Marijuana Legalization: The Impact

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Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA)
Drug Policy 101

Has the “War” on Drugs Been a Failure?
Purpose of DRUG POLICY

• Limit the number of people using drugs

Factors Affecting Drug Use

1. Price
2. Availability
3. Perception of Risk
4. Public Attitude
Alcohol and Tobacco
The Issue

What indicates successful Drug Policy?
The Issue

2014 and 2015 National Survey on Drug Use

- Americans age 12 and older (past month):
  - 52% used alcohol
  - 24% used tobacco
  - 10% used illegal drugs
90% of Americans do NOT use illegal drugs

Source: 2014 National Survey on Drug Use
Arguments FOR Legalization

- Eliminate arrests for possession and sale
- Free up law enforcement resources
- Reduce traffic fatalities
- No increase in use, even among youth
- Added revenue generated through taxation
- Reduce profits for the drug cartels trafficking marijuana
Arguments AGAINST Legalization

*Increases in:*

- Marijuana related traffic fatalities
- Use among youth and adults
- People in drug treatment
- Diversion for unintended purposes
- Impacts and costs for public health and safety
Perspective: Colorado

- McDonalds: 202
- Starbucks: 322
- Recreational Marijuana Shops: 424
- Medical Marijuana Dispensaries: 516

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue/Starbucks Coffee Company/McDonalds Corporation, 2016
Impact

What Does the Data Say?
Comparison Dates

➢ 2006 – 2008: **Early Medical Marijuana Era**
   ▪ 1,000 – 4,800 cardholders and 0 known dispensaries

➢ 2009 – 2012: **Medical Marijuana Commercialization and Expansion Era**
   ▪ 108,000 cardholders and 532 licensed dispensaries

➢ 2013 – Present: **Medical Marijuana Commercialization and Recreational Marijuana Era**
Impaired Driving - Fatalities
Total Number of Statewide Traffic Deaths

SOURCE: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)
Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana

*Number of Fatalities Involving Operators Testing Positive for Marijuana

SOURCE: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana

*Percent of All Fatalities Where the Operators Tested Positive for Marijuana

SOURCE: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Operators Positive for Marijuana 2016

- Marijuana and Alcohol - 35%
- Marijuana and Other Drugs, (No Alcohol) - 23%
- Marijuana, Other Drugs and Alcohol - 7%
- Marijuana Only - 35%

SOURCE: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Impaired Driving
Marijuana as a Percent of Total DUI/DUIDs

SOURCE: Colorado State Patrol

Percent of all DUI/DUIDs

- 2014: 12.2%
- 2015: 13.4%
- 2016: 17.2%

10% Increase
28% Increase
Percent of DUIDs Involving Marijuana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent Positive</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>63%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Larimer County Sheriff’s Office
Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)

While headlines in *The Denver Post* said this....

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**NEWS > MARIJUANA > MARIJUANA COLORADO**

**Marijuana use remains flat among Colorado teens, survey finds**

One in five Colorado teens said they used marijuana in the past month

By JOHN INGOLD | jingold@denverpost.com
PUBLISHED: June 20, 2016 at 2:14 pm | UPDATED: July 18, 2016 at 5:43 pm

**SOURCE: TheDenverPost.com**
Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)

The data showed....

- 8% Increase in ALL High School Grades from 2013 to 2015
  - 14% Increase in Seniors
  - 19% Increase in Juniors

- 1 out of 3 Denver Junior and Seniors are marijuana users

- Colorado Mountain towns- 90% Increase in Seniors

SOURCE: Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Data Tables
Current Marijuana Use for High School and Middle School Students in Colorado

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>12.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>18.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>27.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth (12-17 yrs)
Current Marijuana Use 2014/2015

➢ Colorado **ranked 1st in the nation** for current marijuana use among youth
  - **55 percent higher** than the national average

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 & 2015
Past Month Usage by 12 to 17 Year-Olds, 2014/2015

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 & 2015
Colorado Average Past Month Use of Marijuana Ages 12 to 17 Years

SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014 and 2015
Percent of Total Suspensions

![Graph showing the percent of total suspensions for drug and alcohol violations from 2005-2006 to 2015-2016. The graph indicates an increase in the percent of total suspensions for drug violations during the period of commercialization and legalization.](image)

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education
All Drug Violations
2015-2016 School Year

Number of Violations

- **Expulsions**: 337 (58%)
- **Referrals to Law Enforcement**: 1,143 (73%)
- **Suspensions**: 4,236 (63%)

**Marijuana Violations**

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education
Predominant Marijuana Violations, 2017

- Student sharing marijuana with other students: 2%
- Student selling marijuana to other students: 5%
- Student in possession of marijuana infused edibles: 6%
- Student in possession of marijuana: 36%
- Student under the influence during school hours: 44%

SOURCE: Colorado Association School Resource Officers (CASRO) and RMHIDTA, 2016
Predominant Marijuana Violations

16 year old male smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol in the car while at school.

This student "concealed" an apple to smoke marijuana covertly.

To conceal their marijuana use a student converted a highlighter to smoke their marijuana.

SOURCE: Colorado Springs School Resource Officers
Student Marijuana Source, 2017

- Medical Marijuana Cardholders: 7%
- Retail Marijuana Stores: 0%
- Medical Marijuana Dispensaries: 5%
- Medical Marijuana Caregivers: 2%
- Parents: 23%
- Black Market: 26%
- Friend Who Obtained it Legally: 39%

SOURCE: Colorado Association School Resource Officers (CASRO) and RMHIDTA, 2016
College-Age Marijuana Use
College-Age Adults (18-25yr) Current Marijuana Use 2014/2015

Colorado average = 31.75 percent
- 61 percent higher than the national average

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 & 2015
College Age, 18 to 25 Years-Old, Past Month Marijuana Use

2010-2012: Pre-Recreational Legalization
27.04%

2013-2015: Post-Recreational Legalization
31.50%

16% Increase

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 and 2015
Adult Marijuana Use

One day,

He’ll be just like you.

Don’t smoke weed around your kids.
Adults (26+ yrs)

Current Marijuana Use 2014/2015

Colorado ranked 1st in the nation for current marijuana use among adults
- 122 percent higher than the national average

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 & 2015
Adult, Ages 26+, Past Month Marijuana Use

Average Percent

2010-2012
Pre-Recreational Legalization

2013-2015
Post-Recreational Legalization

7.91%
13.55%

71% Increase

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 and 2015
Colorado Emergency Department Rates that Could be Related to Marijuana*

*Rates of Emergency Department (ED) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes per 100,000 ED Visits by Year in Colorado

**Only 9 months of comparable 2015 data is available

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Hospitalization Rates that Could be Related to Marijuana*

*Rates of Hospitalization (HD) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes per 100,000 HD Visits by Year in Colorado

**Only 9 months of comparable 2015 data is available

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Adolescents, Ages 6 to 17, Average Number of Marijuana-Related Exposures

SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
Children, Ages 0 to 5, Average Number of Marijuana-Related Exposures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Average Number</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Commercialization</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2012</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>225%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2016</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>185%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
Exposures Involving Marijuana*

*Other substances may also be reported in the call

SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
Average Number of Marijuana Only* Exposures Reported

- Pre-Recreational Legalization (2001-2012): 34
- Post-Recreational Legalization (2013-2016): 134

294% Increase

*Marijuana was the only substance referenced in the call to the poison control center

SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
Diversion by Highway
In 2016, RMHIDTA Colorado drug task forces completed 163 investigations These cases led to:

- 252 felony arrests
- 7,116 pounds of marijuana seized (3.5 tons)
- 47,108 marijuana plants seized
- 2,111 marijuana edibles seized
- 232 pounds of concentrate seized
- 29 different states to which marijuana was destined

SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Data
Colorado Marijuana Interdiction Seizures (Incidents)

![Graph showing the number of seizures from 2005 to 2016, with peaks in 2010, 2013, and 2015. The x-axis represents years from 2005 to 2016, and the y-axis represents the number of seizures. The graph indicates a significant increase in seizures post-commercialization and legalization.]

SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System
Colorado Marijuana Destination States, 2016
(Total Reported Incidents Per State)

SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System
Diversion by Postal
Parcels Containing Marijuana from CO Destined for Another State

Number of Parcels

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>854</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service
Pounds of CO Marijuana Seized

SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service
THC Extraction Lab Explosions
Live Resin Wax

403R-00106
MIP LICENSE NUMBER: 031116-E

This container is child resistant.
THC: 0.66%
THCA: 66.14%
CBD: ND

CONCENTRATE

TR Scientific, LLC

This product is designed for smoking or vaporization only. This is NOT an edible product.

This product was extracted using research grade n-butane.

Medical Warning: This product contains medical marijuana and was produced without regulatory oversight for health, safety or efficacy and there may be health risks associated with the consumption of the product.

Recreational Warnings: There may be health risks associated with the consumption of this product. This product is intended for use by adults 21 years and older. Keep out of reach of children. This product is unlawful outside the State of Colorado. This product contains marijuana. This product was produced without regulatory oversight for health, safety, or efficacy. There may be additional health risks associated with the consumption of this product for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning on becoming pregnant. Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate heavy machinery while using marijuana.

CONTAMINANT DATA:
Residual Solv: 83.11 ppm
Butanes, Heptanes, Benzene
Toluene, Hexane, & Xylenes = ND

SOURCE: Mindful
“Unintended Consequences”

- Chemicals
- Electrical/Water
- Federal lands
- Money laundering
- Prostitution
- Transients
- Home grows

SOURCE: RMHIDTA
Dangers

SOURCE: DEA
Dangers

SOURCE: DEA
Dangers
As of January 2016:
• **107,798** medical marijuana patients
  • **8,210** patients with recommendations for **50-99 plants**
    ➢ (**8%** of all patients)

If **8,200** patients each grow **50** plants = **410,000** marijuana plants

*The state-licensed medical/recreational industry currently has **758,000** plants in its inventory tracking system*

If **8,200** patients harvest **one pound** per plant every **90 days**
  = **1,640,000** pounds of marijuana per year

SOURCE: DEA
Scenario 2

- 5 people from FL move to CO and rent 3 houses
- All 5 individuals obtain a medical recommendation to grow 99 plants
- Now they can “legally” grow up to 495 plants
  - At least 1 lb per plant per cycle
- 495 lbs every 90 days = 1,980 lbs per year
  - CO = $2,000 per lb
    - $3.9 million per year
  - East Coast = $4,000 per lb
    - $7.9 million per year

SOURCE: DEA
## Colorado Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td>Increased 4.1%</td>
<td>Increased 8.3%</td>
<td>Increased 5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td>Increased 1.2%</td>
<td>Increased 18.6%</td>
<td>Increased 5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Crime</td>
<td>Increased 3.4%</td>
<td>Increased 10.8%</td>
<td>Increased 5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation, [http://crimeinco.cbi.state.co.us/](http://crimeinco.cbi.state.co.us/)
All Reported Crimes in Denver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crimes Against Persons</td>
<td>Increased 23%</td>
<td>Increased 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimes Against Property</td>
<td>Increased 7%</td>
<td>Increased 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimes Against Society</td>
<td>Increased 62%</td>
<td>Increased 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Offenses</td>
<td>Increased 30%</td>
<td>Decreased 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Denver Crimes</td>
<td>Increased 17%</td>
<td>Increased 1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) definitions in the City and County of Denver, January 9, 2015
**CO’s Statewide Budget, FY 2017**

*Revenue from marijuana taxes as a portion of Colorado’s total statewide budget*

SOURCE: Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Negative Meeting Planner Perceptions, 2014

- Downtown Environment, 49%
  - Homeless, Youth, Panhandling
  - Safety, Cleanliness, Drugs
- Getting Around, 31%
- Facilities & Cost, 8%
- Suppliers, 2%
- Other, 10%

SOURCE: VISIT DENVER, Impacts of Downtown Environment on the Tourism Industry and Visitor Perceptions
“Denver is losing visitors and valuable convention business as a result of these overall safety (or perception of safety) issues…” – Report Finding

“My feedback from this meeting will be to never locate here again; I have felt much safer in downtown NYC, Philly, Seattle, and Chicago.” – Attendee Comment

“This client chose to contract with the Hyatt Regency in San Antonio. I would like to share why Denver dropped off his list. This client does a lot of business in Denver and was disappointed to see, in his opinion, how things have changed in the city since marijuana was legalized.” – Potential Client Comments

SOURCE: VISIT DENVER, Impacts of Downtown Environment on the Tourism Industry and Visitor Perceptions
April 2017- 420 Event

SOURCE: The Denver Post, Photos taken by RJ Sangosti and Joe Amon
Colorado Consumption of Alcohol

SOURCE: Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting, June 2015 Forecast (eleven months of data)
Victimless Crime?

Levy Thamba Pongi

Kristine Kirk

Luke Goodman

SOURCE: Open Source
Victimless Crime?

In December of 2015, he was on top of the world explaining in a video documenting his success that, "It’s been a good year.."

SOURCE: Open Source

Marc Bullard
Edibles
Edibles
Edibles
Outlook

Lotus VapeCase iPhone Case with Integrated Vaporizer

$59.99 $9.99

$25 for $50 Worth of Vaporizers and Accessories from SMK24

SOURCE: Open Source
# Snapshot in Colorado

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fatal Accidents</td>
<td><img src="arrow-up.png" alt="Up Arrow" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Impaired Driving Incidents</td>
<td><img src="arrow-up.png" alt="Up Arrow" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth (12-17) Past Month Use</td>
<td><img src="arrow-up.png" alt="Up Arrow" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>College Age (18-25) Past Month Use</td>
<td><img src="arrow-up.png" alt="Up Arrow" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults (26+) Past Month Use</td>
<td><img src="arrow-up.png" alt="Up Arrow" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>ER/ Hospitalizations</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poison Control Center Cases</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of State Diversion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELATED</td>
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<td>Crime</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Revenue for Denver</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Remember

SOURCE: Open Source
To get a copy of the entire report:
www.rmhidta.org
“Reports” Tab

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