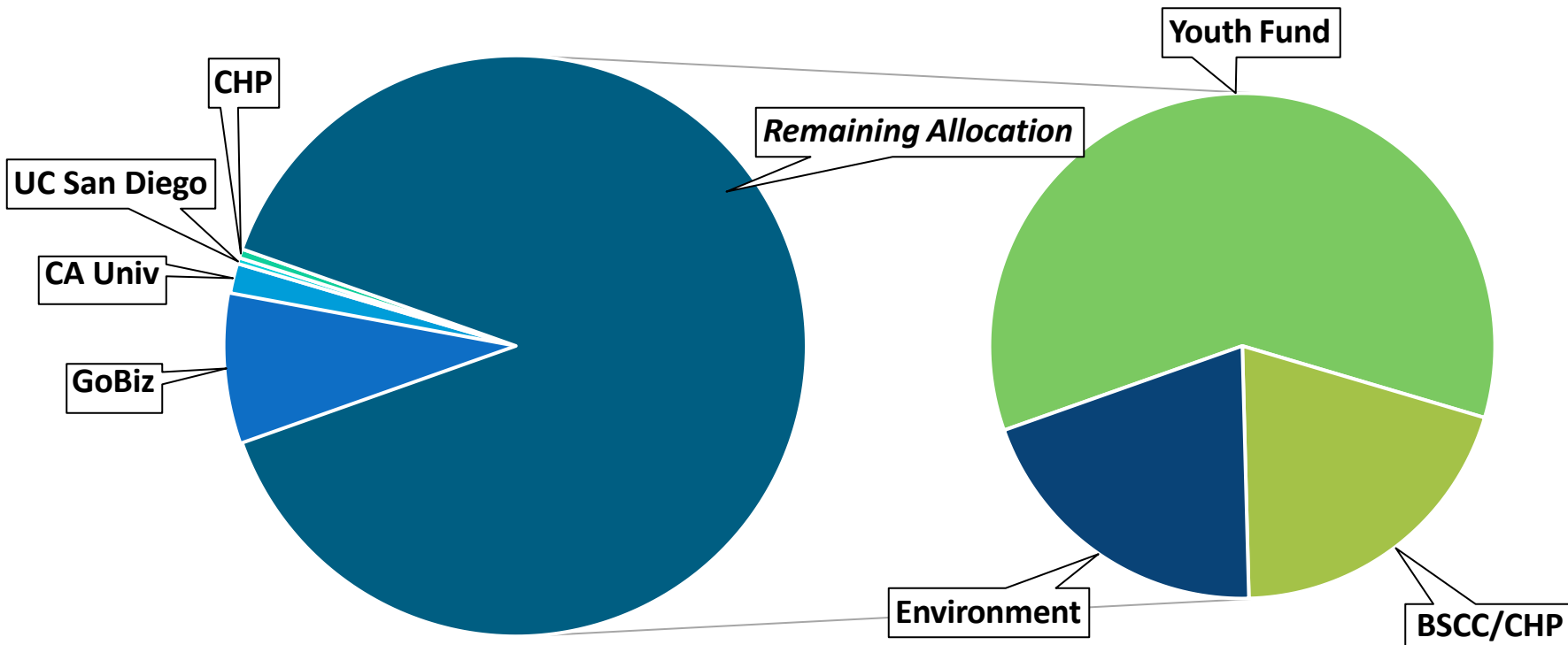
Specific Allocations

- **\$10-50M** Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
 - Community Grants to those affected by past drug policies
- **\$10M** Public University or Universities in California
 - Evaluate the measure
- **\$3M** Highway Patrol
 - Create methods to measure impaired driving
- **\$2M** UC San Diego Center for Medical Cannabis Research
 - Study risks and benefits of medical cannabis

Remaining Allocations

- **60%** Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment (DHCS)
- **20%** Environmental Restoration and Protection (Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Rec)
 - Clean and prevent enviro damage
- **20%** State and Local Government Law Enforcement (CHP and BOSCC)
 - Reduce driving while impaired and combat public health and safety risks

PROP 64: ALLOCATIONS



~\$500 – 700 million revenue per year

SOCIAL EQUITY

Concern: “Green Rush” largely flowing to wealthy, well-connected, largely white executives, not the communities harmed by prohibition.

Goal: Programs and policies that **ensure communities disproportionately harmed** by the drug war can access **economic opportunities** in the legal cannabis industry



SB 1294 OVERVIEW

Cannabis Equity Act of 2018

- Bureau of Cannabis Control create a **statewide Cannabis Equity Program**
- Work with Cities and Counties
- Provide **program support and grant funding** for local equity programs, applicants and licenses



Contact Information

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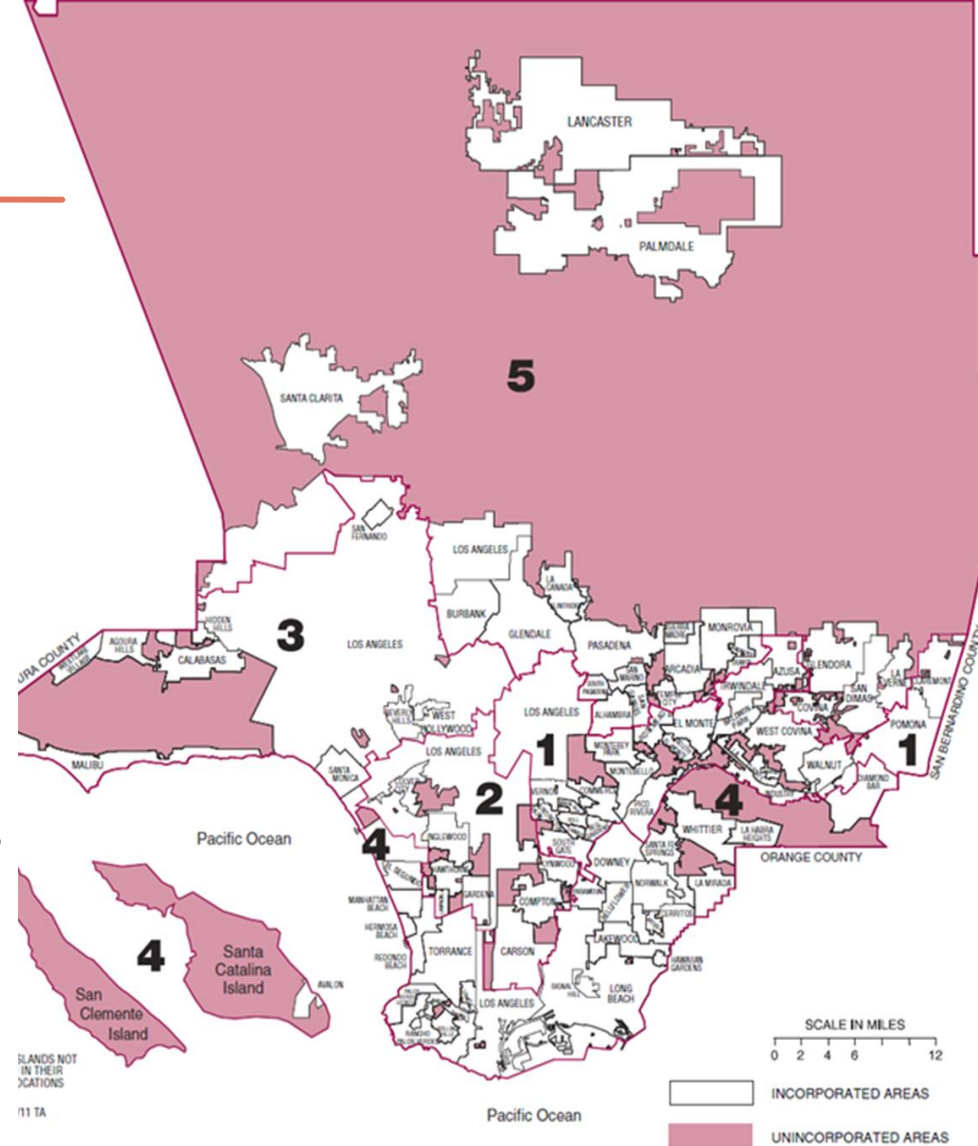
Twitter: @WearePHA @Flojaune



WHAT'S NEXT FOR LA COUNTY

UNINCORPORATED LA COUNTY

- On February 15, 2022, County Board of Supervisors approved cannabis regulatory framework for unincorporated areas centered around social equity.
- **90 total permits** regulating six (6) unique business activities:
 - 25 Retail permits
 - 25 Delivery permits
 - 10 Distribution, 10 Testing, 10 Manufacturing, 10 Cultivation permits
 - Microbusinesses will be allowed
- Retail & Delivery will be allowed in certain Commercial and Manufacturing Zones
- **600 ft. Specific-use Buffer** from schools (K-12), daycares, public parks, and public libraries
- Phased implementation



ROLE OF OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT



Responsibilities

- Develop and enforce regulations for permitted commercial cannabis businesses in unincorporated County.
- Ensure compliance with local and state laws.
- Promote public health and safety.
- Issue final business permits upon clearances and/or approvals from all other permitting departments, once program is adopted.

Collaboration with County Departments

- Coordination with other permitting departments.
- Facilitate inter-departmental communication and cooperation, including permitting departments and other impacted departments to address enforcement of illicit market, such as County Counsel and Sheriff.



CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

Public Health
Regional Planning
Public Works
Sheriff
County Counsel
District Attorney
Agricultural Commissions/Weights
and Measures
Fire
Treasurer and Tax Collector



WHAT'S NEXT FOR LA COUNTY

- Social Equity Program Development and Implementation
 - Anticipated program adoption early 2025.
- Ordinance Development
 - Proposed Zoning & Administrative Program regulations based on Board-approved framework.
 - Currently conducting community meetings in unincorporated areas throughout the County this month to inform communities on the proposed ordinances.
- Environmental Review
 - Kick-off a Program Environmental Impact Report to assess and disclose any potential environmental impacts of the proposed program.



Community Meetings

Proposed Rules and Regulations for Commercial Cannabis Businesses in Unincorporated Los Angeles County

The County of Los Angeles Office of Cannabis Management is hosting community meetings to discuss the proposed regulations for commercial cannabis businesses to legally operate within unincorporated areas of the County. Join us, in person or online, to help the County develop robust standards that support well-regulated cannabis businesses and protect our communities. Topics will include:

- ✓ Permit requirements for commercial cannabis businesses
- ✓ Safety and security standards
- ✓ Strategic zoning and geographic locations where businesses may be allowed
- ✓ Strategies to enhance public safety

Monday, July 15
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Rowland Heights Library
1850 Nogales St.
Rowland Heights, 91748

Tuesday, July 16
5:00 – 6:30 pm

South Whittier Community Resource Center
10750 Laurel Ave.
Whittier, 90605

Wednesday, July 17
5:00 – 6:30 pm

East Los Angeles Library
4837 E 3rd St.
Los Angeles, 90022

Thursday, July 18
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Lennox Library
4359 Lennox Blvd.
Lennox, 90304

Monday, July 22
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Acton Agua Dulce Library
33792 Crown Valley Rd.
Acton, 93510

Tuesday, July 23
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Altadena Community Center
730 E. Altadena Dr.
Altadena, CA 91001

Wednesday, July 24
5:00 – 6:30 pm

A C Bilbrew Library
150 E El Segundo Blvd.
Los Angeles, 90061

Thursday, July 25
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Topanga Library
122 N Topanga Cyn Blvd.
Topanga, 90290

Wednesday, July 31
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Virtual
Visit cannabis.lacounty.gov
for details

Register to Attend:
bit.ly/lacountycannabis



Spanish Interpretation Available
Light Refreshments Served

For more information,
visit cannabis.lacounty.gov

To submit comments about this project, email cannabis@lacounty.gov



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CONSUMER &
BUSINESS AFFAIRS



WAYS TO IDENTIFY A LICENSED BUSINESS

Look for state and local license or ask to see those licenses

- **CA Dept. of Cannabis Control License Search Tool:** <https://search.cannabis.ca.gov/>
- **Find a licensed retailer near you:** <https://search.cannabis.ca.gov/retailers>

County Emblem Program for Authorized Cannabis Stores

- Universal emblem in conjunction with Public Health's Cannabis Compliance and Enforcement Program inspections: <https://dcba.lacounty.gov/cannabisemblemprogram/>
- Contracted cities: Baldwin Park, Culver City, El Monte, Lancaster, Malibu, City of LA.



REPORTING UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES

County residents can report Unlicensed Cannabis Businesses via The Works App.

- Photos
- GPS Coordinates
- Track Status of inquiry
- Bilingual User Instructions are available

Additional Ways to Report Unlicensed Dispensaries in unincorporated areas:

- Office of Cannabis Management:
Cannabis@lacounty.gov
- LA County Sheriff Department:
marijuanatips@lasd.org
- If outside of unincorporated areas, contact your local law enforcement agency.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CONSUMER & BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Now you can report Unlicensed Cannabis Businesses in the Works App!

¡Ahora puede denunciar negocios de cannabis sin licencia en la aplicación Works!

Residents are now able to report unlicensed cannabis businesses in their communities and will be able to easily attach a photo, GPS coordinates, or other information via The Works App.

This convenient new option offers a one-stop solution for County residents to report and track complaints.

You can also report unlicensed cannabis businesses via email: cannabis@lacounty.gov.

Residentes ahora pueden denunciar negocios de cannabis sin licencia en sus comunidades y podrán adjuntar fácilmente una foto, coordenadas de GPS u otra información a través de la aplicación The Works.

Esta nueva opción ofrece una solución conveniente para denunciar y seguir sus quejas.

También puede denunciar negocios de cannabis sin licencia por correo electrónico: cannabis@lacounty.gov.

The Works
A one-stop solution for County residents to report and track complaints.

- REPORT: capture a photo
- LOCATE: find unlicensed business
- TRACK: follow complaint status
- EMAIL: share your reporting data

Available for iOS and Android
Available on the App Store and Google Play

Available for iOS and Android
Disponible para iOS y Android.
<http://pw.lacounty.gov/theworks>

320 W TEMPLE ST. G-18 LA, CA 90012.
CANNABIS.LACOUNTY.GOV

Q&A


OPEN FLOOR FOR
QUESTIONS AND
CONVERSATION

THANK YOU

Stay Connected



 Cannabis@lacounty.gov

 Cannabis.lacounty.gov



Join us at our next workshop in August!

INFORMED CANNABIS USE

- 8/17 – A C Bilbrew Library
- 8/21 – Hacienda Heights ORC
- 8/24 – Quartz Hills Library
- 8/28 – South Whittier CRC



Starting Next Week...

PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS

- 7/15 – Rowland Heights Library
- 7/16 – South Whittier Community Resource Center
- 7/17 – East Los Angeles Library
- 7/18 – Lennox Library
- 7/22 – Acton Agua Dulce Library
- 7/23 – La Cañada Flintridge Library
- 7/24 – A C Bilbrew Library
- 7/25 – Topanga Library
- 7/31 – Virtual



COMMUNITY MEETINGS