



The *new* face of Big Tobacco

Say NO to Big Marijuana in New Zealand

Same corporates.
Same objectives.
Same addiction.
New product.



PORTUGAL

“Claims that decriminalisation has reduced drug use and had no detrimental impact in Portugal significantly exceed the scientific basis.”

Gil Kerlikowsz, Director, US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) during Obama Administration

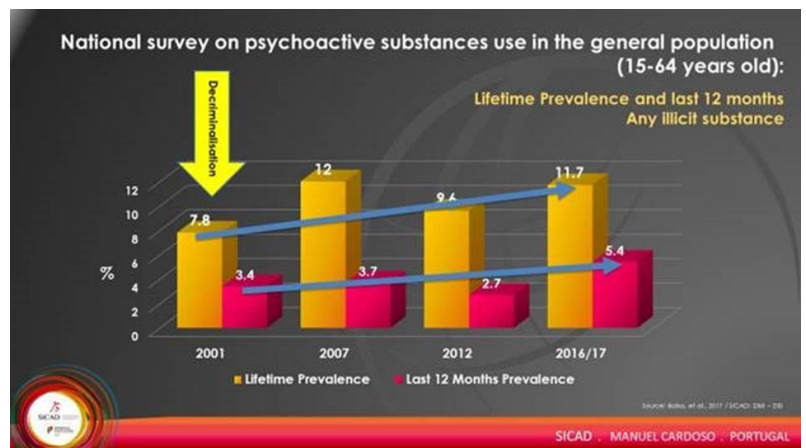
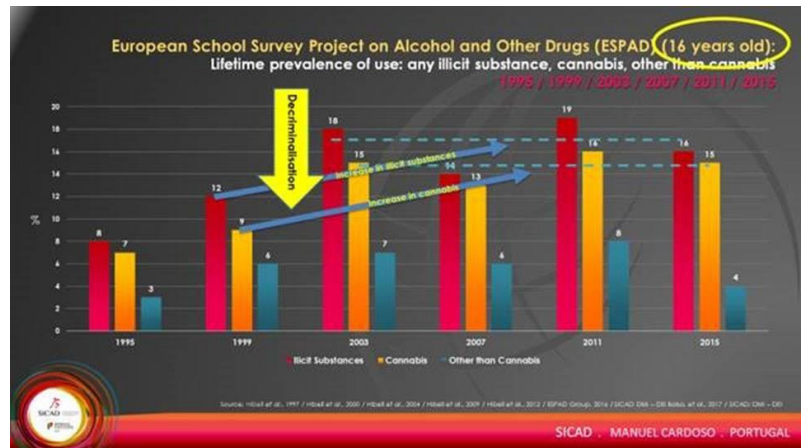


Portugal's drug decriminalisation in 2001 is touted as the positive example to which NZ should aspire to. If Portugal has been such a 'success' since 2001, why are countries not replicating their approach?

In the most recent statistics, the National Survey on the Use of Psychoactive Substances in the General Population, Portugal 2016/17, reports: *“We have seen a rise in the prevalence of alcohol and tobacco consumption and of every illicit psychoactive substance (affected by the weight of cannabis use in those aged 15-74) between 2012 - 2016/17.”* Last-12-months-use of any illicit substance has doubled between 2012 and 2017! (see graphs right)

“There is a black market - ‘people don't know what they are buying, what they are selling’ - the system ‘is confusing’, with many people believing that decriminalisation means that drugs are legal.”

Adriana Curado, project coordinator at the GAT Harm Reduction Centre



(Additional info and trendlines have been added to original graph)

To summarise (courtesy of Drug Free Australia):

- decriminalisation has increased drug use for all age-groups
- Portugal's drug use, other than for heroin, was initially lower than European averages
- while drug deaths in Portugal are much lower in Portugal due to heroin being smoked or snorted rather than injected, drug overdose mortality is currently increasing.

UPDATED: Political parties in Portugal are now pushing for the **legalisation of marijuana** in their country because they (wrongly) believe it will combat current problems around organised crime, drug trafficking, increased consumption and the use of psychoactive substances. They say that the effect of decriminalisation has been to increase trafficking and consumption every year, which has been shown to have failed across the board.

“The country still has high levels of problem drug use and HIV infection, and does not show specific developments in its drug situation that would clearly distinguish it from other European countries that have a different policy.”

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime): *Cannabis A Short Review* (2012)

For additional information, including source references:
SayNopeToDope.org.nz/portugal

Correct as at time of printing. We welcome any documented corrections.