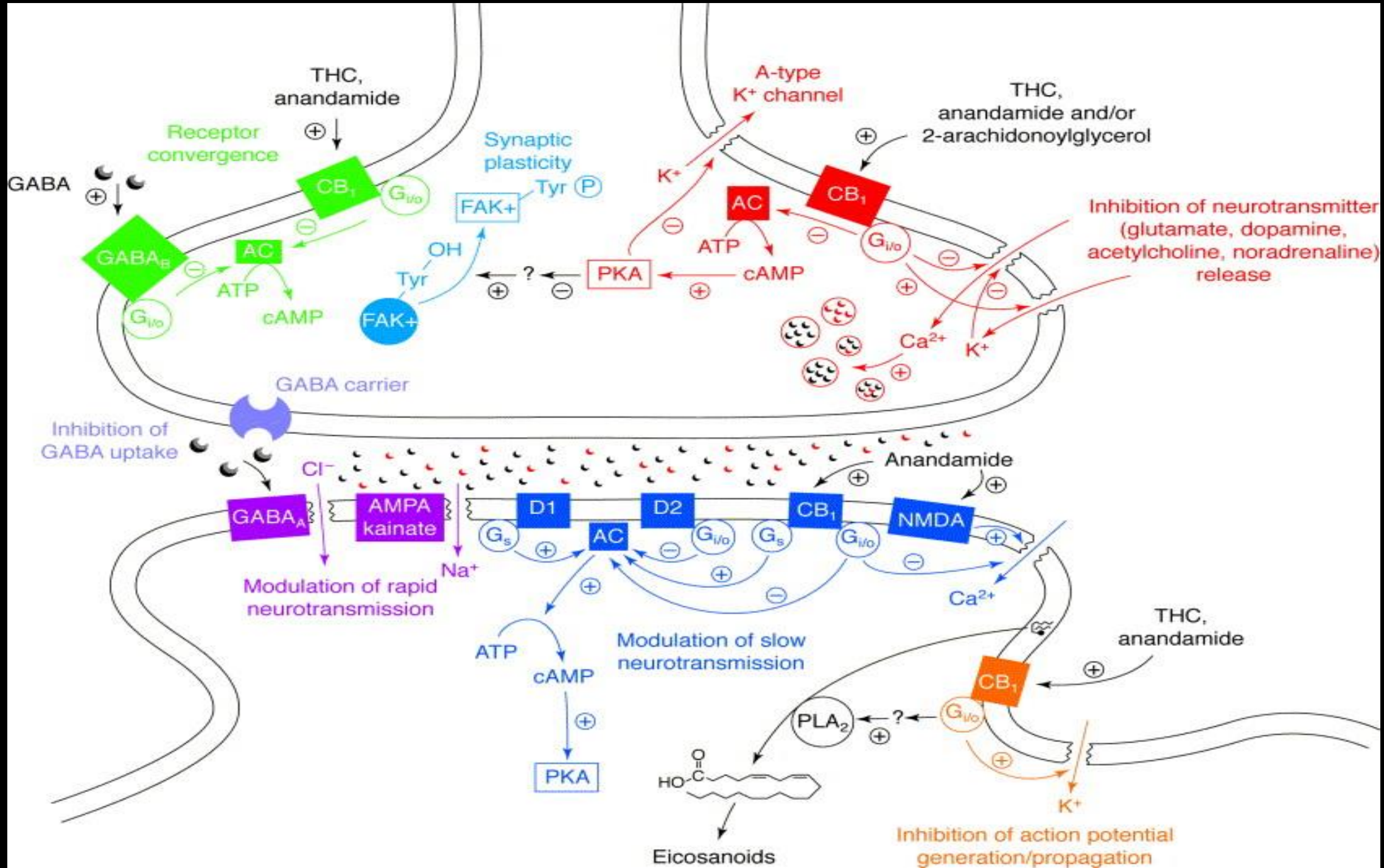# Cannabis consultation

9-07-2020

The Argument

- Criminalization approach vs public health approach

- Negative impact of cannabis – current vs proposed

- Positive impact – current vs proposed

Cannabis

Distribution of CB1 Receptors

cerebral cortex
decision making, cognition, & emotinal behavior

caudate nucleus
learning & memory system

putamen
regulate movements & influence various types of learning

globus pallidus
regulate voluntary movements

amygdala
responsible for anxiety & stress, emotion & fear, pain

hypothalamus
body temperature, feeding, neuroendocrine function

hippocampus
memory & learning

substantia nigra
important role in reward, addiction, & movement

cerebellum
motor control & coordination

dorsal vagal complex
emesis

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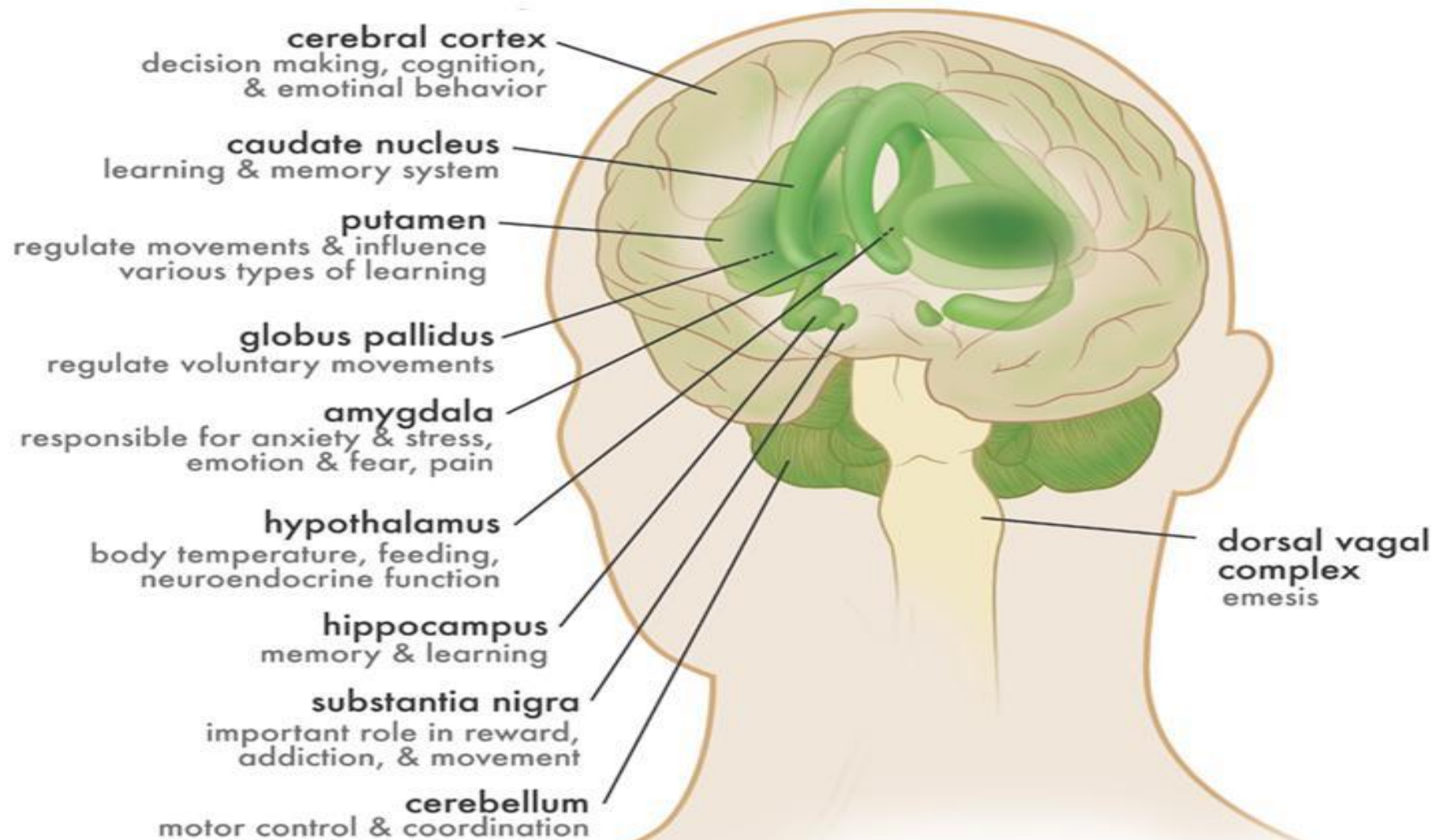www.ccic.net

FIGURE 1: Neuron Growth & Connections Over Time

Newborn   1 Month   9 Months   2 Years   Adult

Source: Corel, JL. The postnatal development of the human cerebral cortex. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 1975

Indicators	Saint Lucia	St. Vincent	Jamaica	Trinidad	Average
Prevalence:					
Life-Time	28.8	26.4	21.1	16.6	20.6
Past Year	17.2	19.4	11.9	10.7	13.7
Past Month	10.7	14	6.3	6.2	8.8
Past Year Use by Age:					
Male	22.7	24.8	14.5	13.8	17.5
Female	11.8	15.3	10.1	8.0	10.3
Past Year Use by Age					
14 or less	10.6	12.3	5.4	6.0	7.5
15-16	19.9	20.8	16.5	13.2	16.1
17+	25.5	30.4	12.2	12.5	19.8

Use of Marijuana in Relation to Perceived Risk and Daily Use of Tobacco Cigarettes or Marijuana among U.S. Students in Grade 12, 1975–2013.
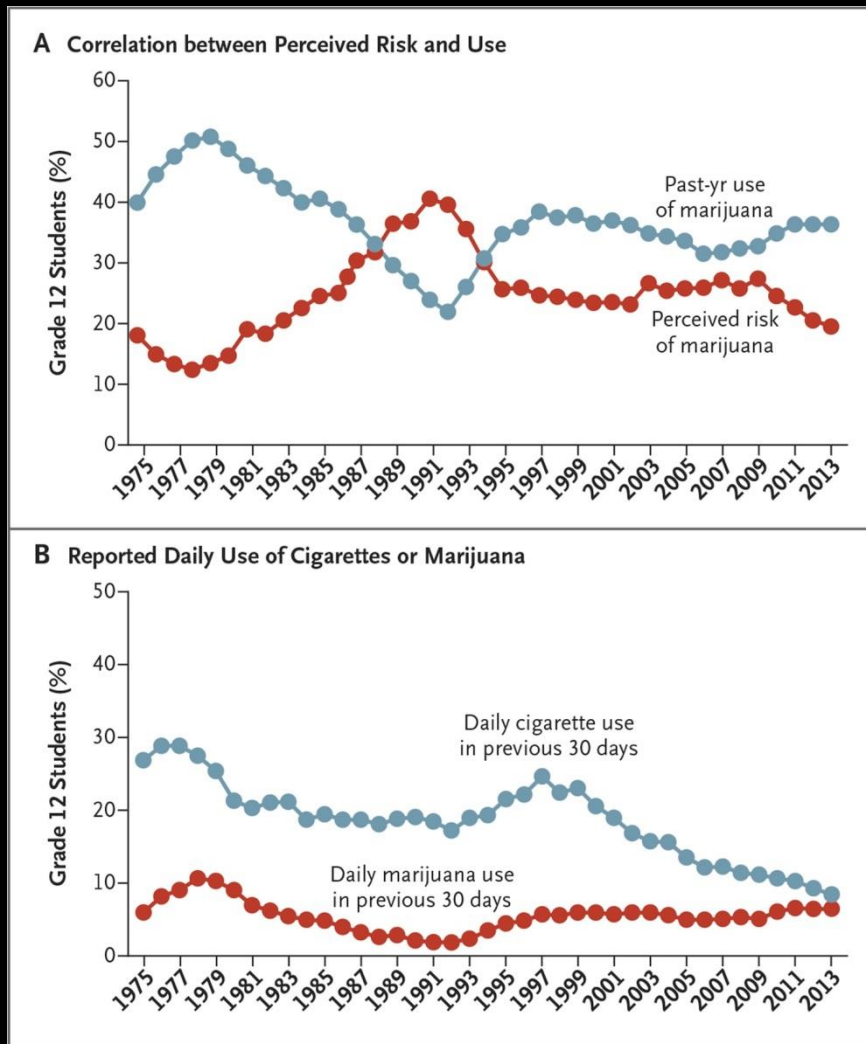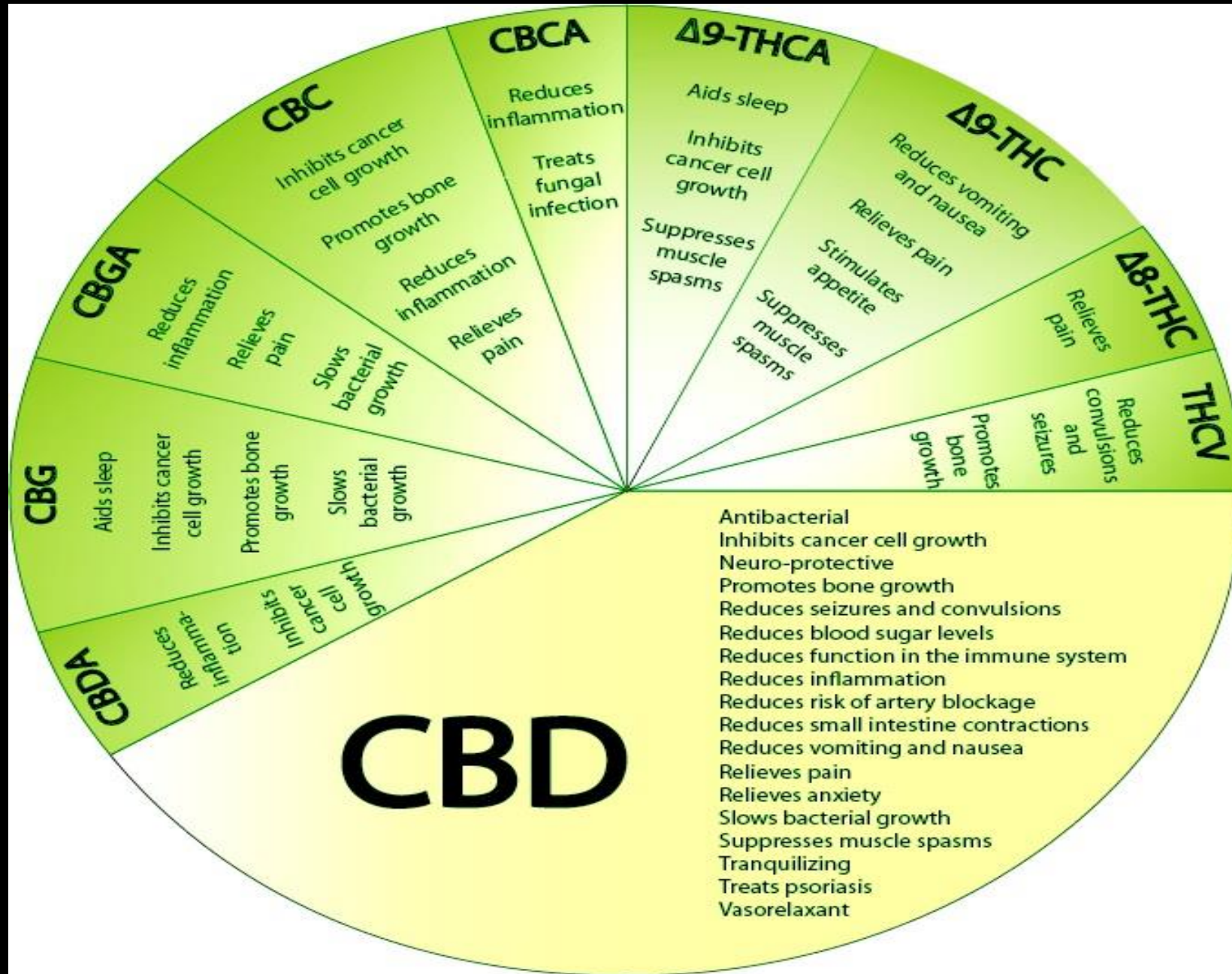
Medicinal uses

Conclusive or substantial evidence

- Chronic pain
- Anti-emetic for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting
- Muscle spasm in MS
- Anti-inflammatory

Moderate evidence

- Improving sleep disorders
- Improved airway dynamics with acute use but not chronic
- Certain Seizures (Charlottes Web - low THC high CBD)

Cannabis disorders

DSM-5
- Cannabis use disorder
- Cannabis intoxication
- Cannabis withdrawal
- Other Cannabis induced disorders
  – Psychosis
  – Anxiety disorder
  – Sleep disorder

Others
- Amotivational syndrome
- Hyperemesis

Substance abuse

- The gateway theory has been debunked and replaced by the common liability theory
- Address Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Education
- Providing supportive counseling services
- Only a legalized regime can.

Adverse effects especially with daily use of high THC

Conclusive or substantial evidence
- Psychosis
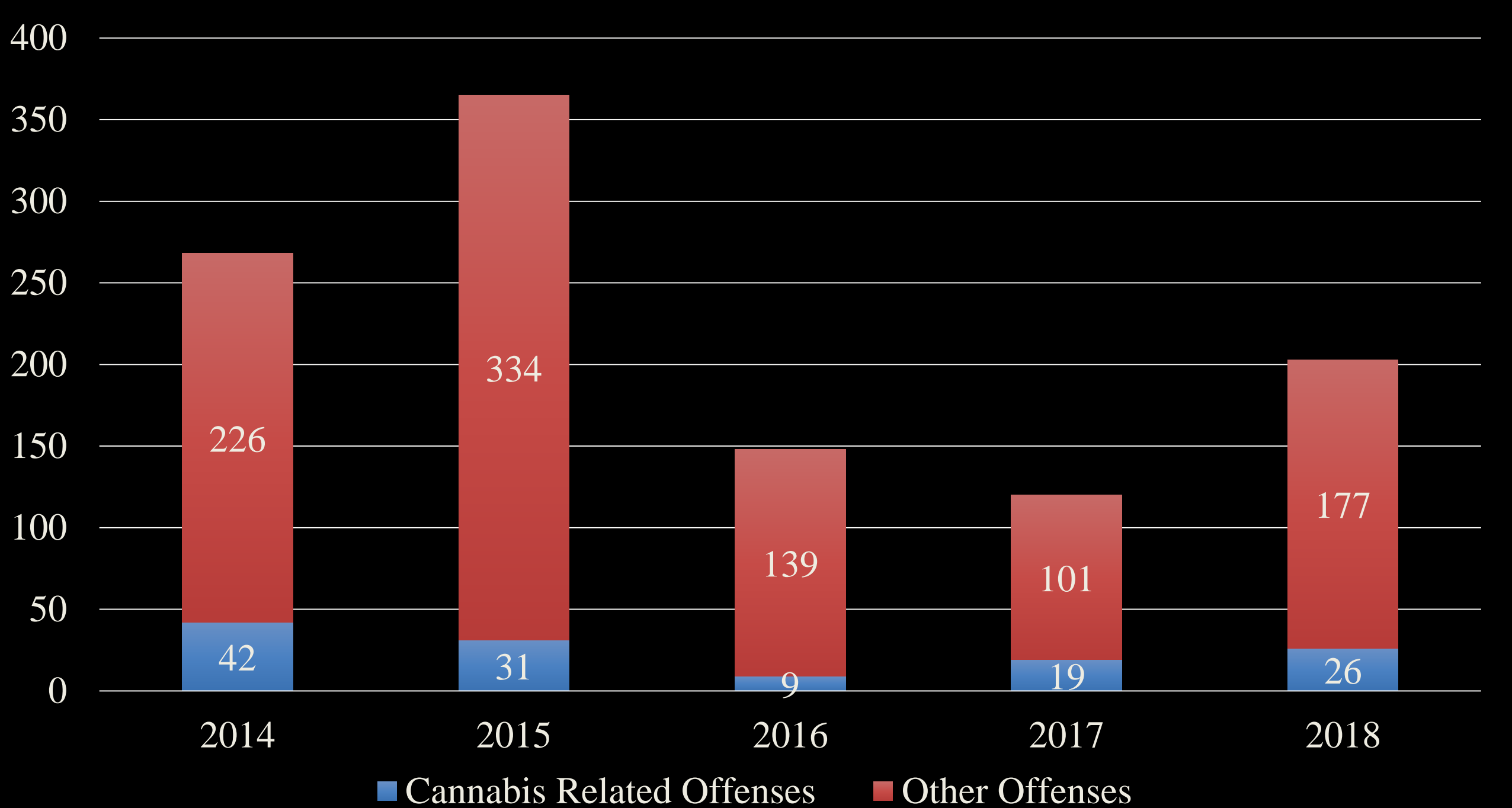- Low birth weight
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Chronic bronchitis

Moderate evidence
- Impairment of learning, memory and attention
- Increased suicide ideation, social anxiety and depression
- Worsening of psychotic symptoms
- Cannabis Use Disorder (9%)

Month	Admissions	Male	Female	Total Cannabis	Cannabis use + other disorder	Cannabis use only	Male cannabis associated	Female cannabis associated
June	74	44	30	27	23	4	24	3
July	75	52	23	28	21	7	26	2
August	86	64	22	35	26	9	33	2
Sept.	74	55	19	29	23	6	27	2
Oct	88	68	20	31	27	4	30	1
Nov	76	54	22	32	17	15	31	1
Dec	95	65	30	47	35	12	45	2
Total	568	402	166	229	172	57	216	13

Section	Provision	Penalties for Offense
Section 5(1)	a) Prohibition of importation of controlled drug b) Prohibition of exportation of controlled drugs	a) Summary- 3 Years or $100,000 b) On Indictment-14 Years and $200,000
Section 6(1)	a) Produce a controlled drug b) Supply or offer to supply controlled drugs to another	
Section 8(1)	Possession of a controlled drug	a) Summary- 3 Years or $100,000 b) On Indictment-7 Years or $200,000
Section 8(3)	It shall not be lawful for a person to be in possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply to another	a) Summary- 3 Years and/or $100,000 b) On Indictment-14 Years and/ or $200,000
Section 9	It shall not be lawful for a person to cultivate any plant of the genus Cannabis	

Ratios	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cannabis Related Crime/Total Crime (%)	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.5	2.1
Cannabis Related Arrests/Total Arrests (%)	11.4	11.3	10.1	6.0	1.6

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Other Offenses	226	334	139	101	177
Cannabis Related Offenses	42	31	9	19	26

■ Cannabis Related Offenses   ■ Other Offenses

Recommended Policy objectives

- Increase Government revenue
- Create business opportunities
- Minimise harmful effects
- Improve health and wellness
- Respect human rights
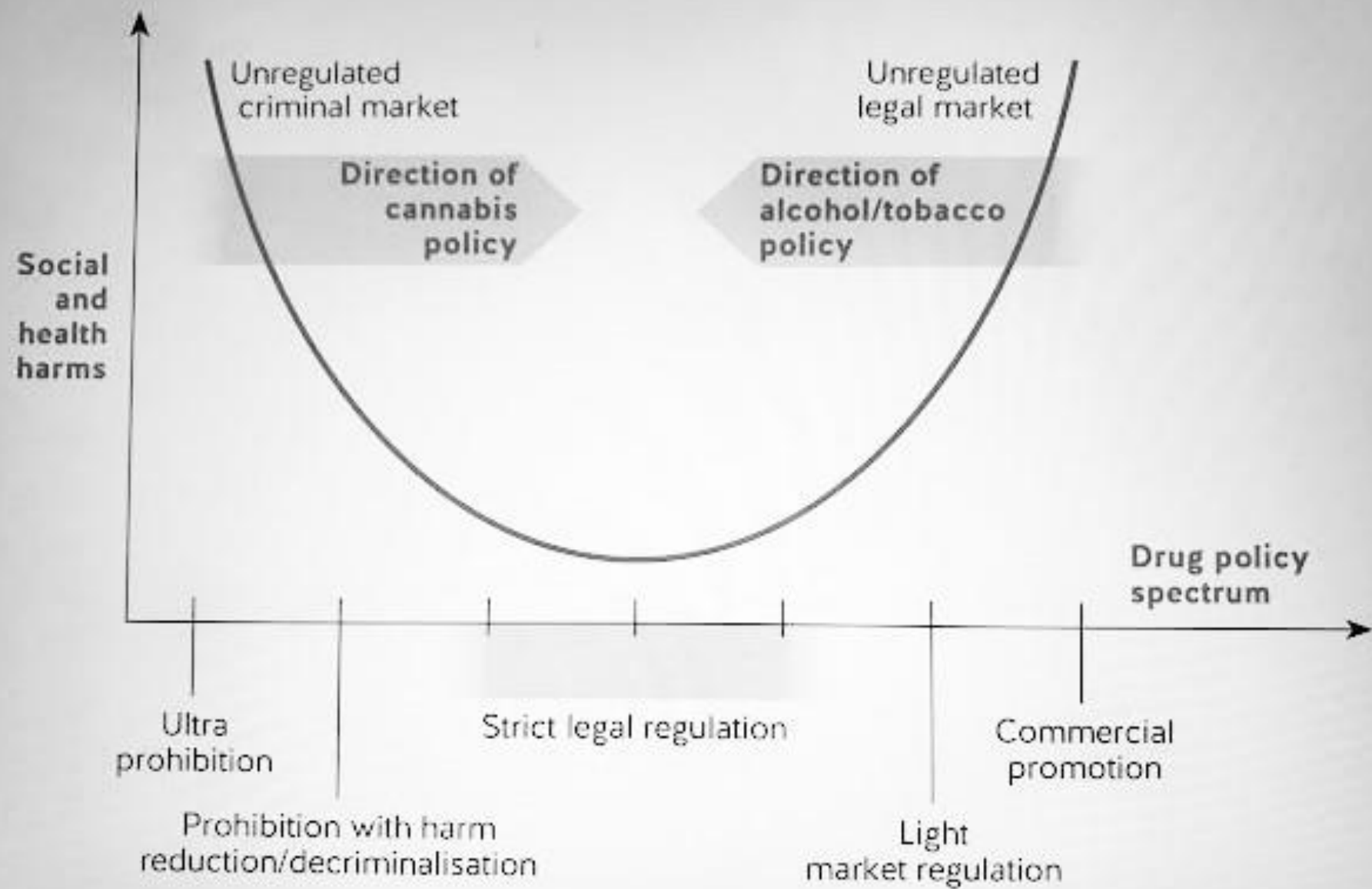
Science to policy "YES"

- Hemp
- Public education to reduce recreational use
- Public health approach
- Medicinal cannabis
- Research

Science to policy – "No"

- High potency THC cannabis products
- Pregnant and breast feeding women
- Child and adolescent use of cannabis <18, unless medically indicated
- Criminalizing approach
- Public smoking
- People with psychosis or family history of psychosis
- People with cardiovascular disease
- Mixing of cannabis with tobacco or alcohol or other substances
- Synthetic recreational cannabinoids