

## **Tammy Hodgman**

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**From:** Barry A. Tibbetts  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Tammy Hodgman  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed ideas from BTI on retail vendors and potential prevention funding FOR AGENDA  
**Attachments:** Marijuana Retail suggestions.docx; Information relating to marijuana vendor education.docx; 01Feb2017-simplified-states-rights-one-pager-v1.pdf; 14Nov2017-v5-costs-to-society.pdf; 15Jan2019-v3-Revenues-vs-Reality-1.pdf; Colorado-One-Pager-39pdf.pdf; Oct-2018-Quick-Facts.v4.pdf; SAM\_Marijuana\_and\_Driving\_Don\_t\_Mixrvsd.pdf; Youth-Use-One-Pager\_v8 (1).pdf

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**From:** director@bethetheinfluencewrw.org <director@bethetheinfluencewrw.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:57 PM  
**To:** Barry A. Tibbetts <batibbetts@windhammaine.us>; David Nadeau <davidnadeau@windhammaine.us>; Matthew Cyr <macyr@windhammaine.us>; Emily DaSilva <emily.dasilva@opportunityalliance.org>; Coordinator <coordinator@bethetheinfluencewrw.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed ideas from BTI on retail vendors and potential prevention funding

Barry:

As discussed, here is an overview of what BTI would be looking to put in place to minimize the repercussions of the presence of retail marijuana vendors and youth use in Windham. We have backed up our information with current information from S.A.M. (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) and other sources. I did talk to the Office of Marijuana Policy for the results on the student who reported easily getting a medical marijuana card without parent consent, but due to the confidentiality of the student and social worker involved, they were unable to get specifics on which facility it happened at. I still think it significant that the council is aware of that activity. They did visit all of the vendors in Windham to see if they were all in compliance and were told they were. If BTI receives funding, we would work to create compliance checks that would be anonymous similar to alcohol compliance checks to ensure full disclosure.

Thank you for distributing the information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!!

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To: Town of Windham Council Members

From: Be the Influence Coalition

*Dear Windham Town Council Members:*

*Next week as you will be making some decisions about future retail marijuana vendors, BTI wanted to refresh you on information that has been submitted in the past and provide updated data from a seminar that 4 coalition members attended today that we hope to be helpful to you; no matter the outcome of your choices. Our goal is to protect youth and here's what we know (We have attached reports from S.A.M (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) and other sources in hopes of avoiding any of these difficult outcomes for Windham):*

- In areas where retail vendors are legalized, youth access and use is at an increase*
- Altria and Philip Morris are two of the main funders of the cannabis industry and as in years before are targeting youth with their advertising, JUUL products, edibles and building social norm without your best interests at heart*
- The potency of today's marijuana is hard to regulate and is at an all-time high*
- With more adults using, access at home is increasing and perception of risk is decreasing (Maine Youth Integrated Health Survey)*
- States that have adopted legal retail have seen an increase in black market, impaired driving, direct costs to the community (See SAM reports)*
- With the COVID-19 virus, the NIH warns that anybody smoking or vaping has increased danger of compromising immunity and lung capacity. 1 in 4 youth have vaped in the past 30 days including marijuana*

*We are aware that if retail vendors open soon there are ways that we can at least minimize some of the repercussions that other towns have experienced by effective use of funds from the industry to the Town for prevention efforts. Here are our thoughts on what could be done:*

## Marijuana Retail Prevention Fund Allocations

With the potential opening of retail vendors in Windham, BTI has been made aware that a percentage of funding would go back into the community allocated to prevention services to help to reduce youth use. With that in mind, we would like to be considered to provide those services through a future strategic plan that would concentrate on the following areas:

- **Vendor Prevention Education/Training Opportunities:** It has recently come to BTI's attention through one of the social workers at Windham High School that a student revealed being able to acquire a medical marijuana card easily at a Windham establishment without the parent/adult approval. While both sources will have to remain confidential, it is no secret that students have told us in focus groups that similar to alcohol, access to medical cards and marijuana, in general, are easy for youth in Windham. The State has determined that alcohol vendors are held to strict standards on not selling to minors and are subject to yearly checks to ensure compliance. BTI would like to adopt a training similar to the alcohol industry's Responsible Beverage Server training that would educate marijuana vendors on best practices in not selling to minors to include education on youth prevention
- **Marijuana Messaging:** (media, signage, in store displays, edibles, etc.) that don't target youth and help to change social norm by educating youth on the dangers of use. Please use the link below for a study on youth messaging:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S037687161830231X>

- **Compliance Checks:** Similar to alcohol compliance checks, the Office of Marijuana Policy would work with us to adopt programs ensuring better regulation on serving to minors
- **Regulation through Restorative Practices:** Reducing incarceration and increasing restorative programs for youth that change behavior positively (SBIRT Programs, SIRP referrals)
- **Tool kits** and skill building for the council and community on best practices
- **Changing Barriers** including drive through facilities and other modes of sale (see data from the Opportunity Alliance)

**BTI looks forward to working pro-actively with the Town of Windham in protecting our youth with our current landscape through providing education and support. We all want what is best for our community!!**

**Please see attached documents for conclusive data and sources for further information.**

**Information relating to marijuana vendor education:**

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30180110/>

This study pertains to online retail training, their key findings were:

- Online RMV training was acceptable to retail recreational marijuana personnel and potentially improved responsible sales practices.
- Responsible vendor training has been successful under certain conditions in the alcohol market and should be considered for the recreational marijuana market.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/09/180917101309.htm>

This study pertains to online retail trainings, their key findings were:

- more than 75 percent of trainees found the training user-friendly;
- almost 70 percent were satisfied with the training; and
- slightly more than 90 percent would recommend the training to another employee

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/enforcement/med-approved-responsible-vendor-program-providers>

This is a list of approved trainings that CO has approved, many online – the only real difference would be in the laws, since Maine law will obviously be a little bit different than CO.

<https://cannabisindustryinstitute.com/responsible-vendor-training/>

This website on the home page (scroll down a little) has a copy of 1 CCR 212-1 AKA the language CO uses in their policy for vendor education – this will be helpful for local ordinance recreation

**BTI's thoughts around drive thru's and delivery:**

- Delivery and drive thru increase access and use for adults = increase access and use for youth
- We don't allow drive thru or delivery alcohol
- We don't allow drive thru for medical
- Why would we allow it for recreational

<https://greenrushdaily.com/politics/portland-bans-marijuana-drive-thrus/>

Article about Portland Oregon banning drive thru's – harder to regulate

- "legal cannabis shops must tightly monitor and restrict who enters their buildings" "In order to eliminate any potential loopholes, city counsel decided to outlive drive-thrus right from the outset"

<http://thenationshealth.aphpublications.org/content/49/6/1.1>

Key Findings:

- the most recent report found that more adults are using marijuana and using it more often. It also found that there has been more use of edible marijuana among high school students and that overall emergency department visits related to marijuana have increased.

**W**HILE STATES CAN decriminalize marijuana, federal law is clear that a state cannot issue licenses or otherwise sell marijuana.

Today's marijuana industry encompasses industrial-scale growing and THC extraction, and advertising to both in-state and out-of-state markets—it has little to do with individual growing and use, or "mom-and-pop" businesses.

The Colorado experience has demonstrated how commercialized, legal marijuana in one state directly affects its neighbors. Since legalization, marijuana from Colorado has flooded into neighboring states. (See graphic.) In Nebraska and Oklahoma, the inflow has been so dramatic that the states have sued Colorado. These states contend that pot smuggled from Colorado is "undermining [their] own marijuana bans, draining their treasuries, and placing stress on their criminal justice systems," including increased law enforcement and judicial spending.

**O**RGANIZED CRIME, INCLUDING crime involving Mexican and other international drug cartels, has

surged. The past President of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police stated last year that "Organized crime filings have skyrocketed in Colorado since marijuana legalization. We had 1 filing in 2007 and by 2015, we had 40."

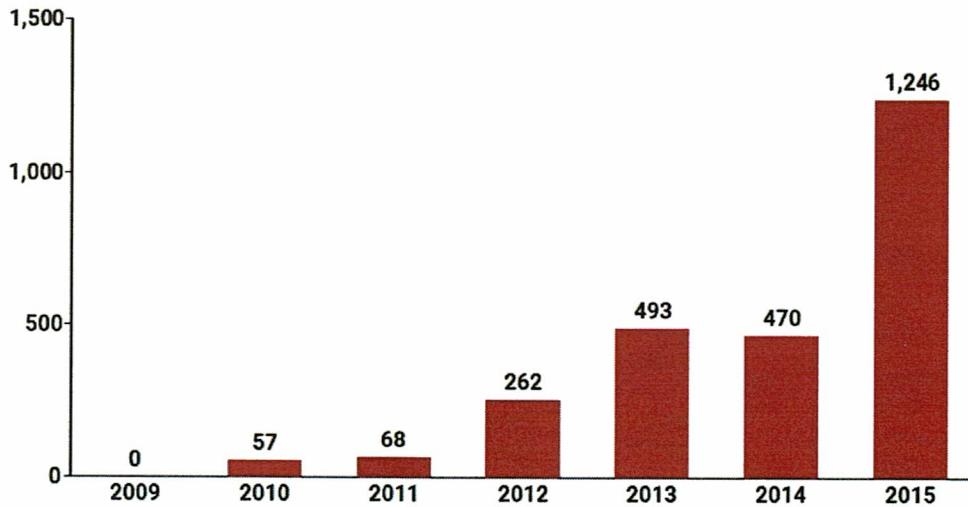


HIGHWAY ADVERTISING targets in-state and out-of-state residents alike

**A**LS POT HAS illegally flowed out of legalized states, people have flooded in for "marijuana tourism." The marijuana industry has launched a nationwide marketing campaign to draw out-of-state residents. It sells packages including travel, lodging, and easy access to the drug. It buys advertising visible from highways.

These developments are not without consequences: Marijuana-related hospital visits have surged in Colorado among out-of-state visitors. In 2014, for example, a 19-year-old international student living in Wyoming killed himself after eating a potent marijuana edible an older friend bought for him at a Colorado pot shop. The Denver coroner's office listed Colorado marijuana intoxication as a significant factor in his death.

Pounds of marijuana shipped from CO to other states seized by U.S. Postal service



Source: Rocky Mountain HIDTA report (Fall 2016), citing data from the U.S. Postal Service

**G**RÖWING CALLS TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA usually extol the virtues of tax revenues. The marijuana industry is quick to estimate large amounts of revenue from pot sales, but it rarely, if ever, discusses the societal costs of legalization. But if alcohol and tobacco are any indication, tax revenue from marijuana sales will be paltry compared to the potential costs.

One study in Colorado found that one Colorado emergency room's admissions alone due to pot use alone may cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars. (1)

Uncollected payments among marijuana-related patients at another hospital in Colorado totaled \$210 M. (2) Furthermore, the US Department of Transportation has valued a loss of a single human life from a car crash at \$6.6 Million. In Colorado, ER visits have quadrupled and car crashes have risen by more than 45%. (3, 4).

States are likely to pay dear costs related to tourism and homelessness issues as well. The homelessness issue in Colorado has exploded. (5) Additionally, Visit Denver, the tourism bureau charged with attracting businesses to the state, has found marijuana to be a chief concern, with many convention-goers commenting that they will not consider Denver a viable option for their next convention because of "streets reeking of weed."

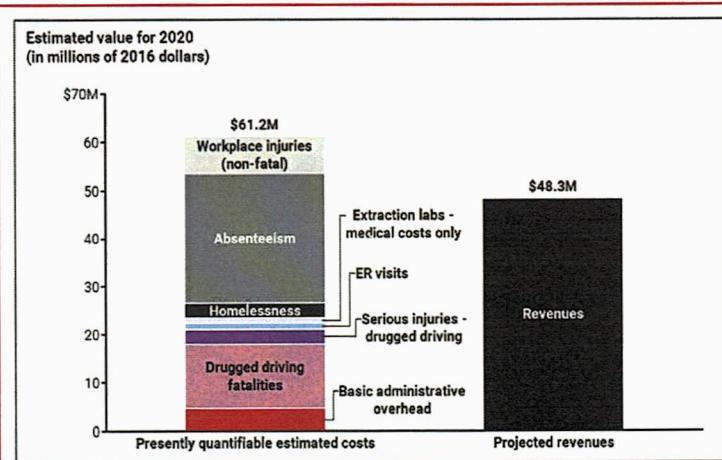
Legalization also results in administrative and enforcement costs, similar to alcohol regulation. In fact, alcohol is the top reason for arrest of all drugs, since so many people use it.

**W**ORKPLACE LOSSES are another potential money loser for a state contemplating legalization. As most people injured in serious drug-related workplace accidents are co-workers of the drug-using employee

**Every \$1 received in tax revenue from our legal drugs costs society more than \$10 in lost social costs, due to workplace, highway, health, criminal justice, and other reasons.**

or other third parties, this will affect a state's workforce broadly. This does not include lawsuits stemming from liabilities or increased insurance premiums.

We also cannot quantify, as of yet, costs due to: greater other drug use, greater marijuana use among underage students, property and other economic damage, controlling an expanded black market, sales to minors, public intoxication, and other burdens.



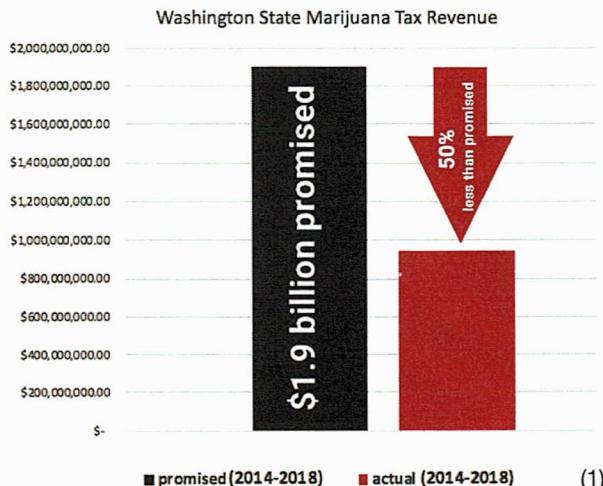
A study of revenues versus costs in Rhode Island found that a conservative estimate of costs outweighed - by more than 25% - the potential revenues estimated by pot advocates. The biggest cost centers came from workplace injuries, absenteeism, and drugged driving fatalities.

Source: Costs of Legalization, SAM.

**N**o POLICY is without its costs. Legalization will result in significant costs to society, resulting from workplace losses, car crashes, homelessness, lost convention revenue, administrative enforcement, burns resulting from high THC production accidents, and other issues. As even a limited set of costs comes due, it is quickly out-pacing the revenue raised, leading to a net loss for the state and its residents.

1. See <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/er-visits-kids-rise-significantly-after-pot-legalized-colorado-n754781>
2. The Hidden Costs of Marijuana in Colorado, at [http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org/Issues/Vol%202010%20Issue%202/Articles/The%20Hidden%20Costs%20of%20Marijuana%20Use%20in%20Colorado\\_Final.pdf](http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org/Issues/Vol%202010%20Issue%202/Articles/The%20Hidden%20Costs%20of%20Marijuana%20Use%20in%20Colorado_Final.pdf)
3. See <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/er-visits-kids-rise-significantly-after-pot-legalized-colorado-n754781>
4. See <http://www.denverpost.com/2017/08/25/colorado-marijuana-traffic-fatalities/>
5. See <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/legal-marijuana-drawing-homeless-to-colorado/>

**G**ROWING CALLS TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA usually extol the virtues of tax revenues. The marijuana industry is quick to estimate large amounts of revenue from pot sales, but revenues often fall short of what was promised and only amount to a drop in the bucket of state budgets. Of the six states for which we have data as of January 2019, four of them (CO, WA, CA, and AK) missed initial revenue targets.



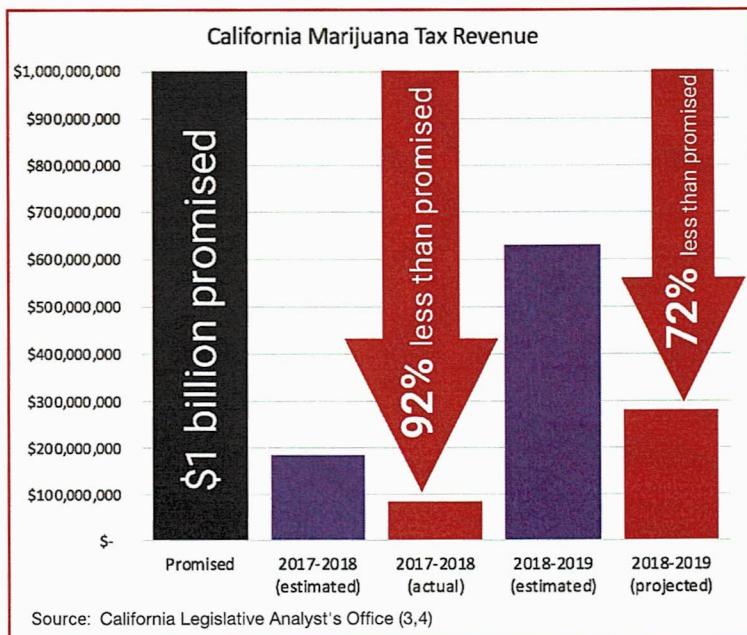
"We get \$200 million a year in tax revenue, which, you know, we're a \$30 billion budget, so it's a drop in the bucket – it's not going to pay for early childhood education or solve any big social ill..."  
- Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, April 9, 2018 (2)

## Marijuana Taxes as a Percent of State Budgets

| State      | Percent of Budget |
|------------|-------------------|
| Colorado   | 0.78%             |
| Washington | 0.30%             |
| Oregon     | 0.24%             |
| Alaska     | 0.12%             |
| California | 0.20%             |

"You do not legalize for taxation. It is a myth. You are not going to pave streets. You are not going to be able to pay teachers. The big red herring is the whole thing that the tax revenue will solve a bunch of crises. But it won't." - Andrew Freedman, former pot czar for Colorado<sup>(5)</sup>

(5)



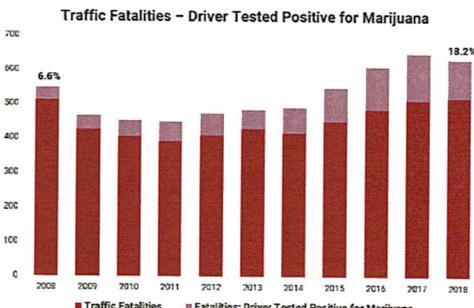
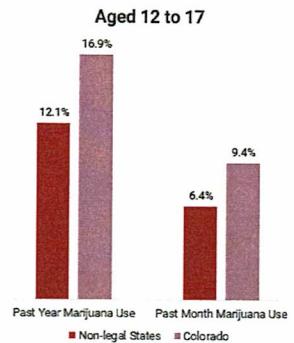
**C**OLORADO projected it would take in \$118 million in its first year of retail sales, but it underperformed by 42%. (6) After a steady decline in prices, Colorado had to raise its tax rate to compensate for overproduction. (7) Alaska was promised \$9.6 million in 2017 and \$14.2 million in 2018, but only received \$1.7 million in 2017 and \$11 million in 2018. (8) Black market sales and mounting costs from legalization continue to divert the projected revenue from the programs it was promised to fund.

1. See <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2013/05/14/not-so-fast-tax-revenue-estimates-from-legal-marijuana-may-not-materialize> and <https://lcb.wa.gov/about/annual-report>
2. See <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/john-hickenlooper-on-the-future-of-weed-the-2020-race-and-whats-happening-at-the-denver-post-629368/>
3. See [https://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/documents/AUMA\\_Prop%202064\\_Frequently\\_Asked\\_Questions.pdf](https://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/documents/AUMA_Prop%202064_Frequently_Asked_Questions.pdf)
4. California Legislative Analyst's Office. Cannabis Tax Revenue Update. November 15, 2018. <https://lao.ca.gov/LAOEconTax/Article/Detail/326>
5. See <https://www.bostonherald.com/2015/06/12/colorado-weed-czar-revenue-up-in-smoke/>
6. See Marijuana Taxes Won't Save State Budgets: <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/09/upshot/09up-marijuana.html>
7. See [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/11/16/marijuana-is-getting-cheaper-some-states-thats-problem/?utm\\_term=.c9e0fc68ce4b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/11/16/marijuana-is-getting-cheaper-some-states-thats-problem/?utm_term=.c9e0fc68ce4b)
8. See <https://www.mjpolicygroup.com/pubs/Alaska-Demand-and-Taxes.pdf> and <http://tax.alaska.gov/programs/programs/reports/monthly/Marijuana.aspx?ReportDate=6/1/2018>

Colorado legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2012. Since then, consequences associated with marijuana legalization have played out with devastating effects for the state.

## Youth marijuana use is on the rise in Colorado.

- Past month marijuana use among 12 to 17 year-olds increased 4% in Colorado from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018. In non-legal states, past year and past month use rates are significantly lower than in the state of Colorado ([NSDUH State Comparisons](#), 2019).
- In Colorado, only 15.9% of young people aged 12 to 17 years old perceive a great risk from using marijuana once a month, compared to a national rate of 23.6% ([NSDUH State Comparisons](#), 2019).
- In 2017, 34% of high schoolers reported dabbing as the means of marijuana consumption. Dabbing marijuana delivers a far more potent high than smoked marijuana flower ([Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), 2019).
- Marijuana, which can cause depression and suicidality, particularly in young users, was found in the toxicology screens of 200 suicide victims in the state in 2017, up from 83 in 2012 ([Colorado Violent Death Reporting System](#), 2019).



## Marijuana-impaired driving is on the rise in the state and as a result, so are traffic fatalities.

- A Colorado study of DUIs in the state found that a significant number of people screened for impaired driving were under the influence of marijuana. 59% of those who tested positive in the study were found to have high levels of THC in their system, at 5.0 or above ([Colorado Division of Criminal Justice](#), 2019).
- In 2018, marijuana-impaired drivers were implicated in 18.2% of traffic fatalities in the state of Colorado, marking a 109% increase since legalization was implemented ([Colorado Department of Transportation](#), 2019).

## Poison control calls and emergency room visits related to marijuana are on the rise.

- In 2017, there were 21,769 emergency department visits and 16,614 hospitalizations in the state of Colorado related to marijuana ([Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), 2019).
- The Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center reported 266 marijuana-related exposures in 2018, 147 of which were youth cases (0-18 years old) ([Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center](#), 2019).

## Illegal activity is higher than ever.

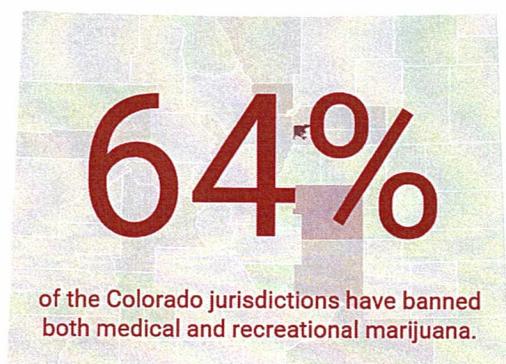
- In 2018, investigations into illicit marijuana operations jumped to 257, up from 144 in 2017. 6.1 tons of bulk marijuana were seized in 2018 ([Rocky Mountain HIDTA Colorado Task Forces](#), 2019).
- In early 2019, the state reported its largest drug bust yet, which yielded 80,000 illegal marijuana plants, and \$2.1 million in cash. 42 search warrants were served ([US News](#), 2019).

## Pot shops and marijuana capitalists dominate the state.

- There are 1,016 dispensaries in the state of Colorado. Medical and recreational marijuana locations outnumber all Starbucks and McDonalds in the state, combined. 52% of the state's dispensaries are concentrated within 3 counties ([Colorado Department of Revenue](#), 2019).
- Pot lobbying expenditures within the state legislature exceeded \$955,000 in 2018 ([Colorado Sun](#), 2019). As a result, laws such as the Clean Indoor Air Act or laws prohibiting marijuana companies from freely advertising on billboards across the state have been amended or entirely abandoned.

## Social justice outcomes have been inconsistent with the promises of legalization.

- Though total marijuana arrests are down in the state, people of color comprise a disproportionate percentage of arrestees for marijuana-related to charges ([Colorado Division of Criminal Justice](#), 2019).
- In 2017, 39% of marijuana-related arrests of African Americans were made without a warrant, compared to only 18% of such arrests of Caucasians ([Colorado Department of Public Safety](#), 2018).



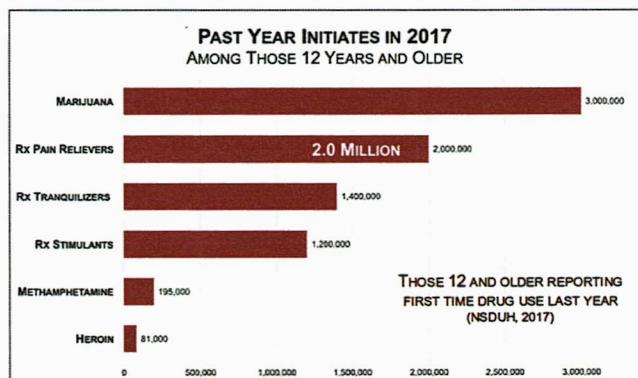
# MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: QUICK FACTS

## MARIJUANA IS ADDICTIVE & HARMFUL

### ENDORSED BY:

- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (2016)<sup>1</sup>
- NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (2017)<sup>2</sup>
- NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
- AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ADDICTION MEDICINE
- AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

**IN 2017 THERE WERE 8,300 NEW MARIJUANA USERS EACH DAY; ROUGHLY 1,200 MORE THAN THERE WERE IN 2016.<sup>3</sup>**



Regular use of marijuana is linked with increased risk of developing cannabis use disorder, higher rates of mental illness and higher rates of co-substance abuse with alcohol, among other drugs.<sup>4</sup>

**THERE ARE 2X AS MANY DAILY OR NEAR DAILY MARIJUANA USERS THAN THERE WERE JUST A DECADE AGO.<sup>3</sup>**

### NOT THIS...

~5-25% THC



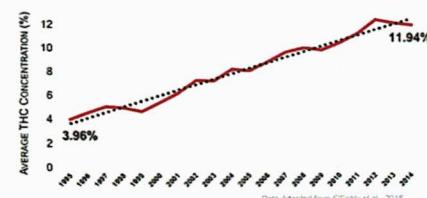
### BUT THIS...

~20-95% THC



## NOT YOUR WOODSTOCK WEED

**A STUDY ON THE WASHINGTON MARKET SHOWED AVERAGE THC LEVELS OF 20% IN FLOWER PRODUCTS AND 70% IN EXTRACTS FOR INHALATION IN 2016.<sup>7</sup>**



*“Epidemiological studies have clearly established that acute cannabis impairment increases the risk of motor vehicle accident involvement, including fatal collisions.”*

-AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 2017

**IN COLORADO, DRUGGED DRIVING WENT FROM KILLING ROUGHLY ONE PERSON EVERY 6.5 DAYS TO NOW EVERY 2.5 DAYS, SINCE LEGALIZATION WAS PASSED.<sup>8</sup>**

### REFERENCES

- 1 World Health Organization. (2016). The health and social effects of nonmedical cannabis use. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/abuse/publications/recreational\\_marijuana\\_report.pdf](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/abuse/publications/recreational_marijuana_report.pdf)
- 2 National Academies of Sciences. (2017, January). The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2017/health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids.aspx>
- 3 Hasin, D. S., Kendig, B. Z., Saha, T. D., Huang, B., Pickering, R., Smith, S. M., ... & Grant, B. F. (2016). Prevalence and correlates of DSM-5 cannabis use disorder, 2012-2013: findings from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions—III. American Journal of Psychiatry, 173(6), 588-599.
- 4 ElSohly, M. A., Mehta, Z., Foster, S., Gon, C., Chandra, S., & Church, J. C. (2016). Changes in cannabis potency over the last 2 decades (1995–2014): analysis of current data in the United States. Biological Psychiatry, 79(7), 613-619.
- 5 Fischer, B., Huestis, M. A., Weller, M. L., Gold, B., & Rehm, J. (2011). Lower Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines for Adults (LRCUG): a narrative review of evidence. Canadian Journal of Public Health/Revue Canadienne de Santé Publique, 102(4), 324-327.
- 6 Smart, R., Caulkins, J. P., Kimer, B., Davenport, S., & Midgette, G. (2017). Variation in cannabis potency and prices in a new legal market: evidence from 30 million cannabis sales in Washington state. Addiction, 112(12), 2157-2177.
- 7 Rocky Mountain HDTA. (2018, September). The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, Vol. 5, Update. Retrieved September 14, 2018, from [https://rmhda.org/files/D2DF/FINAL\\_Volume\\_5\\_UPDATE\\_2018.pdf](https://rmhda.org/files/D2DF/FINAL_Volume_5_UPDATE_2018.pdf)

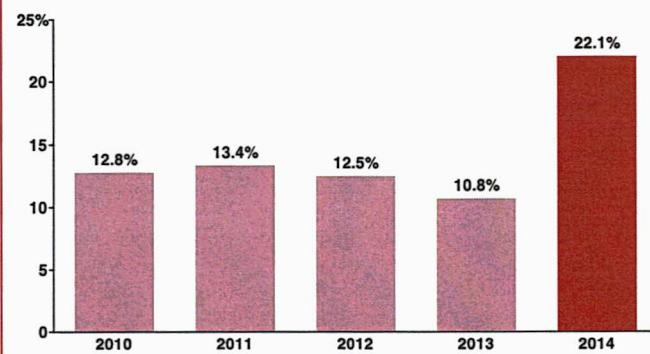
**D**RIVING WHILE HIGH is a growing problem in the U.S. Estimates show that a third of impaired driving incidents can be traced to marijuana, while many more involve a combination of multiple substances. (1)

In Colorado, marijuana-related traffic deaths increased by 48 percent after the state legalized recreational use of the drug. (1) In Washington State, 18.6% of all DUI cases in the state tested for drugs were positive for THC; from January through April, 2015, 33% were positive for THC. (2) The number of fatally injured drivers positive for marijuana in the state more than doubled following marijuana legalization, reaching 17% in 2014. (3)

Even as Colorado's population has increased, fatal crashes in CO related to alcohol-impaired drivers have fallen during the era of recreational pot legalization, from 160 in 2011 to 143 in 2015 (crashes where Blood Alcohol Content, BAC, was greater than or equal to 0.08 percent), an 11 percent drop over four years. At the same time, traffic fatalities overall have risen, from 447 in 2011 to 608 in 2016, a 26 percent rise over five years, as drivers testing positive for marijuana use have risen sharply.

AAA has released guidelines on impaired driving that are important to remember. First, there is no science showing that drivers reliably become impaired after ingesting a specific amount of marijuana. This is very different from alcohol, and we could never count on a 0.08 BAC level equivalent for marijuana. Second, research has not been able to reliably measure impairment based on THC levels. (4) THC blood levels fall so rapidly that such measured levels are vastly lower than when the impaired driving occurred due to the long delay in testing. But the effect on driving persists beyond the feeling of being high.

WA traffic fatalities where driver tested positive for marijuana



Source: 2016, AAA Traffic Safety Foundation

One groundbreaking study found that that chronic marijuana use can impair a person's ability to drive for up to three weeks after stopping marijuana use. (5)

Other research has noted non-chronic users who smoke one or two marijuana joints are likely to test positive for marijuana at standard cut-off levels for only 2 - 3 days, with many testing negative 24 hours after smoking marijuana. After three to five days, such users almost always test negative. (6)

Furthermore, marijuana-impaired driving is likely an underreported problem, since many drivers high on

**Driving while high on marijuana doubles or triples your risk of a car crash. Driving high on marijuana and alcohol is more harmful than driving on either alone.**

marijuana are also using alcohol. (7) Since there is an established standard for drunk driving, the criminal justice system often stops at a lab test showing greater than 0.08 BAC levels.

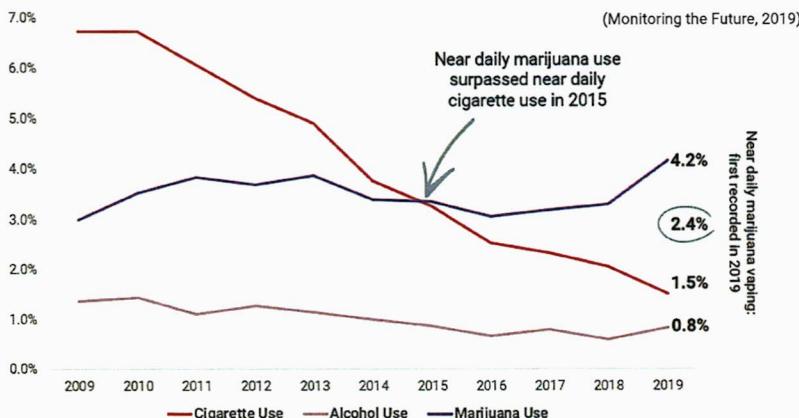
**D**RIVING WHILE HIGH is an unappreciated problem, compounded by a growing industry intent on protecting their brand and image. A recent Liberty Mutual survey found that a third of students said driving under the influence of marijuana is legal in states where it is recreational. More than 20% of teens reported it's common among their friends. Parent perceptions were similar: 27% said it's legal and 14% said it's common among friends. (7) A public education campaign on the dangers of driving while high is vital.

1. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/drugged-...4c-291a-11e7-a616-d7c8a68c1a66\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.e9a2a8440d39](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/drugged-...4c-291a-11e7-a616-d7c8a68c1a66_story.html?utm_term=.e9a2a8440d39)
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3. Tefft, B. C., Arnold, L. S., & Grabowski, J. G. (2016, May). Prevalence of Marijuana Involvement in Fatal Crashes: Washington, 2010-2014. Washington, DC: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.
4. Battistella, B., Fornari, E., Thomas, A., Mall, J., Chtioui, H., Appenzeller, M. ... Giroud, C. (2013). Weed or wheel! fMRI, behavioural, and toxicological investigations of how cannabis smoking affects skills necessary for driving. *PLoS ONE*, 8(1), e52545.
5. Bosker, W. M., Karschner, E. L., Lee, D., Goodwin, R. S., Hirvonen, J., ... Ramaekers, J. G. (2013). Psychomotor function in chronic daily cannabis smokers during sustained abstinence. *PLoS ONE*, 8(1), e53127. Available:
6. DuPont, R. L. et al., Marijuana-Impaired Driving: A Path Through the Controversies, in Sabet, K. A. and Winters, K. (forthcoming). *Marijuana and Contemporary Health Issues*. Oxford University Press.
7. Weed Out the Confusion: One-Third of Teens Think Driving Under The Influence of Marijuana is Legal in States Where Recreational Use By Adults is Permitted <https://libertymutualgroup.com/about-liberty-mutual-site/news-site/Pages/Weed-Out-the-Confusion.aspx>

# SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana

preventing another big tobacco

# YOUTH USE



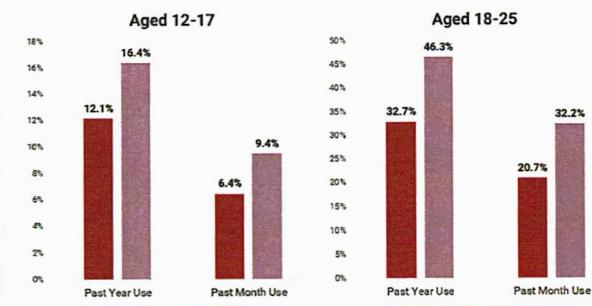
## Young people use more potent marijuana, more often.

- Near daily marijuana use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders increased 26.3% from 2018 to 2019 (Monitoring the Future, 2019).
- Studies show youth vaping of any kind increases the risk of future marijuana vaping, presenting another risk amid a youth vaping epidemic (Kowitt et. al., 2019).
- Young people report vaping marijuana in increasingly large numbers since such data was first recorded in 2017 (Monitoring the Future, 2019).
- Marijuana vaping delivers more potent forms of marijuana through vaporized concentrates, which can contain as much as 99% THC.

## Marijuana use among young people in "legal" states is alarmingly high.

- Past year and past month marijuana use among 12 to 17 year-olds in "legal" states increased around 3.5%, each from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- Past year and past month marijuana use among 18 to 25 year-olds increased nearly 4.4% each from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- While 23.8% of 12 to 17 year-olds in non-legal states perceive a risk from smoking marijuana once a month, only 17.4% in "legal" states perceive such a risk (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- One study found cases of Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) in young people in "legal" states grew 25% following legalization (Cerda et. al., 2019).

## 2017/2018



Recent data show nearly **9.2 million** young people aged 12 to 25 used marijuana in the past month (2018).  
Past month marijuana use is indicative of frequent use.

(NSDUH, 2019)

## Marijuana use is harmful to developing brains and youth use increases the risk of negative outcomes.

- One study discovered changes in grey matter volume in young marijuana users, indicating marijuana use may impact the way the adolescent brain develops (Orr et. al., 2019).
- Adolescent marijuana use is associated with an increased risk for depression and suicidality (Silins et al., 2014; Gobbi et al., 2019). Marijuana use is linked to the development of psychosis (DiForti et al., 2019).
- Chronic marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment and worsened academic performance (Meier, et al., 2012; Silins et al., 2014; Finn, 2015; Meier et al., 2015; Arria et al., 2015; Schuster, et al., 2018).

## In "legal" states, marijuana companies target youth.

- Even though the sale of marijuana to people under the age of 21 is prohibited, marijuana companies still reach youth in "legal" states. 61% of high schoolers in Washington state believe that marijuana is easy to obtain (Washington state Healthy Youth Survey, 2018).
- Companies profit from products that resemble candy or cola, and come in flavors that appeal to young people.
- Marijuana social media marketing increased in "legal" states (Whitehill et. al., 2019). One study found young people who are exposed to marijuana marketing on social media are five times more likely to use marijuana (Trangenstein et. al., 2019).
- Offenses related to minors, such as sale to a minor, comprise more than one in six of all documented violations committed by "legal" marijuana companies in the state of Washington (Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board, 2019).

Past month marijuana vaping has steadily increased in the past several years.

