

LETTERS

Will use of cannabis increase more rapidly with legalization than during prohibition?

This letter is in response to the recent editorial “Watching Canada’s Experiment with Legal Cannabis.”¹

Use of cannabis increased rapidly during prohibition (20-fold since 1972, as in the United Kingdom).² So legalization is not flawed just because use continues to rise somewhat after legalization.

Remember also that legalization may reduce the black market for cannabis and related crime, and may protect youth from being recruited by criminal gangs. A large number of young people will no longer get a criminal record for cannabis possession and will not be labelled as criminals. This is very important.

Cannabis could also replace alcohol and more dangerous substances.

We have to consider a lot more than just any increase in use.

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References

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