



# The Rippling Impacts of Cannabis Criminalization

Individual and Community Impacts

April 20, 2023

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## The Rippling Impacts of Cannabis Criminalization - Individual Impacts

- Cannabis charges as a **gateway into the carceral system**
- **Escalatory charges** stemming from impacts initiated due to cannabis (resisting arrest, assaulting a police office, unrelated “offences”)
- Incalculable harm and loss of **incarceration**
- **Difficulty accessing financial resources** upon release
- Long-term harm of **criminal record**, producing social and economic marginalization
- Restricted **life-course outcomes**



## The Rippling Impacts of Cannabis Criminalization - Community Impacts

- **Targeted, racist policing** disproportionately concentrating arrests, incarceration, and criminal records in specific communities and areas.
- **Restricted economic opportunities** as experienced by an individual **compound** when experienced by large segments of a community. Reduces economic opportunities for the entire community.
- **Reduction in public and private investment** and activity, **designation as a 'problem'** or 'high-crime' area or population.
- **Designation used to justify increasing targeted policing**, arrests, and incarceration.
- **Cycle repeats and entrenches over time**, producing racist structural inequity, racist stereotypes, racist politics, etc.