

Owning a Cannabis Dispensary is Like Answering a Call

In 2018 Michigan legalized cannabis for recreational use. Like many states that have taken this monumental step, Michigan is currently in the process of expunging the records of the nearly [235,000 people in jail on cannabis charges](#).

I focus on Michigan because I recently learned about a brother named [Michael Thompson](#) who was given 60 years for selling cannabis. Thompson was released in January 2021 after 26 years. I have to reflect on this because I could have easily been Michael Thompson. When I was 13 years old, I sold small amounts of cannabis. My family was poor, and I was responding to a need.

It's estimated that of those in prison for possessing and/or selling cannabis, [between 80 and 90 percent of them are Black](#)—despite the fact that we only make up 13 percent of the population.

As states began legalizing cannabis, I could have responded in one of two ways:

1. Been bitter because white people are opening up dispensaries left, right and center
2. Answer the call and provide safe, legal and affordable weed to my community.

I chose the latter. We don't need any more brothers and sisters in jail on cannabis charges.