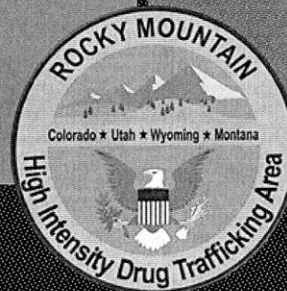


The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: *The Impact* Volume 5

UPDATE

September 2018

Rocky Mountain
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



REPORT AVAILABLE AT:

www.RMHIDTA.org

(Click on the “Reports” tab)

PREPARED BY THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA
STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT
SEPTEMBER 2018

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report Update:

RMHIDTA has published annual reports every year since 2013 tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado. The purpose is to provide data and information so that policy makers and citizens can make informed decisions on the issue of marijuana legalization. This year (2018) RMHIDTA elected to provide an update to the 2017 Volume 5 report rather than another detailed report.

Section I: Traffic Fatalities & Impaired Driving

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, marijuana related traffic deaths **increased 151 percent** while all Colorado traffic deaths **increased 35 percent**
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **more than doubled** from 55 in 2013 to 138 people killed in 2017.
 - This equates to one person killed every 2 ½ days compared to one person killed every 6 ½ days.
- The percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths that were marijuana related **increased from 11.43 percent in 2013 to 21.3 percent in 2017.**

Section II: Marijuana Use

- Colorado past month marijuana use shows a **45 percent increase** in comparing the three-year average prior to recreational marijuana being legalized to the three years after legalization.
- Colorado past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older is ranked **3rd** in the nation and is **85 percent higher** than the national average.

Section III: Public Health

- The yearly rate of emergency department visits related to marijuana **increased 52 percent** after the legalization of recreational marijuana. (2012 compared to 2016)
- The yearly rate of marijuana-related hospitalizations **increased 148 percent** after the legalization of recreational marijuana. (2012 compared to 2016)
- Marijuana only exposures more than tripled in the five-year average (2013-2017) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the five-year average (2008-2012) prior to legalization.

Section IV: Black Market

- RMHIDTA Colorado Task Forces (10) conducted **144 investigations** of black market marijuana in Colorado resulting in:
 - **239** felony arrests
 - **7.3 tons** of marijuana seized
 - **43,949** marijuana plants seized
 - **24** different states the marijuana was destined
- The number of highway seizures of Colorado marijuana **increased 39 percent** from an average of 242 seizures (2009-2012) to an average of 336 seizures (2013-2017) during the time recreational marijuana has been legal.
- Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system has **increased 1,042 percent** from an average of 52 parcels (2009-2012) to an average of 594 parcels (2013-2017) during the time recreational marijuana has been legal.

Section V: Societal Impact

- Marijuana tax revenue represent approximately **nine tenths of one percent** of Colorado's FY 2017 budget.
- Violent crime **increased 18.6 percent** and property crime **increased 8.3 percent** in Colorado since 2013.
- 65 percent of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

Section IV: Marijuana Industry

- **According to the Marijuana Policy Group, *Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado 2017 Market Update*:**
 - “From 2014 through 2017, average annual adult use flower prices fell 62.0 percent, from \$14.05 to \$5.34 per gram weighted average.”
 - “Adult use concentrate prices fell 47.9 percent, from \$41.43 to \$21.57 per gram.”
 - “The average THC content of all tested flower in 2017 was 19.6 percent statewide compared to 17.4 percent in 2016, 16.6 percent in 2015 and 16.4 percent in 2014.”
 - “The average potency of concentrated extract products increased steadily from 56.6 percent THC content by weight in 2014 to 68.6 percent at the end of 2017.”
- As of June 2017, there were 491 retail marijuana stores in the state of Colorado compared to 392 Starbucks and 208 McDonald’s.

11/13/2018


Mail - lanacre@hotmail.com

Marijuana statistics

Lana Mangiapane

Tue 11/13/2018 4:27 PM

To: Lana Mangiapane <lanacre@hotmail.com>;

 1 attachments (636 KB)

HIDTA Volume 5 UPDATE 2018.pdf;

In accordance with the National Drug Control Policy, the estimated national cost of lost worker productivity including absenteeism and poor job performance due to illicit drug use was 129 billion dollars. The US Navy estimates each drug user costs his or her employer an average of \$6,600 more than non-substance using coworkers.

In accordance with the Rocky Mountain HIDTA report: (attached)

Since recreational marijuana was legalized, marijuana related traffic deaths **increased 151 percent** while all Colorado traffic deaths **increased 35 percent**

Colorado past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older is ranked **3rd** in the nation and is **85 percent higher** than the national average.

Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system has **increased 1,042 percent** from an average of 52 parcels (2009-2012) to an average of 594 parcels (2013-2017) during the time recreational marijuana has been legal.

RESOLUTION 18-

Charter Township of Oakland

Oakland Township, MICHIGAN

to prohibit the establishment or operation of commercial marihuana establishments or dispensaries including growing, cultivating, farming, dispensing or transporting for commercial or private sale or use within the Township as such facilities are defined in the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act

Whereas, there is significant evidence demonstrating that non-medical or recreational use of marihuana has a profoundly negative impact on our youth, particularly teenagers; and

Whereas, *The National Institute on Drug Abuse* reports that one in six teens that use marihuana become addicted to its use; and

Whereas, *Monitoring the Future, 2017* reports that marihuana use increased to 24% among adolescents in 8th, 10th and 12th grades combined and one in ten 12th grade students vaped marihuana in the past year; and

Whereas, *Michigan Transportation Research Institute* reports that driving under the influence of marihuana is associated with an increased risk of car crashes, especially fatal crashes; marihuana driving related fatalities increased by 67% from 2007 to 2015. And from 2014 to 2015, it went up 20% in one year; and

Whereas, *MATFORCE, the Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition in Arizona* reports that drug related school expulsions spiked 45% in Colorado, a state which has legalized medical and recreational marihuana use, in the years after legalization; and

Whereas, *National Highway Traffic Association* reports that driving under the influence of marihuana is associated with an increased risk of car crashes, especially fatal crashes; and

Whereas, the University of Colorado, Denver reports that marihuana-impaired driver related fatalities have risen 114% in Colorado since that state legalized the use of marihuana; and

Whereas, *Join Together* reports that the active ingredient in marihuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol(THC), has increased significantly from an average of 1% in 1970 to 30% in 2013, making today's marihuana an alarmingly more potent drug; and

Whereas, general marihuana use and possession is not permitted by federal and state law; and

Whereas, it is not possible to foresee and mitigate all the associated risks and impact to our communities through the recreational use of marihuana; and

Whereas, Marihuana is now the number one reason minors enter treatment for substance abuse—more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy, and other drugs combined¹; and

Whereas, increased consumption of Marihuana would likely lead to higher public health and financial costs for society. Addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco already result in much higher social costs than the revenue they generate. The cost to society of alcohol alone is estimated to be more than 15 times the revenue gained by their taxationⁱ; and

Whereas: Marihuana legalization would not eliminate the black market for the drug ^{iii, iv}; and

Whereas: emergency room admissions for Marihuana use now exceed those for heroin and are continuing to rise; the link between suicide and Marihuana is strong, as are car accidents, including fatal crashes^v; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Charter Township of Oakland prohibits the establishment or operation of marihuana establishments or dispensaries within the Township as such facilities are defined in the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act. Pursuant to the Act, Section 6.1, the Charter Township of Oakland prohibits the establishment or operation of any and all categories of marihuana establishments/dispensaries/growing/farming/cultivating/selling or transporting operations for commercial or private sale within its boundaries.

This Resolution, 18- , hereby Ordinance 18- , shall be in full force and effect immediately due to the need to protect public health, safety, and welfare in the Charter Township of Oakland.

ⁱ Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Center for Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through October 15, 2012.

ⁱⁱ Ellen E. Bouchery, Henrick J. Harwood, Jeffrey J. Sacks, Carol J. Simon, Robert D. Brewer. *Economic Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption in the U.S.*, 2006. American Journal of Preventive Medicine - November 2011 (Vol. 41, Issue 5, Pages 516-524, DOI: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.045)

ⁱⁱⁱ Kilmer, Beau, et al., *Reducing Drug Trafficking Revenues and Violence in Mexico: Would Legalizing Marihuana in California Help?* RAND Corporation. [2010].

^{iv} Kilmer, Beau, et al., *Altered States? Assessing How Marihuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marihuana Consumption and Public Budgets*. RAND Corporation. [2010]

^v SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2011). *Drug abuse warning network, 2008: National estimates of drug-related emergency department visits* (HHS Publication No. SMA 11-4618). Rockville, MD: Author.