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BY THE NUMBERS

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L.A.'s marijuana industry: By the numbers

As Los Angeles cracks down on an illegal proliferation of medical marijuana dispensaries, here's a fact-based look at the city's pot trade

POSTED ON JUNE 9, 2010, AT 3:41 PM

Hoping to regain control of the Los Angeles medical marijuana industry, officials have [enacted a new city ordinance](#) that will force more than 400 dispensaries to shut down. Last year, L.A. became the "epicenter" of a marijuana dispensary boom that erupted after the Obama administration announced it would not prosecute operators of medical marijuana stores that abide by state laws. "Although the city had a [2007] moratorium on new dispensaries," [reports the Los Angeles Times](#), "it failed to enforce the ban and hundreds



One of Los Angeles' marijuana dispensaries. Photo: Getty

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opened with no oversight, triggering complaints from neighborhood activists." Here, the story of California's problematic pot boom in statistics:

439

Number of medical marijuana dispensaries [ordered](#) to close shop

\$2,500

Daily fine [levied](#) against store owners that failed to close their doors by the June 7 deadline

6

Number of months in jail a property owner or dispensary operator [may serve](#) for failure to meet the deadline

186

Number of dispensaries that registered with the city before its November 2007 deadline

137

Number of those original dispensaries that [remain open](#), and which have six months to comply with all the regulations of the ordinance

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1,000

Minimum distance, in feet, [dispensaries must be](#) from schools, parks or anywhere children congregate, according to the city's new rules

70

Total number of [dispensaries](#) the city hopes to eventually have

1996

Year California passed the [Compassionate Use Act](#), which legalized medical marijuana for qualified patients in the state

1

Number of Los Angeles marijuana dispensaries, [located](#) in former Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants, which have been ordered to close

14

Number of [states](#) that currently allow the sale of medical marijuana

\$25

Estimated [cost](#) to grow one ounce of marijuana in California, or \$400 per pound

\$280 - \$420

Price of [an ounce](#) of domestically produced medical marijuana, or around \$10 to \$15 per marijuana cigarette

\$2 billion

Revenue [generated](#) in California through medical marijuana sales in 2008, resulting in \$100 million in state sales taxes

1.6 million

Number of Californians who have smoked marijuana in "the past 30 days," [according to](#) the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, which also claims that 530,000 Californians smoke pot on a daily basis

\$156 million

Estimated annual cost to the state of California to enforce marijuana laws, [according to the California branch of NORML](#)

\$1.3 billion

Estimated annual tax revenue California [could generate](#) by fully legalizing marijuana

49

Percentage of California voters who [support](#) a November ballot initiative to fully legalize marijuana in the state, compared to 41 percent who oppose legalization and 10 percent who remain undecided

Sources: [Los Angeles Times](#), (2), (3), [CA NORML](#), [LA Weekly](#), [NBC Los Angeles](#), [Southern California Public Radio](#), [The New York Times](#), [MSNBC](#), [ProCon.org](#), [Time](#)

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