

Session 7

Community Attitudes Toward Legislation

Moderator: Fiona Patten,
Former Member of Parliament

Presenter: John Ryan,
Penington Institute





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Being on the right side of history: Community attitudes towards cannabis regulation

John Ryan, CEO | 12 March 2024

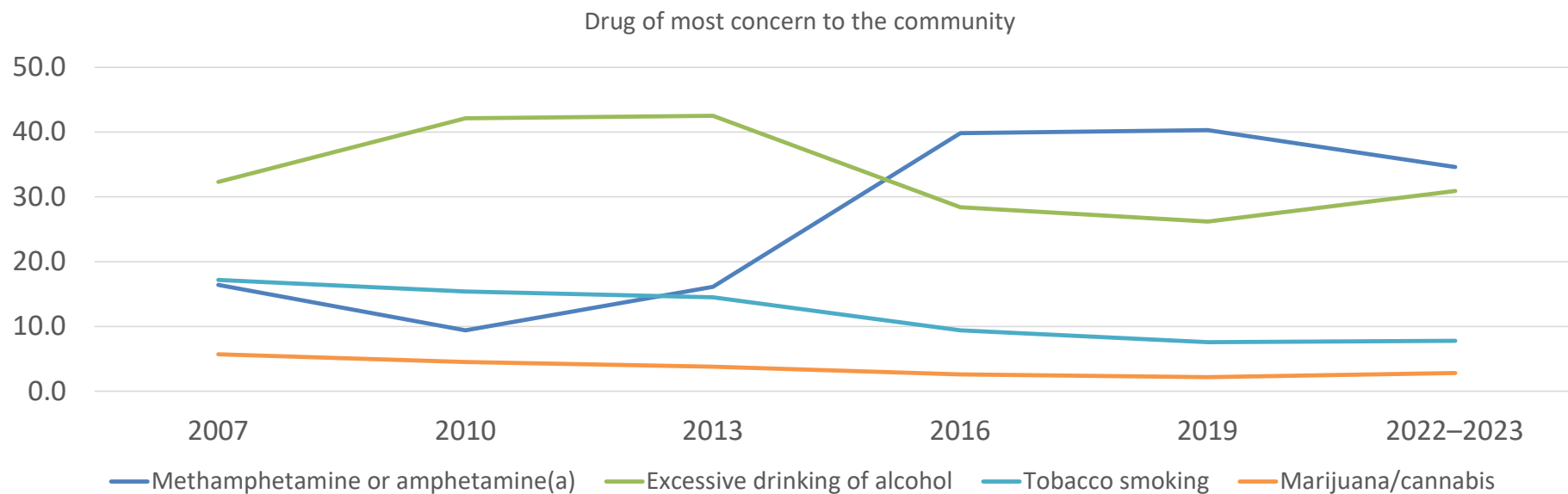


About Penington Institute

A not-for-profit organisation, our focus is supporting cost-effective approaches that maximise community health and safety in relation to drugs including pharmaceuticals and alcohol.

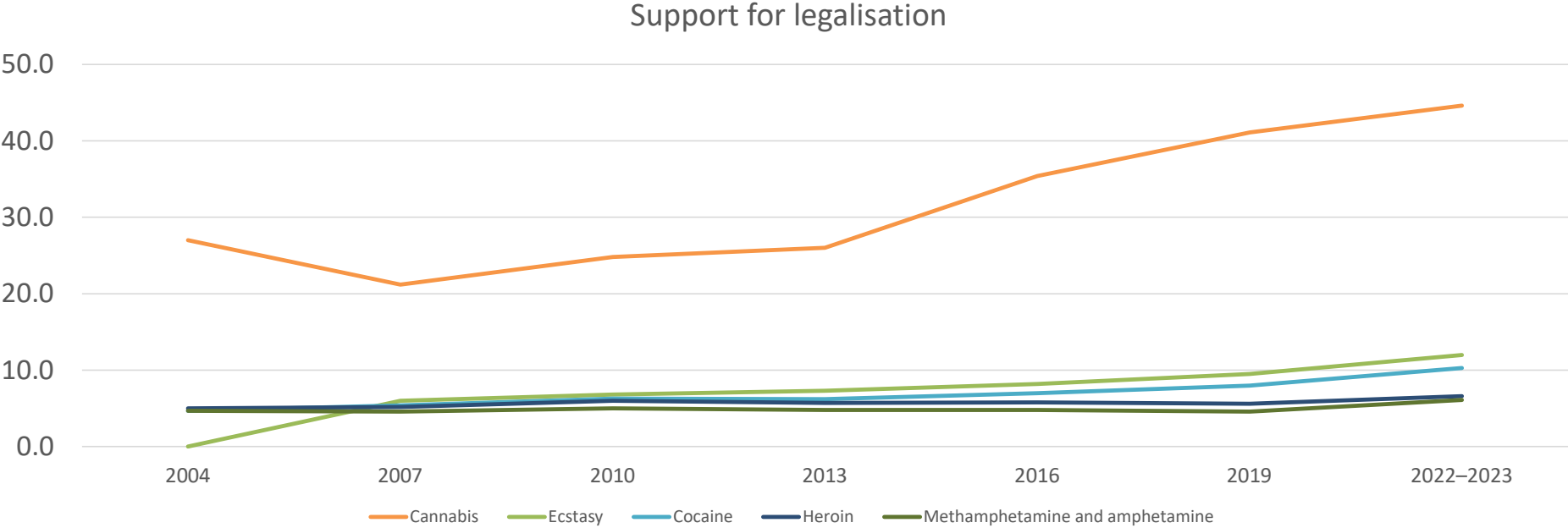


Australians understand that cannabis is a lower harm substance



Source: AIHW NDSHS 2022-23

Growing support for cannabis regulation in Australia

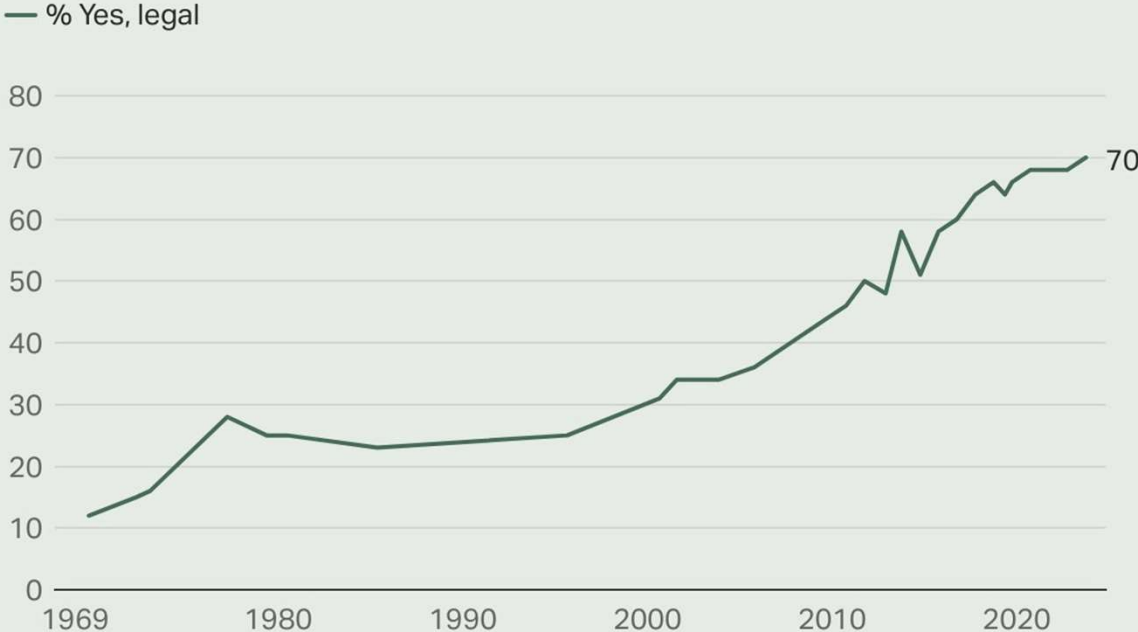


Source: AIHW NDSHS 2022-23

Support for cannabis regulation elsewhere

The Green Wave: Americans' Support for Marijuana, 1969-2023

Do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?



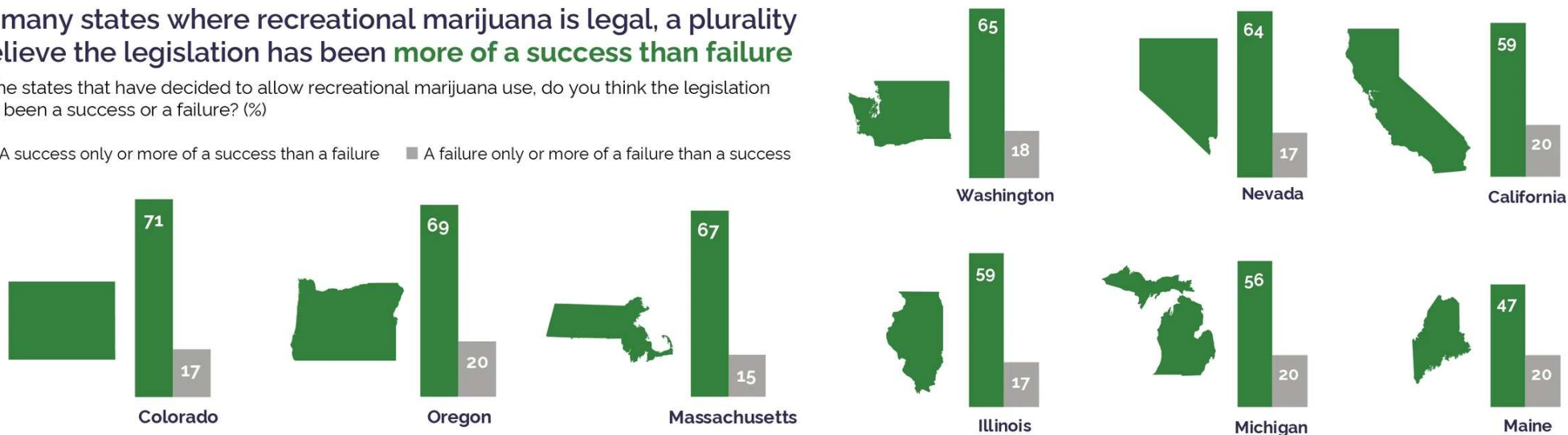
Source: Gallup, 2023

Impact of regulation on community attitudes

In many states where recreational marijuana is legal, a plurality believe the legislation has been **more of a success than failure**

In the states that have decided to allow recreational marijuana use, do you think the legislation has been a success or a failure? (%)

■ A success only or more of a success than a failure ■ A failure only or more of a failure than a success



Source: YouGov 2020

What does this mean for cannabis regulation in Australia?

- We should expect support for cannabis regulation to continue growing in Australia.
- Australians understand that the harms from cannabis do not correspond to our criminalised model.
- Global evidence suggests that communities feel they have made the right decision in regulating cannabis.
- How can Australia's inevitable regulation of cannabis best meet community needs and expectations?

Cannabis in Australia Reports

Download our reports from:
penington.org.au

Reach out to us via:
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