



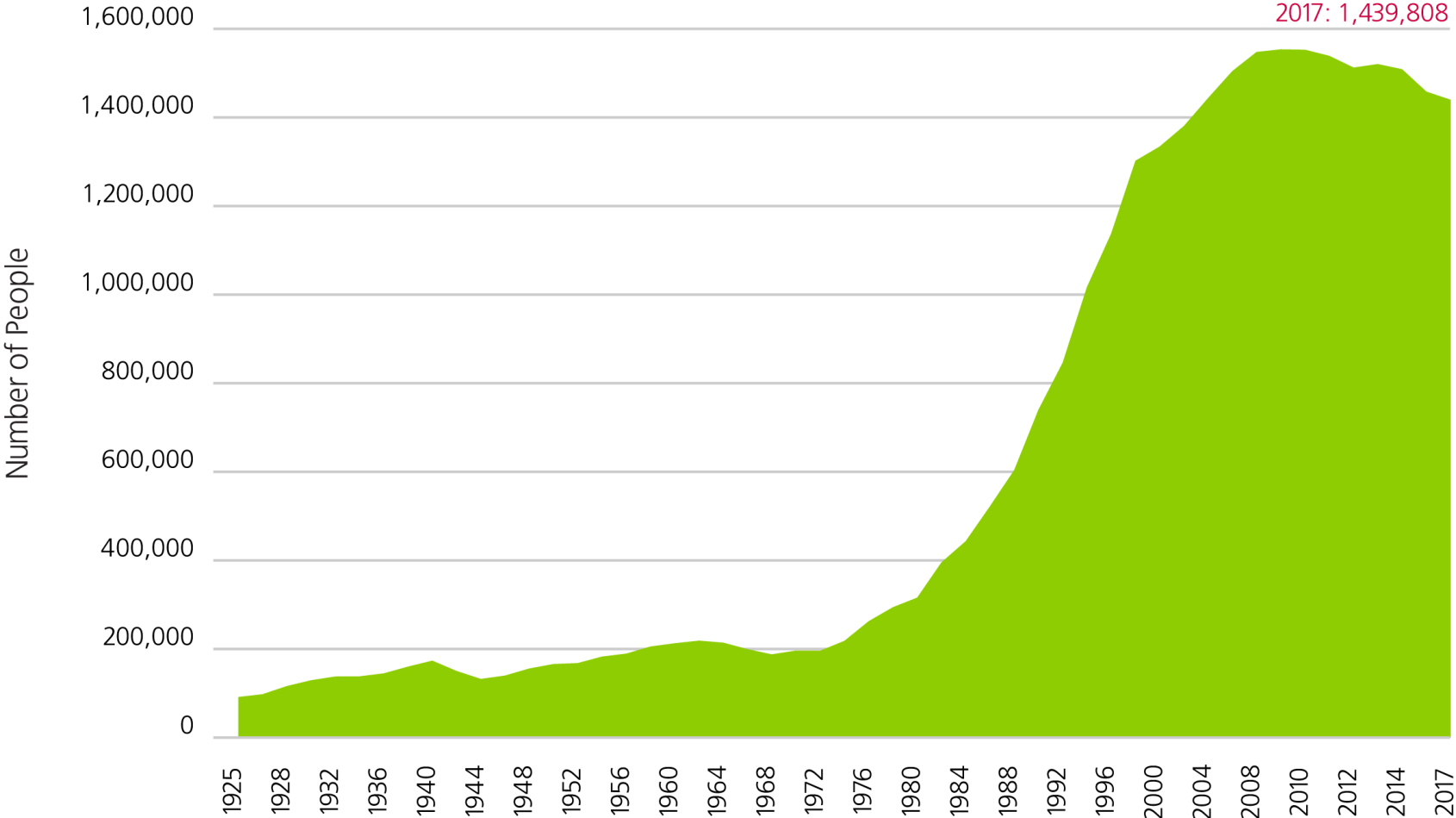
Criminal Justice and Drug Offenses in 2020

The Controlled Substance Act at 50 Years Symposium - Lunchtime Plenary

Drug Use in the U.S. is Widely Criminalized



U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2017

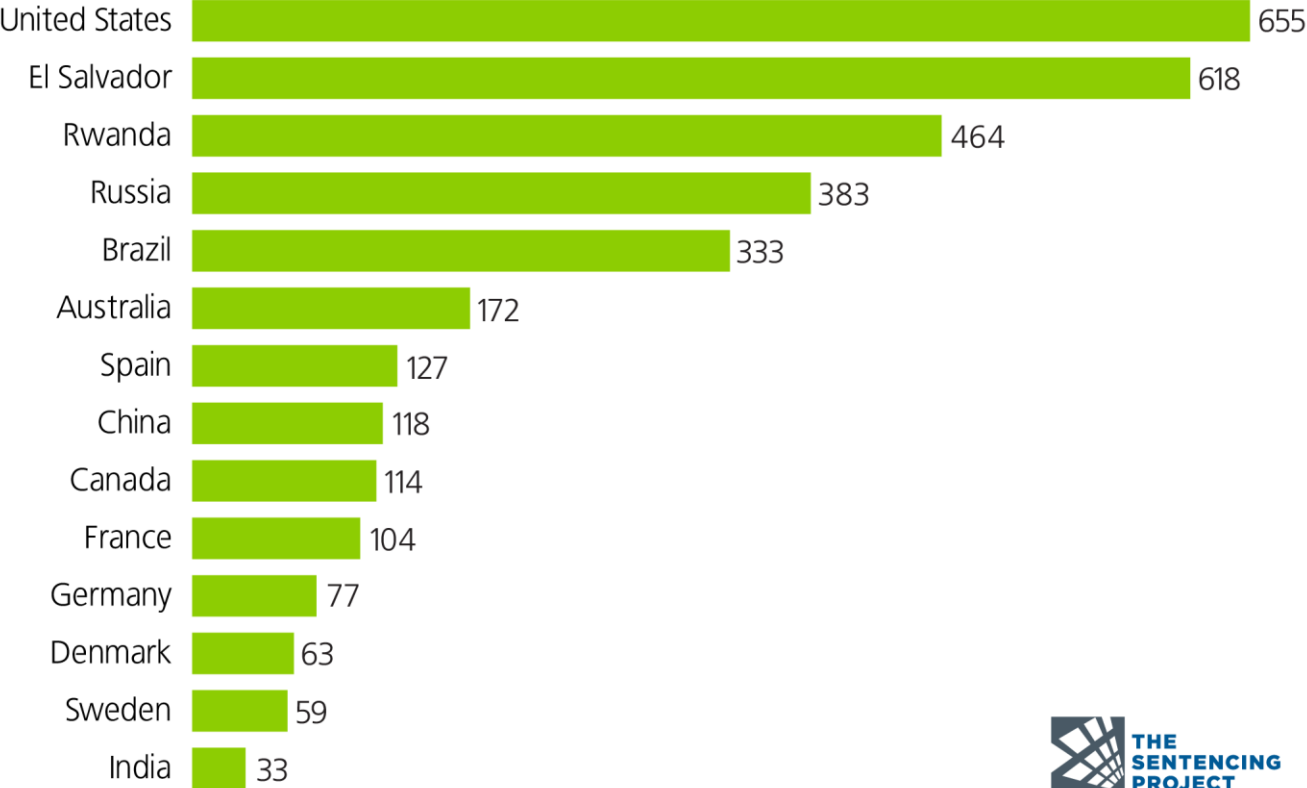


Drug Use in the U.S. is Widely Criminalized

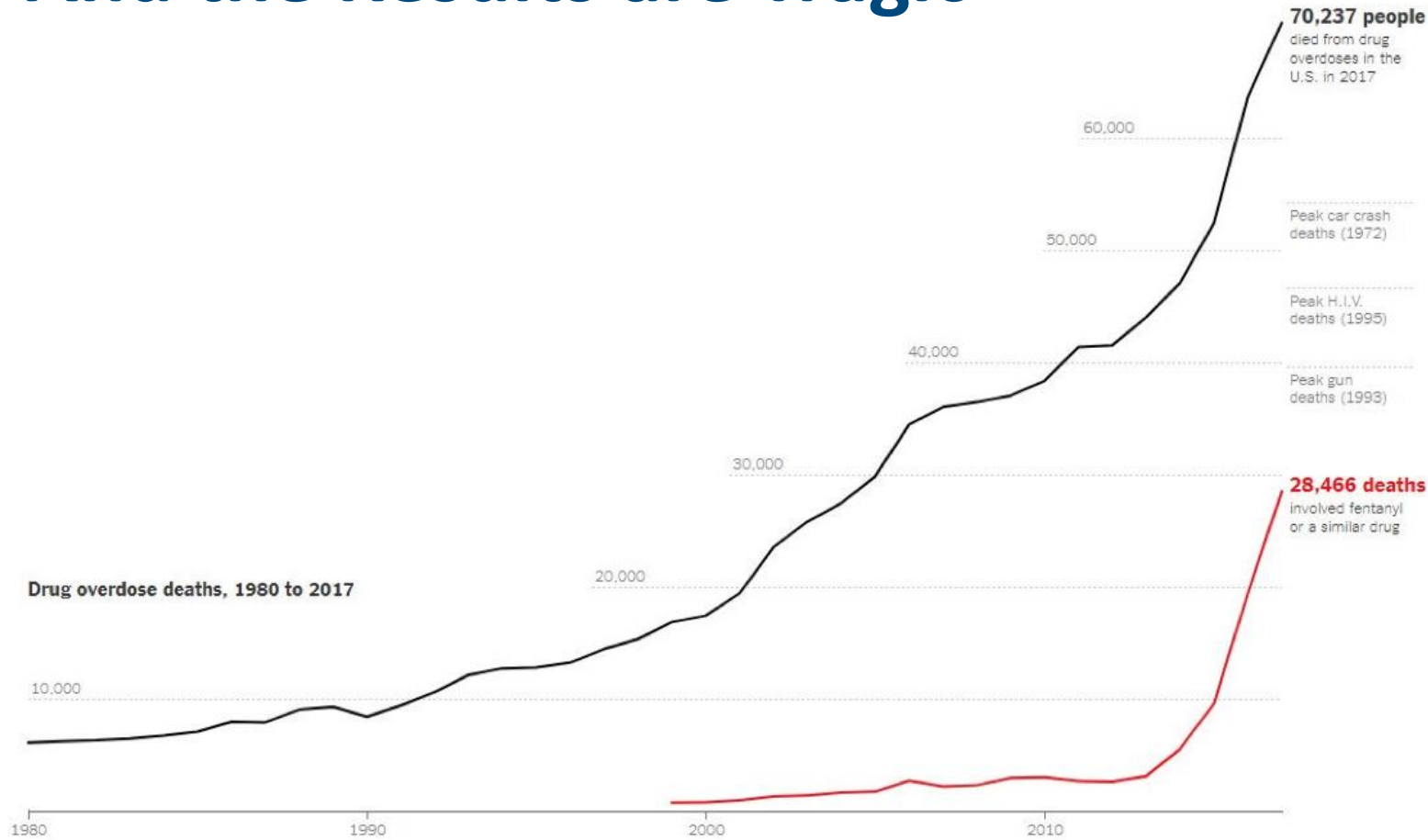


Making the U.S. an International Outlier

International Rates of Incarceration per 100,000

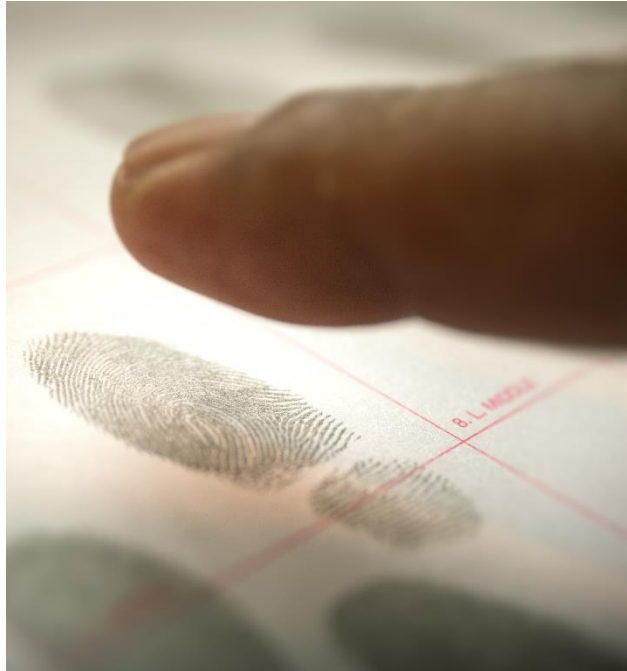


... And the Results are Tragic



70,237 Deaths in 2017

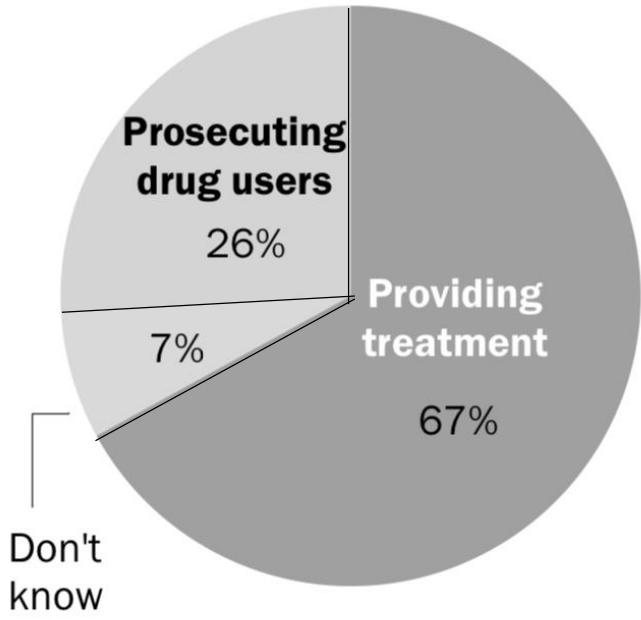
1 in 8
Americans
knows someone who
has died from a drug
overdose



**DOES
CRIMINALIZATION
EQUAL SAFETY?**

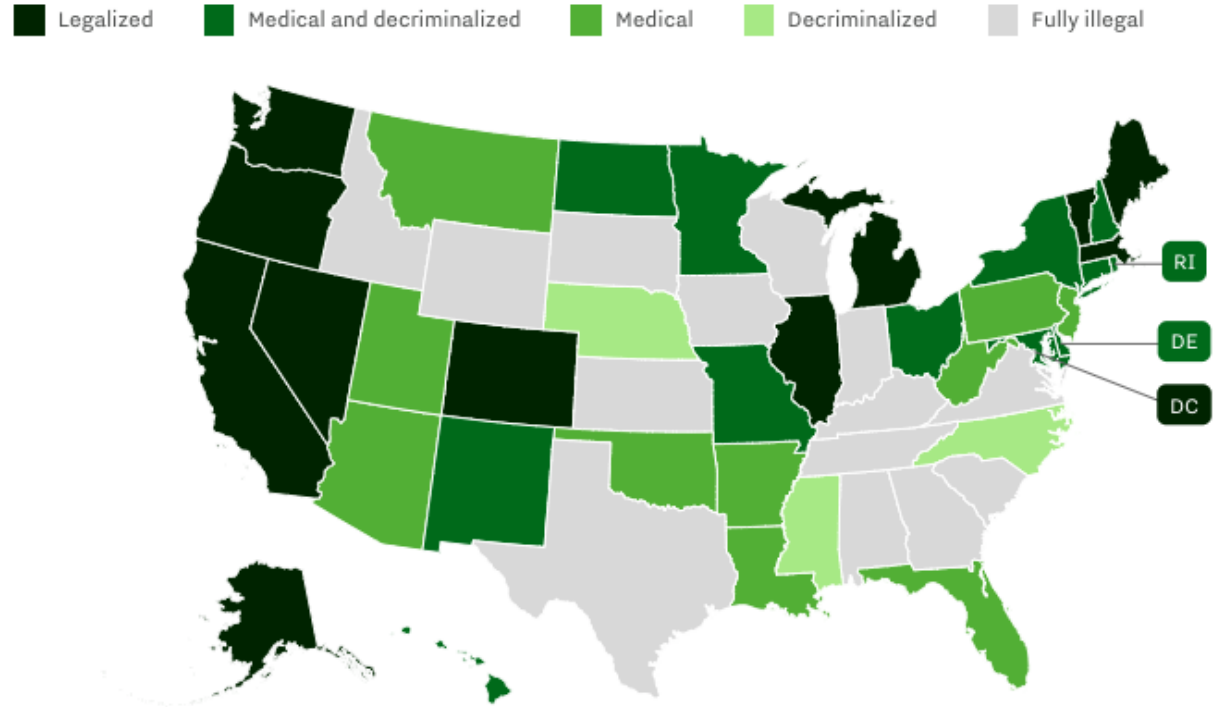


Public Views Are Shifting



Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

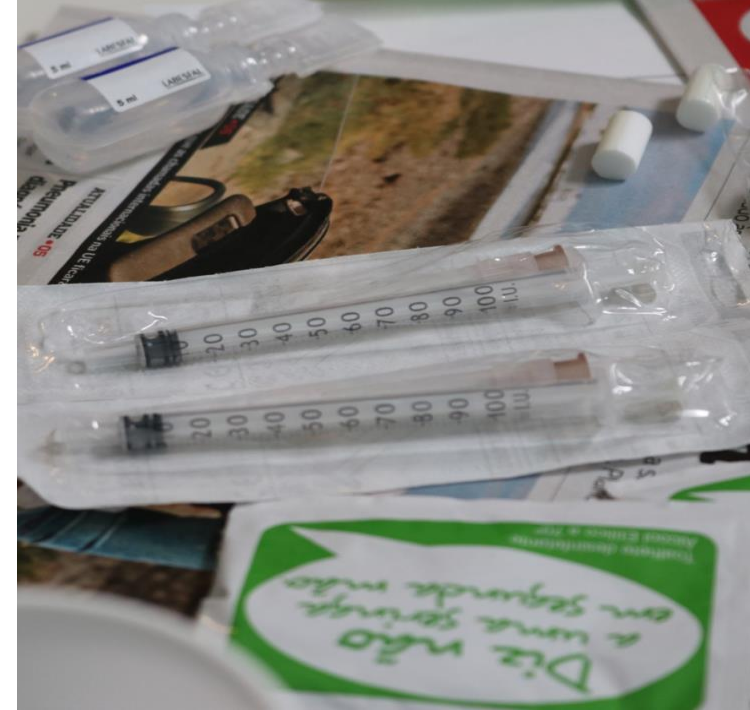
PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Source: Marijuana Policy Project
Credit: German Lopez

... Creating an Opportunity for Action

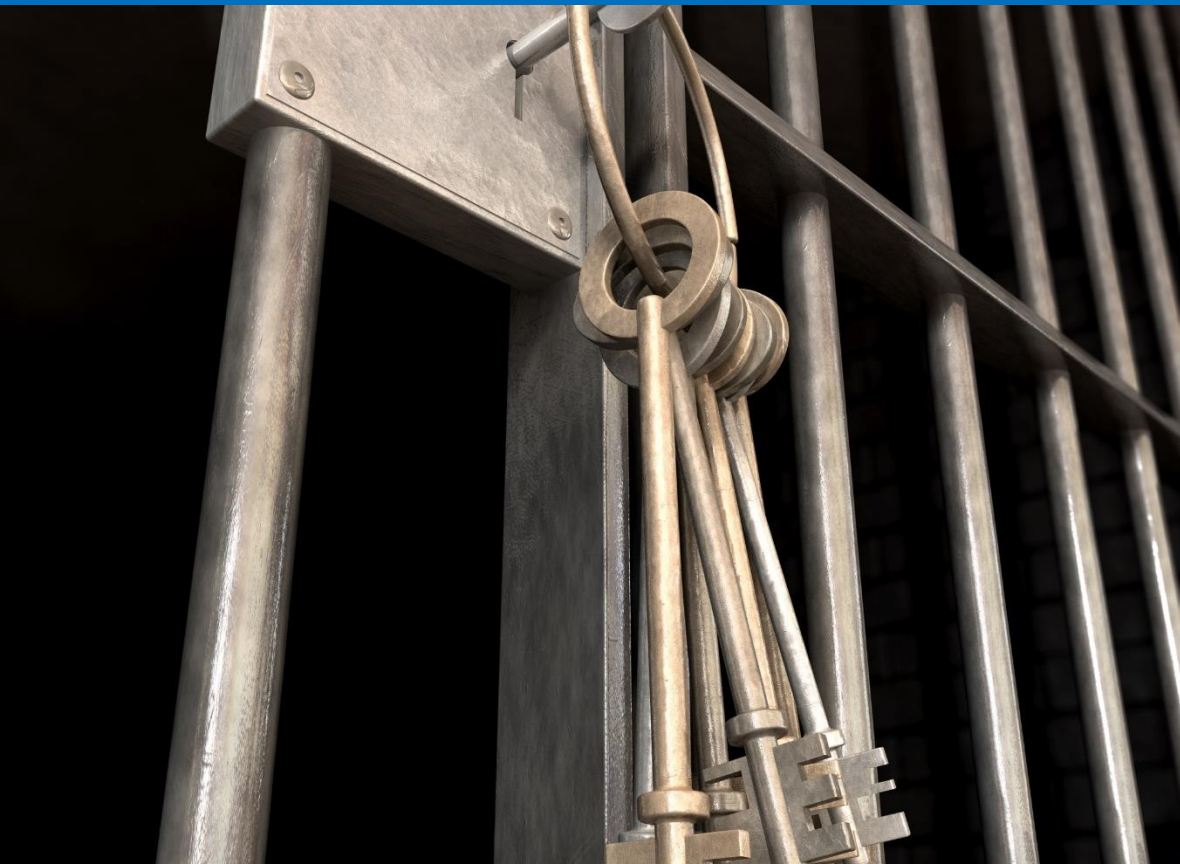
Newly elected prosecutors are playing a unique role in advancing harm reduction interventions



A map of the Iberian Peninsula showing major cities and regions. A dark blue shaded area covers the northern and western parts of the peninsula, including Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, Castile and León, and parts of Castile and the Leonese region. A lighter blue shaded area covers the southern and eastern parts, including Castile-La Mancha, Castile and the Leonese region, and parts of the Valencian Community and Balearic Islands. Major cities are marked with dots and labeled: A Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, Pontevedra, Vigo, Porto, Coimbra, Lisboa, Faro, Huelva, Sevilla, Córdoba, Granada, Málaga, Almería, Alacant, Murcia, Benidorm, Valencia, Toledo, Madrid, Valladolid, Leon, Oviedo, Gijón, Santander, Donostia, Bilbo, Zaragoza, Tarragona, and Toulous. A thick blue L-shaped graphic is on the left side of the map.

Lessons from Abroad

Moving from Criminalization to Harm Reduction



What is Taking Hold

- Law-enforcement assisted diversion
- Syringe-exchange programs
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Naloxone distribution
- Overdose Prevention Sites



Why Prosecutors?

- Prosecutors have significant power and discretion to decline to proceed with charges
- Local-level policies drive the US criminal justice system and are especially important in the face of heightened enforcement at the federal level
- Elected prosecutors have unique credibility on public safety issues and can advocate for reforms

