ILLEGAL DRUGS: A TIMELINE A Short History of the Federal Legality of 12 Drugs in the United States KEY Federal ban Federal ban When drug The drug Registry **Federal** was developed must be required except for with other ban medical exceptions accurately labeled uses 1874 Heroin is first developed. 1875 The first-ever drug control law in the U.S. is passed as a city ordinance in San Francisco to stop opium dens. 1890 1906 The Pure Food and Drug Act states that some drugs must be accurately labeled with their contents and dosage. 1909 The Smoking Opium Exclusion Act bans possession, 1912 importation, and use of opium for smoking. MDMA is 1910 developed. 1914 Harrison Narcotics Act 1919 Methamphetamine hydrochloride is synthesized. 1920 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution 1924 Anti-Heroin Act 1930 The Federal Bureau of Narcotics is created. 1933 21st Amendment (repeal of the 18th Amendment) 1938 LSD is synthesized in a lab. 1937 The Marihuana Tax Act creates an excise tax on marijuana distribution and possession. This "Catch-22" law makes marijuana effectively illegal save for medical and industrial uses. 1950 1951 The Boggs Act imposes criminal penalties for violations and establishes mandatory minimum sentences. 1956 The Narcotic Control Act, also known as the Daniel Act, increases penalties. 1960 Fentanyl is made in a lab. 1960 1965 An amendment to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act intends to regulate "the possession, manufacture, or sale of depressant, stimulant, and hallucinogenic drugs," but the specific hallucinogenic drugs aren't listed. 1969 In Leary v. United States, 1970 the Supreme Court rules Controlled Substances Act that the Marihuana Tax Act violates the Fifth 1971 Amendment. President Richard Nixon coins the term "War on Drugs." 1973 The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is established. 1978 The American Indian Religious Freedom Act allows for non-drug 1980 uses of peyote and mescaline in religious ceremonies. 1985 The DEA declares an emergency ban on MDMA. 1986 The Anti-Drug Abuse Act changes the system of supervised release from a rehabilitative system to a punitive one. 1990 The Supreme Court rules that the state of Oregon can ban the use of mescaline in Native American ceremonies. 1993 The Religious 1994 Freedom Restoration An amendment Act allows peyote to the American once again. Indian Religious Freedom Act 1997 protects the The Supreme 1998 possession, Court rules that The federal government commissions a first-ever study of consumption, the Religious drug policy by the National Research Council. and culitivation Freedom of peyote as a Restoration Act is part of bona 2001 unconstitutional fide religious The official data for the study is published. The NRC calls when applied ceremonies. the fact that the government did not study its own policies against states. "unconscionable." 2011 The American Civil Liberties Union argues that sentencing 2012 for MDMA/Ecstasy is based on outdated science. Colorado and Washington legalize marijuana. 2014 Alaska, Minnesota, and Oregon legalize 2016 marijuana. California, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Maine legalize recreational marijuana. 2018 The federal farm bill 2019 legalizes low-THC Several U.S. cities, hemp. including Denver and Oakland, 2020 As of this year: decriminalize psilocybin. THEWEEDBLOG 1 in 5 45.2% 74,011 MARIJUANA NEWS AND INFORMATION people 451,000 incarcerated people of inmates held by https://www.deamuseum.org/idatour/enforcing-the-new-drug-laws-6.html https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43749.pdf are in prison the Federal Bureau of Prisons https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297c/poverty_prejudice/paradox/htele.html for drug offenses. are in for drug offenses. https://www.history.com/topics/crime/the-war-on-drugs https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_United_States_drug_prohibition http://www.naabt.org/laws.cfm https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_offenses.jsp https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2019.html