



In 2022, The Number Of Federal Marijuana Trafficking Cases Went Down Again, According To A Federal Report!

Mohit Kumar

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In 2022, There Were Fewer Federal Marijuana Trafficking Prosecutions, According to The U.S. Sentencing Commission's Most Recent Annual Report (ussc).

Prosecutions for Marijuana-Related Crimes Have Drastically Decreased Over Time as More States Have Legalized Marijuana and As Federal Objectives Have Changed. According to The Ussc, the Number of Federal Cannabis Trafficking Offenders Decreased from Almost 5,000 in 2013 to Just Under 806 in 2016.

From 2021 and 2022, trafficking cases involving methamphetamine, fentanyl, and powder cocaine rose.

The data also demonstrates that marijuana cases have the lightest punishments of the six drug categories that USCC monitors, with an average sentence of 33 months in a case involving cannabis trafficking as opposed to, for instance, 94 months for methamphetamine and 65 months for fentanyl.

Separately, the panel has suggested revising its rules to allow federal judges to regard earlier marijuana possession convictions more leniently. The Justice Department gave a pro-change statement at a USSC public hearing earlier this month.

Longtime supporters of legalization have maintained that giving adults access to regulated marijuana markets will reduce the demand for illegal goods, resulting in fewer arrests.

By demonstrating the gradual decrease in federal cannabis trafficking cases as more states have passed legalization laws, the new USSC report is the most recent to support that notion.

Cannabis seizures also reached a record low in Fiscal Year 2022, according to federal data from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), continuing a trend in enforcement that proponents ascribe to the state-level legalization movement.

Who is being affected by its enforcement efforts is also more clearly depicted in a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that was published last year. Instead of making major busts of foreign cartels as some might expect, agents are more often taking tiny amounts of marijuana from American residents at checkpoints across the nation.

Additionally, in keeping with other research and federal sources, the analysis showed a marked decrease in cannabis seizures at checks since 2016. Border Patrol agents confiscated 70,058 pounds of marijuana in 2016, compared to 30,828 pounds in 2020, at checkpoints.

As more states embrace reform, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program has also indicated a significant decline in cannabis arrests made at the municipal and state level. (Experts have, however, questioned the accuracy of FBI data due to purported reporting requirements confusion among law enforcement organizations.)

The Congressional Research Service stated in a different report from the previous year that the growth of legal cannabis states domestically and worldwide reform initiatives have decreased the demand for illegal marijuana coming from Mexico.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has stated that when more marijuana is produced domestically in the U.S., it undermines illicit cannabis trafficking across the southern border in its Fiscal Year 2023 performance budget summary that was submitted to Congress last year.

According to a 2018 Cato Institute report, legalizing marijuana at the state level has dramatically reduced marijuana smuggling.

According to a year-end report issued by Chief Justice John Roberts of the Supreme Court in December, federal prosecutions of drug-related crimes rose overall in 2019, while instances involving marijuana decreased by more than a quarter.