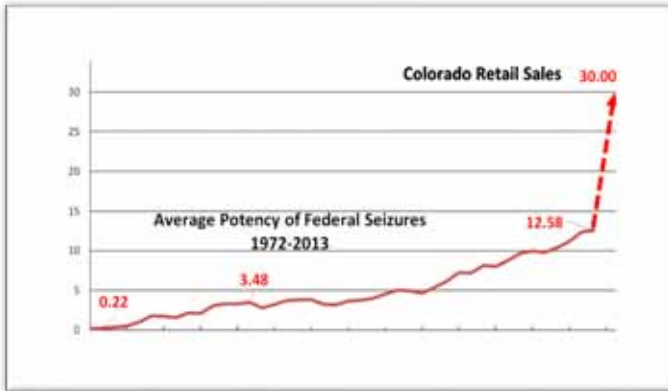


LEGALIZED MARIJUANA: FAST FACTS on the Harms and Risks

Today's Marijuana: a Powerful Drug

Today's marijuana is a harmful, psychoactive, addictive substance that is much more potent than ever before—at least five times more powerful than the marijuana of the 1970s. (National Institute of Drug Abuse, NIDA)



What's Happening in States with Legalization?

Colorado now has the highest use rate of marijuana in the nation. Teen illicit use is 74% higher in Colorado than the national average—a 20% increase since 2012. (2015 SAMHSA Report)

Increase in marijuana-related traffic fatalities, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits as well as marijuana-related calls to poison control centers. (Rocky Mountain HIDTA)

In marijuana-friendly states, **accidental ingestion by youth is up over 600 percent.** (Journal of Clinical Pediatric)

Black market is thriving, hiding in plain sight in Colorado. A recent AP report says: "Illegal drug traffickers are growing weed among [Colorado's] sanctioned pot warehouses and farms, then covertly shipping it elsewhere and pocketing millions of dollars from the sale." (AP Jan. 2016)

A Look Into the Future

Marijuana use profoundly changes the brain's structure and functioning and negatively impacts memory, attention, and learning skills. It causes paranoia and psychosis in higher doses. Compared with their peers who don't use, students who use marijuana receive lower grades and are more likely to be suspended or drop out of high school. (New England Journal of Medicine Lancet Psychiatry)

Drop in Intelligence

A major study proves marijuana is harmful to the developing brain. Early, long-term use found to lower IQ by 7-8 points. (NIDA)



Marijuana: An Addictive Drug

17% of youth who start using marijuana in their teens will become dependent upon it. Those who use marijuana daily are 25 to 50% more likely to become dependent/addicted. (NIDA)

1 in 3: Marijuana Use Disorder

Nearly 1 in 3 regular marijuana users suffer from use disorder characterized by inability to quit using and failure at major life goals such as school, home and work. (JAMA Psychiatry 2015)

MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSE LEGALIZATION

- American Medical Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Cancer Society