



## **Press Release**

October 30, 2017

Every three days someone dies in a marijuana-related traffic death in Colorado. Arizonans for Responsible Drug Policy, a non-profit agency dedicated to raising awareness about the harms of marijuana, is unveiling this important fact on billboards in the Phoenix area this week.

This alarming statistic is recorded in a recent report prepared by the Rocky Mountain HIDTA. The report highlights the dangers imposed by marijuana-impaired drivers on streets and highways. The report records that marijuana-related traffic deaths, when a driver tests positive for marijuana, more than doubled from 55 deaths in 2013 to 125 deaths in 2016 in Colorado. Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66% in the four-year average (2013-2016) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the four-year average (2009-2012) prior to legalization. During the same time period, all traffic deaths increased 16%.

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA obtained this data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System and Colorado Department of Transportation.\*

Additional disturbing data from Colorado highlights the terrible impact that legal marijuana has on youth.

Youth past month marijuana use increased 12% in the three-year average (2013-2015) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the three-year average prior to legalization (2010-2012).

The latest 2014/2015 results show Colorado youth ranks #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #4 in 2011/2012 and #14 in 2005/2006.

Colorado youth past month marijuana use for 2014/2015 was 55% higher than the national average compared to 39% higher in 2011/2012.

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Paid for by Arizonans For Responsible Drug Policy.



[www.ArizonansForResponsibleDrugPolicy.org](http://www.ArizonansForResponsibleDrugPolicy.org)

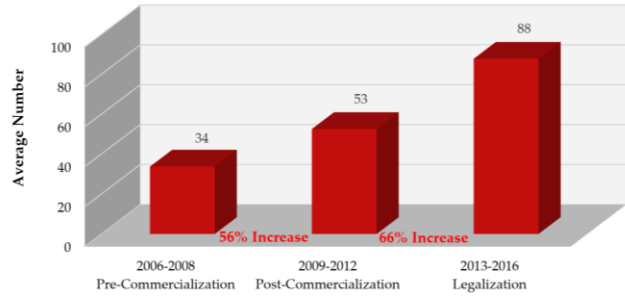
SHEILA POLK, Chair  
MERILEE FOWLER, Secretary /Treasurer

**Percent of All Traffic Deaths That Were Marijuana-Related when a Driver Tested Positive for Marijuana**



SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2011 and Colorado Department of Transportation 2012-2016

**Average Number of Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana when a Driver Tested Positive for Marijuana**



SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2011 and Colorado Department of Transportation 2012-2016

Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana* When an OPERATOR Tested Positive for Marijuana			
Crash Year	Total Statewide Fatalities	Fatalities with Operators Testing Positive for Marijuana	Percent of Total Fatalities
2006	535	37	6.92%
2007	554	39	7.04%
2008	548	43	7.85%
2009	465	47	10.10%
2010	450	49	10.89%
2011	447	63	14.09%
2012	472	78	16.53%
2013	481	71	14.76%
2014	488	94	19.26%
2015	547	115	21.02%
2016	608	149	24.51%

SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2011 and Colorado Department of Transportation 2012-2016

\* Rocky Mountain HIDTA is the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. The report is titled *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, Volume Five October 2017* and can be found at: <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/FINAL%202017%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>

**\*\*Please note: Arizonans for Responsible Drug Policy is a 501c4 non-profit organization. No funds from the Vote No on Prop 205 political action committee campaign were used for the billboards.**