

Marijuana Legalization

Marijuana Legalization in Colorado and Other Legalized States

- An estimated 485,000 of Colorado's adult residents use marijuana once a month.
- An estimated 149,000 of Colorado's adult residents use daily, accounting for more than 2/3 of the marijuana sold.¹
- In 2014, nearly 40%, equivalent to 53 tons of the marijuana sold in Colorado, was via the black market.²
- Marijuana is not just about smoking. 2.85 million units of marijuana-infused foods and beverages were sold in Colorado in 2014.³
- Drug-related suspensions/expulsions increased 32 percent from school years 2008/2009 through 2012/2013.⁴
- The number of pets poisoned from ingesting marijuana has increased four-fold in the past six years.
- THC potency has risen from an average of 3.96 percent in 1995 to an average of 12.33 percent in 2013.
- Overall, traffic fatalities in Colorado decreased 14.8 percent, from 2007 to 2012. During the same five years in Colorado, traffic fatalities involving operators testing positive for marijuana increased 100 percent.⁵
- Out of 321 total local jurisdictions in Colorado, 228 (71 percent) prohibit any medical or recreational marijuana businesses.⁶
- There was a 32 percent increase in drug-related suspensions and expulsions in Colorado for academic school years 2008/2009 to 2012/2013.⁷
- A study from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado revealed that 74 percent of teens in treatment for substance abuse were using someone else's diverted medical marijuana.⁸
- The average for Colorado marijuana-related exposures per year increased 89 percent from 2006 – 2009 to 2010 – 2013.1 This compares to a 32 percent increase nationally.⁹

Marijuana Legalization



Drug Free Action Alliance

Contact us for more information on marijuana:

(614) 540-9985

info@drugfreeactionalliance.org

www.drugfreeactionalliance.org

Drug Free Action Alliance is a statewide, 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization founded in 1987. We deliver up-to-date information and develop initiatives that serve the immediate needs of those working to prevent substance abuse throughout the State of Ohio and beyond.

While young people are our primary target population, we also engage in efforts to promote healthy lifestyles for all Ohioans. We form partnerships with businesses, community members, substance abuse prevention professionals, policy makers, law enforcement, school personnel, and, most importantly, parents.

1 Light M, Orens A, et.al, "Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado", July 2014. Colorado Department of Local Affairs

2 ibid

3 Colorado Dept. of Revenue, 2015.

4 Colorado Department of Education⁷, Academic Year 2006-2013.

5 National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006 – 2011 and Rocky Mountain HIDTA 2012.

6 "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact," Rocky Mountain HIDTA, Volume 3 Preview 2015, April 2015, p. 49

7 Colorado Department of Education, Suspension/Expulsion Statistics (School Years 2005 – 2013), , accessed July 2014

8 Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, July 31, 2012 news release, "'Diverted' Medical Marijuana Use Common Among Teens: Study," , accessed August 3, 2012

9 American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPC)), Annual Reports, , accessed June 2014