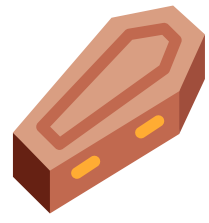


Legal Pot Is More Dangerous and Life-Threatening Than Ever Before

Marijuana Expansion = Harm Expansion

More Fatalities on Roads from Stoned Driving



- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that drugged driving surpassed drunk driving as the cause of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. The number one drug in those crashes is marijuana.
- In Colorado, traffic deaths with drivers who tested positive for marijuana doubled from 2013 to 2020.
- It is estimated that National legalization of marijuana use would be associated with 6,800 excess roadway deaths each year (Journal of the American Medical Association).

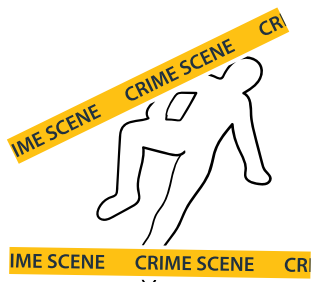
Social Injustice

Pot Shops =
Injustice



- The predatory addiction-for-profit marijuana industry targets disadvantaged neighborhoods and is mostly *not* owned by people of color.
 - After Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, minority teens were arrested in greater numbers for marijuana violations.
 - In Colorado, pot shops are disproportionately situated in impoverished communities, clearly making the residents more susceptible to high use rates and addiction. In Denver, for example, pot shops are heavily concentrated in Hispanic communities.
- https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/26840902_1842031249142726_5079672392301664434_o.jpg

Increase in Crime and Violence



- A 2019 study found that the existence of both recreational and medical marijuana shops in Denver neighborhoods is significantly and positively associated with increased crime (Hughes, 2019)
- NIBRS 2012 - 2016: Colorado Criminal offenses increased 27%, Oregon 177%, and Washington 46%.
- Marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with PTSD.
- Marijuana is associated with intimate partner violence (Shorey et al, 2017).
- Marijuana is the main drug used by perpetrators of childhood death from abuse and/or neglect in Texas, Arizona, and Florida (currently, these are the only states that collect this data. Data compiled on EBM).

Increase in Use-Teens and Young Adults



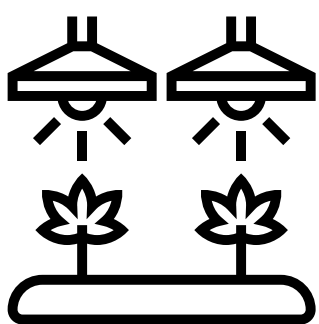
From NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse)

- 6,200,000 daily users in 2009 rose to 13,800,000 daily users in 2019.
- **Teen marijuana vaping has more than doubled since 2013.**
- The national rate for daily marijuana use among young adults who were in middle and high school almost doubled when legalization occurred.

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey:

- **Students who are dabbing THC went from 4.3% of students in 2015 to over 20% in 2019.**
- Statistically significant increases across the state in youth use of edibles and dabbing ultra-potent THC concentrates in 2017 and dabbing and vaping in 2019.
- Increase in kids obtaining and using the dangerous new products produced by the regulated market.
- 21% of youth in the state reported past month use.
- 51.4% said that marijuana was easy for them to get.
- 19.4% of Colorado kids said they'd smoked weed within the last thirty days, but slightly more (53.5%) thought it was easy to obtain.
- In 2019, Pueblo, Colorado saw the highest rate of high-schoolers admitting to using marijuana once or more within the last thirty days, rising to 27%, up slightly from the numbers in 2017.
- Denver's 25.5%, the second-highest rate among state school districts, reflected a much bigger increase; that percentage was 20.9% in 2017.

Fuels The Black Market



DEA:

- There are 3 current markets: illicit market, state-approved medical marijuana market, and state-approved personal use/recreational market. Traffickers obtain supplies from all three markets, as well as foreign-produced marijuana trafficked into the United States.
- Domestic use of marijuana remains high and is likely to increase as the prevalence of state legalization continues to lower the perception of risks to users and potential users.
- **The availability of high-potency marijuana, marijuana concentrates products, and trendy paraphernalia will likely continue to entice users and potential users.** Domestic production and trafficking of marijuana will likely increase as more states adopt or change current marijuana laws.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA

- Seizures of illegal marijuana in Colorado increased 48%, from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) to 257 parcels after marijuana was commercialized (2013-2020).



Every Brain Matters is a community of support, advocacy, and science. Join us, as we call for a cultural change. Our organization unites us and symbolizes both "freedom from marijuana" and optimal brain and environmental health.

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Increase in Child Poisoning

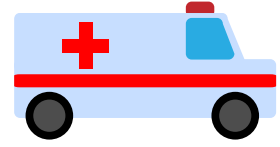


Rocky Mountain HIDTA

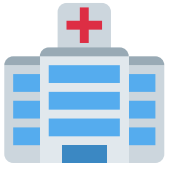
- In 2018, 60% of youth marijuana exposures involved edibles, compared to just 18% in 2016.
- Even when packaging is compliant with Colorado's regulatory requirements, it fails to discourage or prevent children from accessing potent and dangerous marijuana.
- Much of the packaging is designed to replicate common candies and edibles thus attracting younger users and making it difficult for children to discern what is safe to eat.



Increase in ER Vists and Medical Costs



- Cannabis legalization has led to significant health consequences, particularly to EDs and hospitals in Colorado. The most concerning include psychosis, suicide, and other substance abuse (Roberts 2019).
- Colorado Hospital Emergency Departments from 2012 to 2016 and found a more than 3-fold increase in cannabis-associated ED (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acep/95356>)



Increase in Suicides



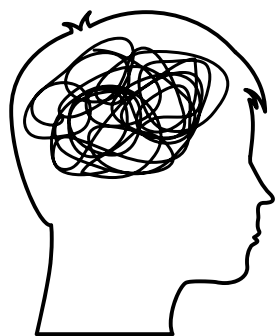
- In Colorado, the percentage of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for THC has increased from 14% in 2013 to 29% in 2020. (RMHIDTA)
- In San Diego, THC is the number one drug found in completed suicides for people under the age of 25. (San Diego Medical Examiner Data, 2020)
- Nearly 50% of all teen suicides in San Diego County included THC. (San Diego Medical Examiner Data, 2020)

Increase in Addiction and Overdose Crisis



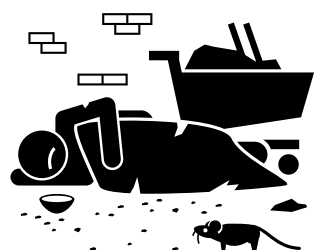
- **Legal medical marijuana, particularly when available through retail dispensaries, is associated with higher opioid mortality. The results for recreational marijuana, while less reliable, also suggest that retail sales through dispensaries are associated with greater death rates relative to the counterfactual of no legal cannabis.** (Mathur et al)
- **Early initiation of marijuana (before 18 years) is the predominant predictor of opioid use disorder.** (Wadekar et al, 2020)
- Medical marijuana states have a 22 % increase in drug overdose deaths. (Shover et al, 2019)
- Colorado overdose deaths were up 54% in 2020. (Colorado Health Institute)
- Marijuana is being laced with fentanyl and is ending up in the hands of high schoolers and youth.

Increase in Mental Illness



- Out of all the drugs that cause temporary psychotic symptoms, cannabis has the highest conversion rate from temporary psychotic symptoms to chronic psychotic disorders like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder: **Cannabis 47%**, amphetamines 32%, hallucinogens 28%, opioids 21% (<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2017.17020223>)
- Marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with post-traumatic stress disorder. (Wilkinson et al, 2015)
- Dose-response relations between the frequency of adolescent cannabis use and all adverse young adult outcomes, increasing odds of later cannabis dependence, use of other illicit drugs, and suicide attempt (Silins et al, 2014).

Increase in Homelessness



- States with recreational marijuana have higher rates of homelessness than other states. (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness)
- 68% of the mentally-ill homeless are reported to have a schizophrenia spectrum disorder (Viron et al, 2014)



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Fatalities on the Roads from Stoned Driving

Drugged driving surpassed drunk driving as the cause of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. The #1 drug in those crashes is marijuana- page 9 and 10 <https://rosap.nhtsa.gov/view/dot/56125>
In Colorado Traffic deaths with drivers who test positive for marijuana doubled from 2013 to 2020. - <https://www.thenmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/RMHIDTA-Marijuana-Report-2021.pdf>
The body count will continue to climb if there is Federal legalization as one study estimates an additional 6,800 traffic fatalities per year. - <https://thecrimereport.org/2020/07/22/recreational-pot-linked-to-rise-in-traffic-deaths/>

Social Justice

<https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1060&context=jlpa>
https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/26840902_1842031249142726_5079672392301664434_o.jpg
<https://everybrainmatters.org/2021/06/29/is-marijuana-good-for-social-justice/>

Crime

<https://news.ucdenver.edu/do-marijuana-dispensaries-increase-neighborhood-crime/>
According to 2012-2016 data from the NIBRS:

- The total number of criminal offenses in Colorado increased by 27 percent;
- The total number of criminal offenses in Oregon increased by 177 percent;
- The total number of criminal offenses in Washington increased by 46 percent;
- The total number of criminal offenses in the U.S. increased by 9 percent.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5663469/>
<https://everybrainmatters.org/child-neglect-and-abuse/>
<https://everybrainmatters.org/science/marijuana-violence/>



Increase Use

<https://nida.nih.gov/drug-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/monitoring-future-2019-survey-results-overall-findings>
<https://nida.nih.gov/drug-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/monitoring-future-2019-survey-results-vaping>
https://nida.nih.gov/sites/default/files/nida_mtfinfographic2019_fullgraphic.pdf
https://riseaboveco.org/articles/RiseAboveCO_2020Summaryreduced.pdf
Pediatric poisoning
<https://2uy2kj3oe6hq2ui8ef2c6xnl-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/09/Lessons-from-Legalisation-SAM-NZ-Report-2020-web.pdf>
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/article-abstract/2748051>
2017 to 2019
4200 0 to 9
46% edible products
The legal States have more cannabis exposure than non-legal states
<https://www.publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/147/4/e2020019893/180775/Edible-Cannabis-Exposures-Among-Children-2017-2019?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

CONCLUSIONS:
Children are collateral victims of changing trends in cannabis use and a prevailing THC concentration. Intoxicated children are more frequent, are younger, and have intoxications that are more severe. This raises a real issue of public health.

<https://www.publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-split/140/3/e20170017/38341/Unintentional-Cannabis-Intoxication-in-Toddlers>

Increase in youth vaping

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2785376?guestAccessKey=4df985fe-e703-49cc-a46f-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2785376?guestAccessKey=4df985fe-e703-49cc-a46f-Substance%20Abuse%20and%20Mental%20Health%20Services%20Administration). (2019). Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed tables. Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/>
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data/survey-research/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-data>
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/>
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hkcs>

Black Market

Page 77 https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020_Low_Web-Dir-007-20_2019.pdf
Seizures of marijuana reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) in Colorado increased 48% from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) when marijuana was commercialized to an average of 257 parcels (2013-2020) during the time recreational marijuana become legalized. <https://www.thenmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/RMHIDTA-Marijuana-Report-2021.pdf>

Fuller, T. (2019, April 27). Getting Worse, Not Better: Illegal Pot Market Booming in California Despite Legalization. New York Times. Retrieved April 5, 2021.

<https://everybrainmatters.org/science/marijuana-blackmarket/>
<https://www.nopotshops.com/marijuana-and-crime>

Pediatric Poisoning

<https://2uy2kj3oe6hq2ui8ef2c6xnl-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/09/Lessons-from-Legalisation-SAM-NZ-Report-2020-web.pdf>
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/article-abstract/2748051>
2017 to 2019
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<https://www.publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-split/140/3/e20170017/38341/Unintentional-Cannabis-Intoxication-in-Toddlers>

Recreational cannabis legalization in Canada is associated with increased rates of severe intoxications in children. Edible ingestion is a strong predictor of ICU admission in the pediatric population.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15563650.2021.1939881>

Increase in ER Visits and Medical Costs

Cannabis legalization has led to significant health consequences, particularly to EDs and hospitals in Colorado. The most concerning include psychosis, suicide, and other substance abuse. There are deleterious effects on the brain and some of these may not be reversible with abstinence. Other significant health effects include increases in fatal motor vehicle collisions, adverse effects on cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, inadvertent pediatric exposures, cannabis contaminants exposing users to infectious agents, heavy metals, and pesticides, and hash-oil burn injuries due to preparation of concentrates. Finally, cannabis dispensary workers not trained in medicine are giving medical advice that could be harmful to patients.-

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6625695/>

The legalization of cannabis in a growing number of states coupled with the perception that marijuana is an innocuous drug has led to significant increases in cannabis consumption, both for its recreational properties and for its alleged medicinal properties. However, cannabis use is associated with adverse health effects (1), and cannabis-related emergency department (ED) visits and hospital admissions have increased (2).

In this issue, Monte and colleagues reviewed health records from patients presenting to the UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital Emergency Department from 2012 to 2016 and found a more than 3-fold increase in cannabis-associated ED visits over this period <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M19-0542>

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acep/95356>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314140400_The_Hidden_Costs_of_Marijuana_Use_in_Colorado_One_Emergency_Department's_Experience

Suicides

Colorado -The percent of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has increased from 14% in 2013 to 29% in 2020. -<https://www.thenmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/RMHIDTA-Marijuana-Report-2021.pdf>

3] San Diego Medical Examiner Data, 2020.
<https://www.nopotshops.com/er-hospitalizations>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6625695/>
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wps.20170>

Increase Addiction Crisis and Overdoses

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w29802>
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0376871620300041>
<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1903434116>
Colorado 54% <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/news/opioid-overdose-deaths-54-2020-fentanyl-fatalities-spike>
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/drug_poisoning_mortality/drug_poisoning.htm
Fentanyl was found in a vaping device seized at North Scott High School. https://qctimes.com/news/local/education/fentanyl-was-found-in-a-vaping-device-seized-at-north-scott-high-school-medical-and/article_cdbdb080-ea3e-59e6-a3f3-f723000fdcb0.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR2L2PVt1PcFyDvTpKTM4kKc3qti2dH_6SvkTnHfSUMjSXCmJsvGdyR35fg
CT Lab Confirms Marijuana Laced With Fentanyl is a New Public Safety Threat <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/ct-lab-confirms-marijuana-laced-with-fentanyl-is-a-new-public-safety-threat/2658007/>

Increase Mental Illness

<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2017.17020223>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26455669/>
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(14\)70307-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(14)70307-4/fulltext)
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acep/95356>
<https://everybrainmatters.org/science/marijuana-psychosis-schizophrenia/>

Homelessness

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness -<https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23703373/>
<https://everybrainmatters.org/science/homelessness/>
<https://www.nopotshops.com/marijuana-and-homelessness>