

Marijuana is Harmful

- Marijuana is now the **most prevalent illegal drug** detected in **impaired drivers**, **fatally injured drivers**, and **motor crash victims**¹⁹.
- Smoking marijuana results in approximately **5 times** the carbon monoxide concentration, **3 times** the tar, and the retention of **one-third more** tar in the respiratory tract than tobacco smoke^{4,16,24,27}.
- Marijuana use is linked to **depression**, **schizophrenia**, **suicidal thoughts**, and **paranoia**¹⁵.
- Marijuana has been shown to **significantly impact** brain structure. People who smoke marijuana recreationally, meaning fewer times than once a week, **develop differences** in the shape of brain structures responsible for **learning**, **reward**, **fear**, **addiction**, **decision-making**, and **emotional reactions**¹².
- Marijuana use has been linked to **testicular cancer**¹⁴, **prostate cancer**¹³, and **cervical cancer**¹³.
- Marijuana is **addictive**. Approximately **9%** of people who use marijuana will become addicted⁷. According to the Arapahoe House Treatment Network, **teen admission** to treatment for marijuana has **increased 66%** between 2011 and 2014 in Colorado²¹.

The THC concentrations in seized marijuana have almost doubled from 1999 to 2009¹¹.

Marijuana Usage Effects Do Not Stay in the Home

Other illicit drug use is not permitted in the home... how is marijuana different?

- Marijuana concentrates, extracted from the marijuana plant the same way **crack is from cocaine**, results in a very high THC concentration²⁰. Using butane as a solvent in the process, numerous homes across the United States have exploded, completely **collapsing homes**, apartment buildings, and **damaging** other homes in the neighborhood²⁰.
- Law enforcement and emergency personnel have **no idea** how the **air quality** is affected after these explosions. Since 2013, the amount of **explosions** from marijuana concentrates has more than **doubled**²⁰.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Does Not Support Marijuana Legalization

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states:

- “The American Academy of Pediatrics **opposes** the legalization of marijuana¹”.
- “The AAP **strongly opposes** the use of smoked marijuana because smoking is known to cause lung damage, and the effects of secondhand marijuana smoke are unknown²”.
- “The AAP **opposes** legalization of marijuana because of the **potential harms** to **children** and **adolescents**. The AAP supports studying the effects of recent laws legalizing the use of marijuana to better understand the impact and define best policies to reduce adolescent marijuana use²”.
- The AAP **opposes** “**medical marijuana**” outside the regulatory process of the US Food and Drug Administration. Notwithstanding this opposition to use, the AAP recognizes that marijuana may currently be an option for cannabinoid administration for children with life-limiting or severely debilitating conditions and for whom current therapies are inadequate²”.

“Any change in the legal status of marijuana, even if limited to adults, could affect the prevalence of use among adolescents¹”.

The American Epilepsy Society (AES) Supports CBD Research

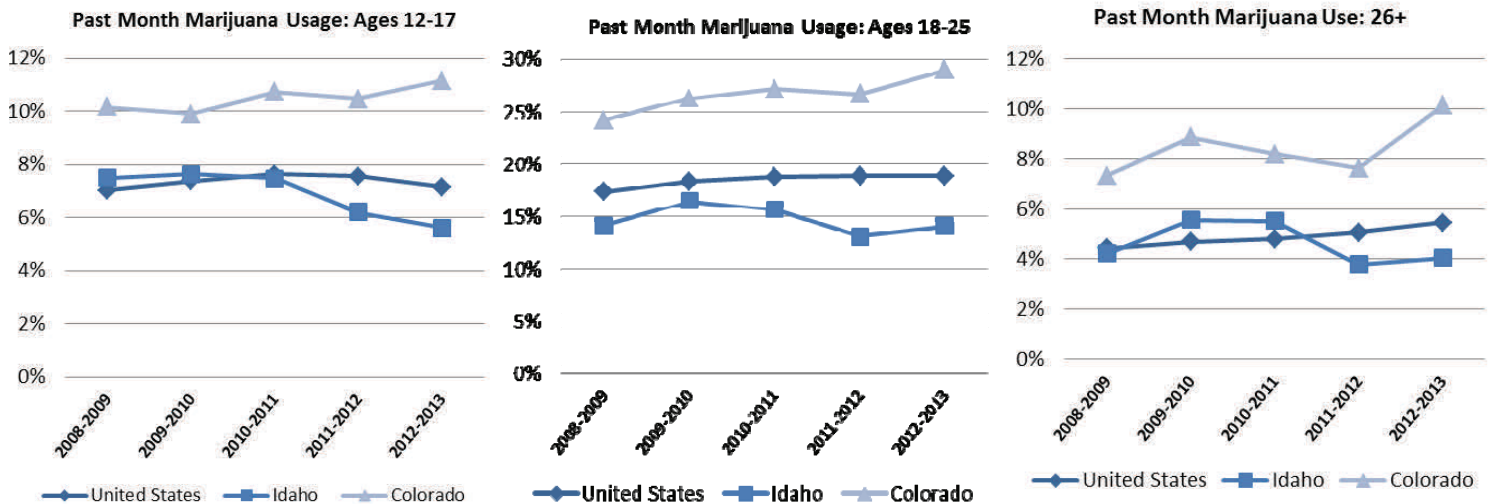
“The AES supports all well-controlled studies that will lead to a better understanding of the disease and development of safe and effective treatments for epilepsy³”.

- “The recent anecdotal reports of the positive effects of the marijuana derivative cannabidiol (CBD) for some individuals with **treatment-resistant** epilepsy give reason for hope. However, we must remember that these are only anecdotal reports and **robust scientific evidence** for the use of marijuana is lacking³”.
- “The lack of information does not mean that marijuana is ineffective for epilepsy. It merely means that we **do not know** if marijuana is a safe and effective treatment for epilepsy which is why it should be studied using the **well-founded research methods** that **all other** effective treatments for epilepsy have undergone³”.

Marijuana Legalization Leads to Increased Use

- In Colorado, past year marijuana usage has **increased** from **16.2% to 18.9%** from 2012 to 2013²³.
 - The United States average in 2012 was 11.8% and 12.3% in 2013²³.
- Past month (current) marijuana usage in Colorado for **12-17 year olds** is over **56% higher** than the national average in 2013²³.
- According to a WIC study in Colorado, **35.8%** reported using marijuana **during** their most recent **pregnancy**, **41.1%** of mothers said they used marijuana after pregnancy, and **13.7%** said they used marijuana while breastfeeding⁹.

Our efforts should be focused on funding substance abuse prevention programs, not legalizing a third drug. Prevention is a lower cost measure that will not disrupt our culture.



Source: SAMHSA, 2013

Legal Marijuana Leads to More Government Interference

Unintended consequences of legalizing marijuana will lead to further government regulation. Early reports from legalization in Colorado show:

- The El Paso Intelligence Center National Seizure System reported a **397% increase** in highway interdictions resulting in seizures of Colorado marijuana from 2008 to 2013²⁰.
- There has been a **33.5% increase** in the number of pounds of marijuana seized from 2005-2008 to 2009-2013²⁰.
- From 2005 through September 2009, there were 0 cases of **accidental marijuana ingestion** at the emergency department in a children's hospital in Colorado; from October 2009 to the end of 2011, there were **14**²⁶.

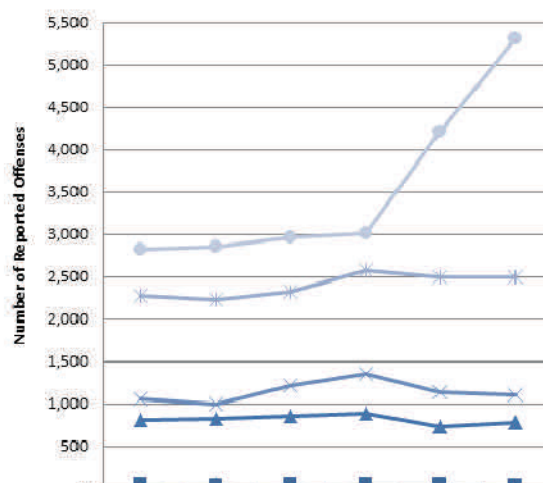
Colorado is facing multiple lawsuits. One of which includes a marijuana advocacy group suing Colorado under the 5th Amendment, stating that the state is violating their right to remain silent by making them pay taxes²².

Crime Increases with Legalization

According to the Denver Police Department:

- Overall crime in Denver **increased 44%** from 2009-2014¹⁰.
- Since marijuana legalization, **disorderly conduct** has increased 51%, **drug violations** have increased 12%, and **public drunkenness** is up 53%¹⁰.
- 2013-2014 data¹⁰ show:
 - Crimes Against Persons: **+15%**
 - Crimes Against Property: **-3%**
 - Crimes Against Society: **+23%**
 - All Other Offenses: **+41%**

Violent Crime in Denver



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Non Forcible Sex Offenses	36	42	42	33	19	15
Murder	38	34	43	39	40	31
Forcible Sex Offenses	813	816	856	885	727	780
Robbery	1,062	1,001	1,207	1,361	1,135	1,099
Aggravated Assault	2,269	2,233	2,327	2,567	2,496	2,487
Simple Assault	2,820	2,856	2,959	3,008	4,214	5,299

Marijuana Is Not Less Harmful Than Alcohol

- Both alcohol and marijuana are intoxicants used recreationally. However, legality, patterns of use and long-term effects on the body make the two drugs **difficult to compare**⁶.
- Short-term impacts of marijuana use is **subtler** than alcohol use, however, the same can be said for cigarettes. We know that the effects of cigarette smoking are **devastating**:
 - Cigarettes are responsible for 480,000 deaths annually¹⁸ compared to 88,000 deaths annually for alcohol¹⁷.
- According to the CDC in 2006, Idaho's **economic cost** of excessive drinking was **\$9.8 million**⁸, while **tax revenue** for alcohol was only **\$7,562**²⁵ in the same year.
- Alcohol tax only accounts for **6%** of alcohol-related public health **costs**⁵.

Alcohol has been rigorously studied; we know its effects. We have barely begun to scratch the surface on research into marijuana harms.

In Idaho, we take pride in the fact that our kids are wholesome, our land is pristine, and our families are safe. Idaho is truly a spectacular place; let's keep it that way.

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