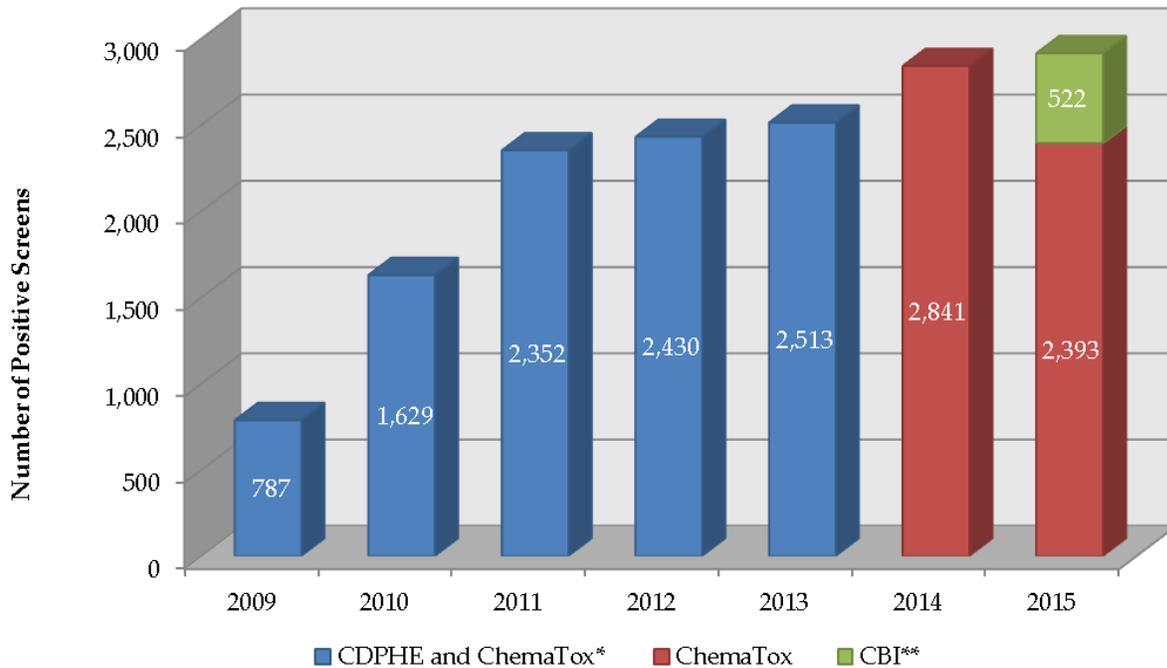


Number of Positive Cannabinoid Screens



*Data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was merged with ChemaTox data from 2009 to 2013.

**The Colorado Bureau of Investigation began toxicology operations in July 1, 2015.

There were a total of 723 9-Panel drug screen (including Cannabinoids) cases analyzed by CBI in 2015.

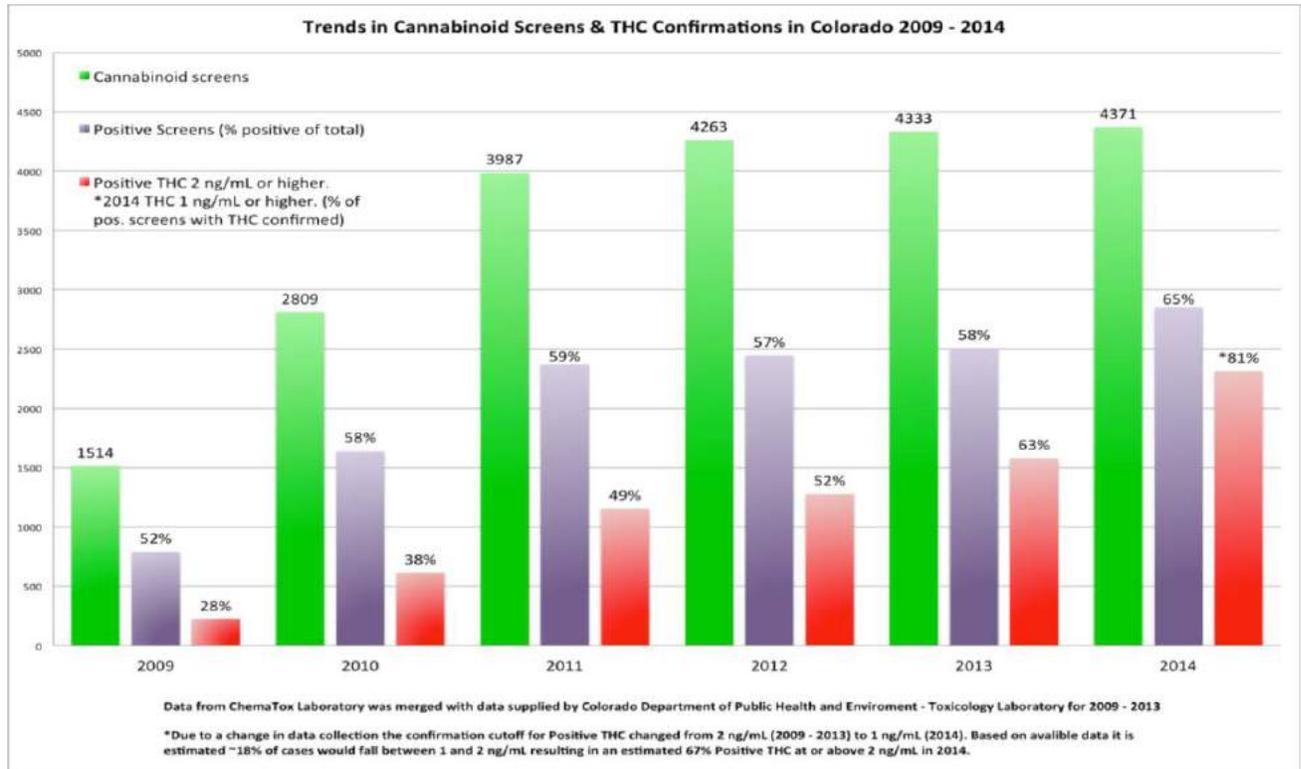
SOURCE: Colorado Bureau of Investigation and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

❖ The above graph is Rocky Mountain HIDTA’s conversion of the following ChemaTox data as well as data from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation’s state laboratory.

NOTE: THE ABOVE GRAPHS INCLUDE DATA FROM CHEMATOX LABORATORY WHICH WAS MERGED WITH DATA SUPPLIED BY COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE SCREENS ARE DUID SUBMISSIONS FROM COLORADO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

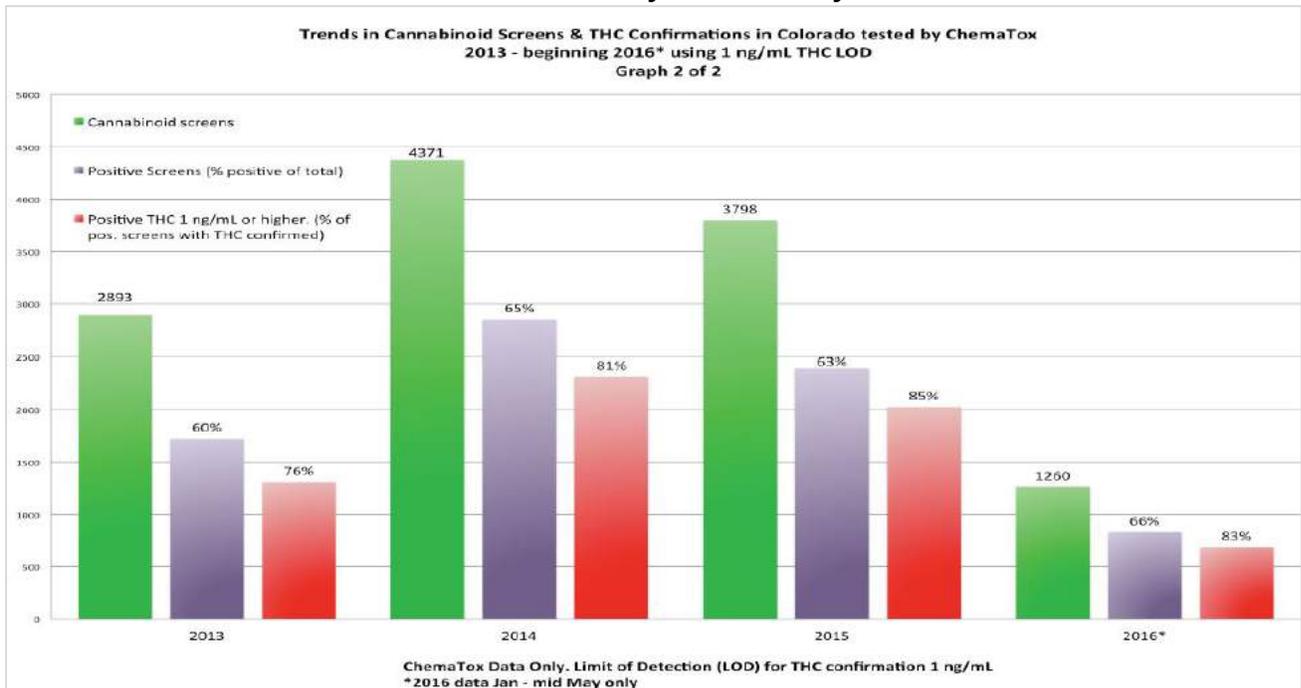
NOTE: COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT DISCONTINUED TESTING IN JULY 2013. THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION BEGAN TESTING ON JULY 1, 2015.

ChemaTox and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Data Combined 2009-2013)



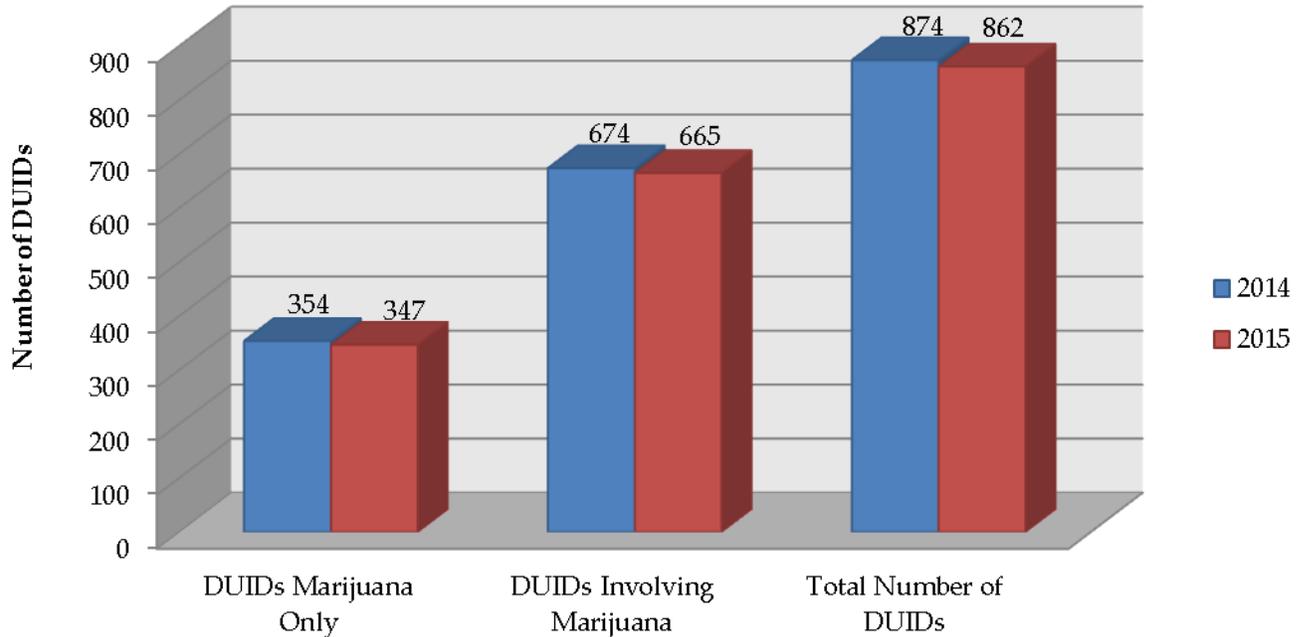
SOURCE: Sarah Urfer, M.S., D-ABFT-FT; ChemaTox Laboratory

ChemaTox Data Only (2013-May 2016)



SOURCE: Sarah Urfer, M.D., D-ABFT-FT, ChemaTox Laboratory

Colorado State Patrol Number of DUIDs, 2014 and 2015

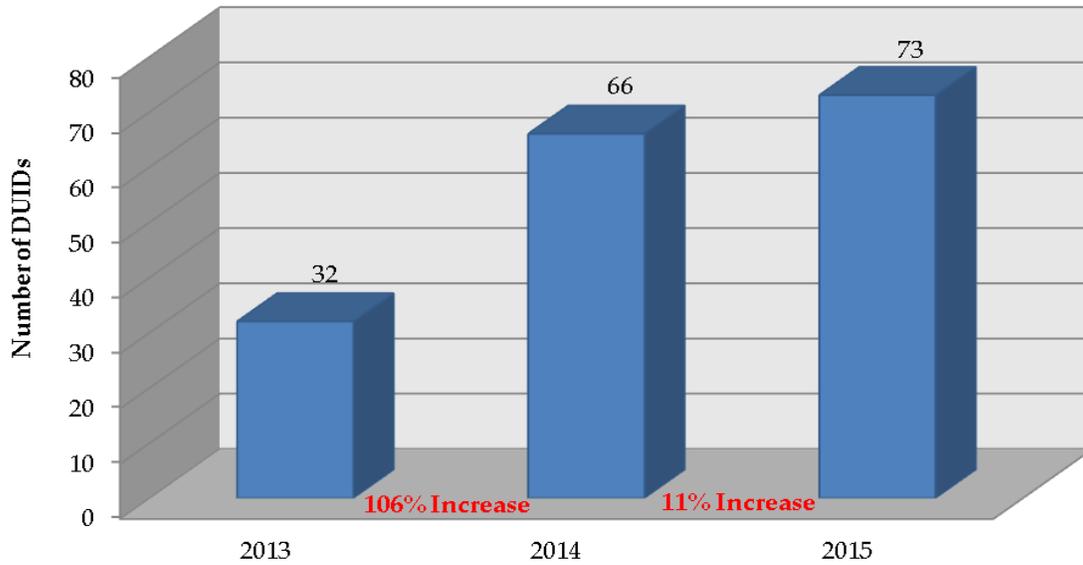


SOURCE: Colorado State Patrol, CSP Citations for Drug Impairment by Drug Type

- ❖ In 2015, 77 percent of total DUIDs involved marijuana and 40 percent of total DUIDs involved marijuana only
- ❖ In 2015, Colorado State Patrol made 1,000 less DUI and DUID cases than in 2014. However, marijuana made up 15 percent of the total in 2015 and 12 percent of the total in 2014.

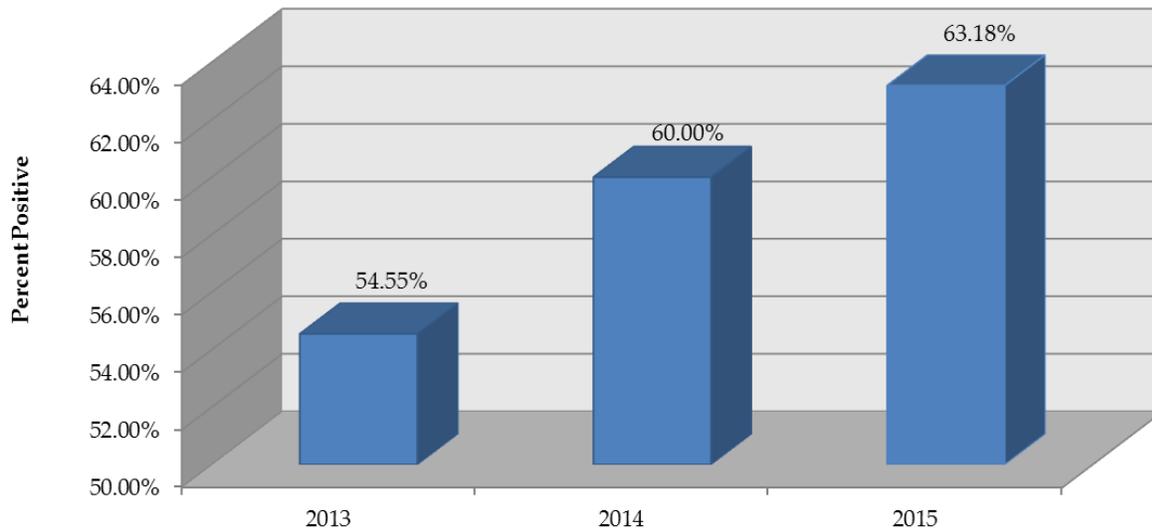
NOTE: "MARIJUANA CITATIONS DEFINED AS ANY CITATION WHERE CONTACT WAS CITED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) OR DRIVING WHILE ABILITY IMPAIRED (DWAI) AND MARIJUANA INFORMATION WAS FILLED OUT ON TRAFFIC STOP FORM INDICATING MARIJUANA & ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA & OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OR MARIJUANA ONLY PRESENT BASED ON OFFICER OPINION ONLY (NO TOXICOLOGICAL CONFIRMATION)." - COLORADO STATE PATROL

Denver Police Department Number of DUIDs Involving Marijuana



SOURCE: Denver Police Department, Traffic Operations Bureau via Data Analysis Unit

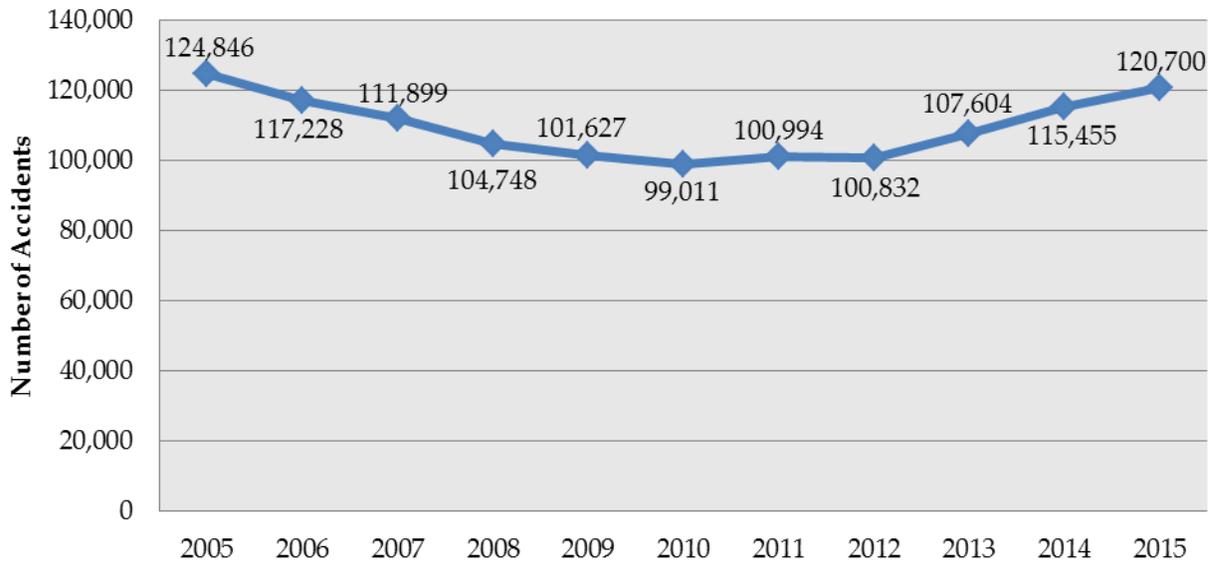
Larimer County Sheriff's Office Percent of DUIDs Involving Marijuana



*Percent of All DUID blood samples submitted for drug testing

SOURCE: Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Records Section

Total Number of Accidents in Colorado



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)

NOTE: ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA HAS BEEN ASKED ABOUT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS SEEN IN COLORADO SINCE LEGALIZATION AND IS, THEREFORE, PROVIDING THE DATA. ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA IS NOT EQUATING ALL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WITH MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION.

Related Costs

Economic Cost of Vehicle Accidents Resulting in Fatalities: According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report, *The Economic and Societal Impact Of Motor Vehicles Crashes, 2010*, the total economic costs for a vehicle fatality is \$1,398,916. That includes property damage, medical, insurance, productivity, among other considerations.¹

Cost of Driving Under the Influence: The cost associated with the first driving-under-the-influence (DUI) offense is estimated at \$10,270. Costs associated with a DUID (driving-under-the-influence-of-drugs) are very similar to those of a DUI/alcohol.²

Some Information from Washington State

Marijuana-Related Fatal Car Accidents Surge in Washington State After Legalization:³

- Ten percent of Washington state drivers involved in fatal car crashes between 2010 and 2014 tested positive for recent marijuana use, with the percentage of drivers who had used pot within hours of a crash doubling between 2013 and 2014 (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety).
- For 2013, there were 436 fatal crashes in Washington. Among those crashes, there were 40 in which the drivers involved tested positive for THC (9 percent). For 2014, there were 462 fatal crashes, 85 drivers tested positive for THC (18 percent).

More Pot Use Found in Fatal Crashes, Data Says: “We have seen marijuana involvement in fatal crashes remain steady over the years and then it just spiked in 2014,” said Dr. Staci Hoff, Washington Traffic Safety Commission research director.⁴

More Deaths on Washington’s Roads:⁵

- Drivers with active THC in their blood involved in a fatal driving accident have increased 122.2 percent from 2010 to 2014.
- There was a 400 percent increase of marijuana-related DUIs between 2012 and 2014.
- “Marijuana-only DUIs have also been on the rise since 2012. These are DUIs for which marijuana was confirmed to be the only active drug in the driver’s system. From 2012 to 2014 the department [Washington State Traffic Safety Commission] noted a 460 percent increase.”

Case Examples and Related Material

20-Year-Old Colorado Man Kills 8-Year-Old Girl While Driving High A former star athlete at Mead High School accused of fatally running over an 8-year-old Longmont girl on her bike told police he thought he'd hit the curb — until he saw the girl's stepfather waving at him, according to an arrest affidavit released July 29, 2016.

Kyle Kenneth Couch, 20, turned right on a red light at the same time Peyton Knowlton rolled into the crosswalk on May 20, 2016. The girl was crushed by the rear right tire of the Ford F-250 pickup, and died from her injuries. Couch, of Longmont, surrendered to police Friday on an arrest warrant that included charges of vehicular homicide and driving under the influence of drugs. One blood sample collected more

than two hours after the collision tested positive for cannabinoids, finding 1.5 nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood. That's below Colorado's legal limit of 5 nanograms per milliliter. But Deputy Police Chief Jeff Satur said the law allows the DUI charge when those test results are combined with officer observations of impaired behavior and marijuana evidence found inside Couch's pickup.

The presumptive sentencing range for vehicular homicide, a Class 3 felony, is four to 12 years in prison.

Couch attends Colorado Mesa University where, in 2015, he appeared in six games as a linebacker as a red shirt freshman for the football team. In 2013, Couch became the first athlete from Mead High School to win a state title when he captured the Class 4A wrestling championship at 182 pounds. He was named the Longmont *Times-Call's* Wrestler of the Year that season and was able to defend his crown a year later, winning the 4A title at 195 pounds to cap his senior season with a 49-1 record.

Couch, now 20, has been arrested on suspicion of vehicular homicide and driving under the influence of marijuana in connection with the death of 8-year-old Peyton Knowlton.⁶

Father Blames Teenage "Son's Death in Part on Legalized Pot": A 17-year-old, driving while high on marijuana when his car struck and killed another teenage boy, was sentenced to two years in youth corrections. The incident occurred in November of 2014, the teenager was sentenced in April of 2016.

Both the father of the victim and the 17th Judicial District Attorney blamed marijuana for what happened.

The Broomfield courtroom was crowded with family and friends of the victim. They wore buttons reading "Justice for Chad" in memory of Chad Britton who was only 16. The teen was his father's best friend before he was killed. With tears rolling down his cheek Lonnie Britton spoke of his boy, "He was a beautiful soul. He'd do anything for anyone."

It was normal day at Broomfield High School when Chad went to his car during lunch. Another teen was driving a separate car, so high on marijuana his friends warned him not to drive. Tragically, Chad was struck and killed. A witness at the time told reporters, "He was putting stuff in the back of his car and the other kid wasn't paying attention and just hit him."

In juvenile court, family and friends tried to hold back the tears but failed. It was an emotional sentencing as the driver of the car, Brandon Cullip, was sentenced to two years in youth corrections. Cullip pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide in February of 2016. Cullip had obtained his driver's license just six days before the accident occurred.

Britton's father told the judge he had, "a hole in his heart that will never be mended" and he blamed his son's death in part on legalized pot. "I think this was

probably the worst thing that could happen to the state of Colorado, passing the marijuana law," Lonnie Britton said.

When recreational pot was legalized in Colorado there was fear about this very sort of thing happening. Dave Young, the district attorney for the 17th Judicial District covering Adams and Broomfield counties, told CBS4's Rick Sallinger, "The legalization of marijuana has supplied marijuana to kids and our youth and I don't think it's going to be the last time we have a tragedy like this because of marijuana."⁷

Middle School Counselor Killed by High Driver as She Helped Fellow Motorist:

A counselor at Wolf Point Middle School, Montana, was hit by a car and killed by an impaired driver in Colorado as she stopped to help another driver. The Jefferson County coroner in Colorado identified the woman as Jana Elliott, 56. She died of multiple blunt force trauma injuries. Elliott is identified as a counselor for the sixth grade in Montana.

The driver who hit Elliott, identified as Curtis Blodgett, 24, is being charged with vehicular homicide for allegedly smoking marijuana prior to the crash, according to *The Denver Post*. Blodgett allegedly admitted he had smoked marijuana that day. Detectives are working to determine whether Blodgett was legally impaired at the time of the crash. "How much he had in his system and what he had in his system will determine whether additional charges could be filed," Lakewood Police Spokesman Steve Davis told *The Post*.

According to the Lakewood Police Department Traffic Unit, Elliott was driving on US Highway 6 when a vehicle traveling in the left lane lost the bicycle it was carrying on its top. The driver of the vehicle stopped to retrieve the bike and Elliott stopped along the shoulder as well to help. After they retrieved the bicycle and were preparing to drive away, another vehicle rear ended Elliott's vehicle at a speed of 65 mph. Elliott was killed in the crash.⁸

Teen Driver Charged With Vehicular Homicide and DUI in Boulder, Colorado Crash:

A 17-year-old accused of driving into a stopped car and killing two people in May of 2016 was charged with four counts of vehicular homicide, as Boulder prosecutors alleged for the first time that the teen was under the influence of marijuana at the time of the crash.

Joe Ramas, 39, and Stacey Reynolds, 30, both of Boulder, died as a result of the injuries they sustained in the May 7 crash. The teen driver, Quinn Hefferan, is being prosecuted as a juvenile in this case. Hefferan just recently graduated from Boulder High School in the spring of 2016.

Hefferan turned himself in to police and appeared in court Wednesday morning. He was charged with two counts of vehicular homicide under a reckless-driving theory

and two counts of vehicular homicide under a driving-under-the-influence-of-drugs theory. He also will be charged in Boulder County Court with DUI (drugs), reckless driving, improper lane change and running a red light.

District Attorney Stan Garnett said the DUI-related charges against Hefferan stem from the teen's suspected use of marijuana. The maximum penalty for vehicular homicide against a juvenile is two years in the department of youth corrections, Garnett said.

Just before midnight on May 7, police say Hefferan was driving a 2002 Volkswagen Jetta when he rear-ended a 2010 Honda Fit stopped at a red light. The Jetta also struck a 2008 Dodge Ram that was stopped at the light as well. The two occupants of the Fit — Ramas and Reynolds — were taken to Boulder Community Health in critical condition, but each was taken off life support and died within days of the crash.

Hefferan was treated for minor injuries and released, while the occupants of the Ram were not injured. Police said Hefferan was driving "at least" 45 mph and that there was 'minimal braking' before the crash.⁹

Teens in Fatal Crash had Marijuana and Traces of Xanax in Their Systems: The 18-year-old driver and two other teens that died in a car crash in May near Conifer tested positive for traces of prescription drugs and marijuana.

The crash happened at 4:35 p.m. on May 10, 2016 when the driver of a Dodge Dakota pickup truck traveling near Conifer, Colorado lost control and ran off the road, rolling down an embankment and into a creek. Three teenage boys, including the driver, died. One other passenger was transported to a hospital and was expected to survive. All of them were students from St. John's Military School in Salina, Kansas, an Episcopalian all-boys boarding school, and were on a trip after the end of the school year.

The toxicology reports, released by the Jefferson County coroner's office Thursday, showed all three teens — Jacob Whitting, John Yoder, 19, and Akinwumi Ricketts, 16 — had taken Xanax, an anti-anxiety drug, and marijuana. The toxicology screen of the driver, Whitting, recorded THC levels at higher than 5 nanograms or more of active THC (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol) per milliliter of blood which, under Colorado law, is considered impaired while driving. None of the boys tested positive for alcohol.

Whitting had just graduated as valedictorian. He had received a varsity letter for academics, among other awards.¹⁰

Impaired, Even if Blood Levels are Below 5ng/ml: "The percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes who had traces of marijuana in their blood has doubled since marijuana was legalized in Washington state, a new study suggests.

'Marijuana use in driving is a growing, contributing factor to fatal crashes,' said Jake Nelson, the director of traffic safety advocacy and research at the American Automobile

Association (AAA) said. 'It's a highway safety problem that we should all be concerned about.'

The team found that prior to legalization, about 8.3 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes had THC in their blood, but after legalization, 17 percent of drivers had THC in their blood. Of that 17 percent, about two-thirds also had some other drugs or alcohol in their system. The total number of fatal crashes also went up slightly, the study found.

While the study can't prove that marijuana was a key cause of those crashes, it is likely that marijuana is at least one contributor to those fatal crashes, Nelson said.

The researchers found that 70 percent of drivers who failed these sobriety tests, and whose impairment was attributed to marijuana by drug-recognition experts, still had blood levels of THC lower than 5 nanograms per milliliter.

'For instance, it's possible that police are simply testing for THC more often now that the drug has been legalized, and are therefore catching people who might have been missed in previous years,' [Benjamin] Hansen [an economist at the University of Oregon in Eugene and at the National Bureau of Economic Research] said. 'It's also possible that people who are found to have detectable levels of THC in their blood were not impaired at the time of the crash,' he added."¹¹

Delays in DUI Blood Testing – Impact on Cannabis DUI Assessments: A study published in the *Traffic Injury Prevention* journal (June 11, 2015) set out to examine time from law enforcement dispatch to the first blood draw in cases of driving under the influence (DUI) in Colorado for 2012. Laboratory toxicology results were also looked at in order to understand the implications of delays in blood draws in cases of DUI of marijuana's THC. The results of this study revealed that the average time from law enforcement dispatch to blood draw in cases of vehicular homicide and vehicular assault was 2.32 hours, with a range of .83 to 8.0 hours. Data from DUI traffic arrests found that between 42 and 70 percent of all cannabinoid-positive traffic arrests tested below 5 ng/ml THC in blood, which is the legal limit in Colorado and Washington.

Researchers discuss the fact that alcohol is metabolized at a linear rate, which allows forensic toxicologists to determine blood alcohol content at the time of arrest when multiple blood determinations are available. In contrast, THC is more problematic as it is not metabolized in a linear fashion. THC is not a reliable marker for impairment because it can be detected in blood for hours or even days after signs of impairment disappear. In fact, there is no accepted method to extrapolate backward from the time of arrest or a crash, as can be done with alcohol. The difficulty in identifying a suitable test for determining a driver's impairment from THC further adds to the controversy surrounding the legalization of marijuana in the state.¹²

Scientific Basis for Laws on Marijuana, Driving Questioned: There is no science that shows drivers become impaired at a specific level of THC in the blood. A lot depends on the individual. Drivers with relatively high levels of THC in their systems might not be impaired, especially if they are regular users, while others with relatively low levels may be unsafe behind the wheel.

Some drivers may be impaired when they are stopped by police, but by the time their blood is tested they have fallen below the legal threshold because active THC dissipates rapidly. The average time to collect blood from a suspected driver is often more than two hours, because taking a blood sample typically requires a warrant and transport to a police station or hospital.¹³

Overview of Major Issues Regarding the Impacts of Alcohol and Marijuana on Driving:

- THC concentrates in fatty tissue, including the brain, and is less evenly-distributed throughout the body than is alcohol. Blood levels, therefore, may not be reflective of central nervous system effects, including the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Impairment remains for 2 to 4 hours after intake (at least in smoking research) despite blood levels dropping rapidly to low levels. Following oral ingestion, absorption is slower with much later, and lower, peak blood concentrations but still substantial impairment.
- Acute marijuana use has been shown to moderately diminish virtually every driving-related capacity. Effects depend on dose, absorption, time since peak blood level, history of use and skill/task involved.¹⁴

Drug Use Now Rivals Drunk Driving as Cause of Fatal Car Crashes, Study Says:

According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, a national organization of state highway safety officers, drugs were found in the systems of almost 40 percent of fatally-injured drivers who were tested for them. This number rivals that of the number of drivers who died with alcohol in their system.

The number of dead drivers who tested positive for drugs has increased from 29 percent in 2005 to 39.9 percent in 2013, according to federal crash data.

“Every state must take steps to reduce drug-impaired driving, regardless of the legal status of marijuana,” stated Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Marijuana is by far the most common drug that is used, found in roadside surveys, and found in fatally-injured drivers. Marijuana use by drivers likely increases after a state permits recreational marijuana use.¹⁵

Drive High or Drive Drunk, Which is Safer?: “Our data further suggest that many marijuana users in Colorado and Washington believe that driving while under the influence of marijuana or hashish is safe in general and safer than driving under the influence of alcohol. However, it is clear that marijuana use impairs the ability to drive, particularly among occasional marijuana users who may be less tolerant to THC.”¹⁶

Stoned Drivers Didn’t Think They’d Get Caught: “Our research indicates that unfortunately a lot of marijuana users are driving high and many believe they will not get a DUI for doing so,” CDOT spokeswoman Amy Ford said in a statement.

“About 55 percent of them drove a vehicle within 2 hours of consuming marijuana, a CDOT survey found.”

“Through its ‘Drive High, Get a DUI’ campaign, the Colorado Department of Transportation reported that 51 percent of marijuana users did not think they’d be cited for driving while under the influence of the drug.”¹⁷

Sources

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⁶ Amelia Arvesen, *Times-Call*, July 29, 2016, "Driver accused of killing Longmont girl riding bike thought he'd hit curb," <http://www.timescall.com/news/crime/ci_30185142/driver-accused-killing-longmont-girl-bike-thought-hed>. accessed July 29, 2016

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¹⁰ Yesenia Robles, *The Denver Post*, July 7, 2016, "Autopsy shows teens in fatal Conifer crash had traces of Xanax and marijuana in their system", <<http://www.denverpost.com/2016/07/07/teens-conifer-crash-traces-drugs-thc/>>, accessed July 7, 2016

¹¹ Tia Ghose, Live Science, May 10, 2016, "Does Driving High on Marijuana Increase Fatal Crashes?," <<http://www.livescience.com/54693-high-drivers-double-after-marijuana-legalization.html>>, accessed May 10, 2016

¹² Ed Wood, Ashley Brooks-Russell and Phillip Drum, Taylor & Francis Online, June 11, 2015, "Delays in DUI blood testing: Impact on cannabis DUI assessments," <<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15389588.2015.1052421>>, accessed February 25, 2016

¹³ Joan Lowy, Associated Press, May 10, 2016, "Scientific basis for laws on marijuana, driving questioned," <<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ab89342fa73d434880e4f7c8137f0221/scientific-basis-laws-marijuana-driving-questioned>>, accessed May 11, 2016

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¹⁵ Ashley Halsey III, *The Washington Post*, September 30, 2015, "Drug use now rivals drunk driving as cause of fatal car crashes, study says," <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/drug-use-now-rivals-drunken-driving-as-cause-of-fatal-car-crashes-study-says/2015/09/29/fc139d6a-66a9-11e5-9223-70cb36460919_story.html>, October 1, 2015

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SECTION 2: Youth Marijuana Use

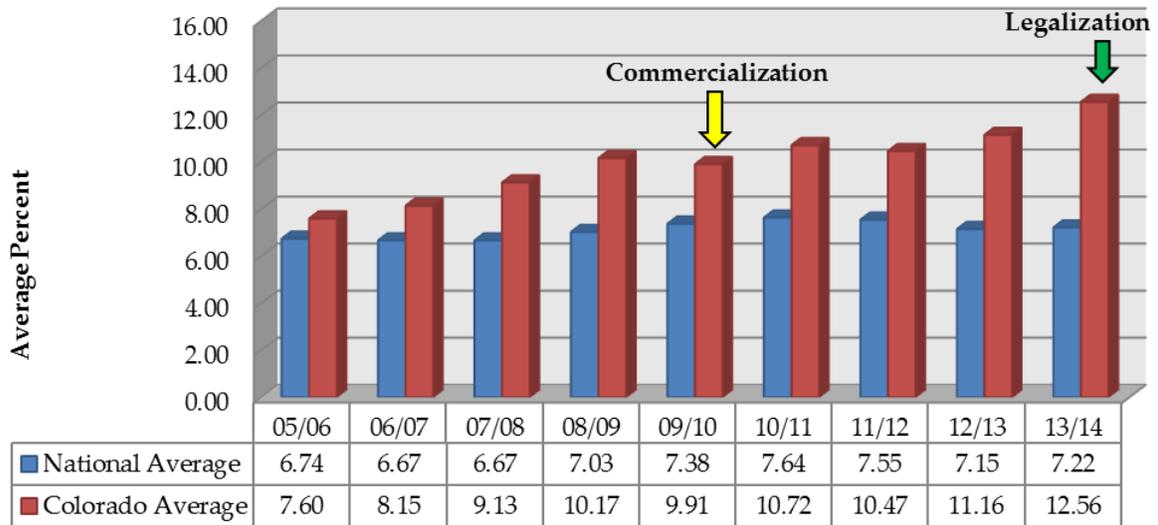
Some Findings

- Youth past month marijuana use **increased 20 percent** in the two-year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the two-year average prior to legalization (2011/2012).
 - Nationally youth past month marijuana use **declined 4 percent** during the same timeframe.
- The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado youth ranked **#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 2013/2014 was **74 percent higher** than the national average compared to **39 percent higher** in 2011/2012.
- The top ten states for the highest rate of current marijuana use were all medical marijuana states whereas the bottom ten were all non-medical-marijuana states.
- In school year 2015/2016, **62 percent** of all drug expulsions and suspensions were for marijuana violations.

Data

Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old

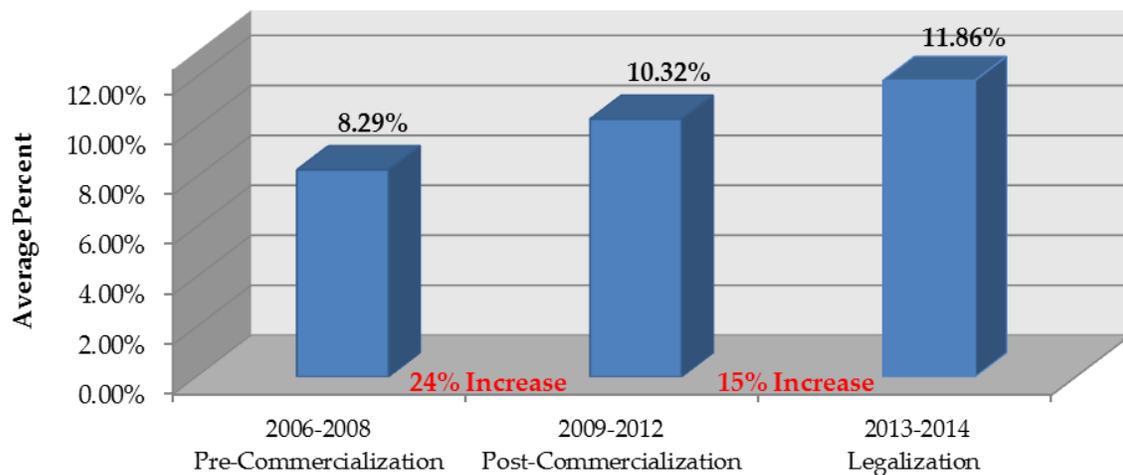
Past Month Marijuana Use Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old



Annual Averages of Data Collection

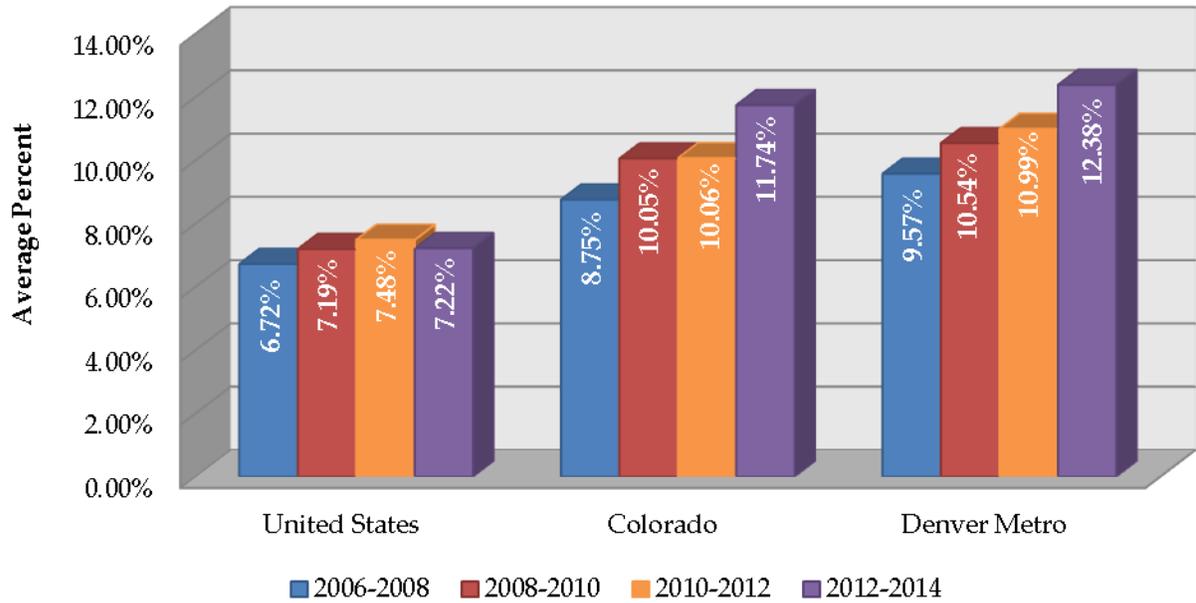
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

Average Past Month Use of Marijuana Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

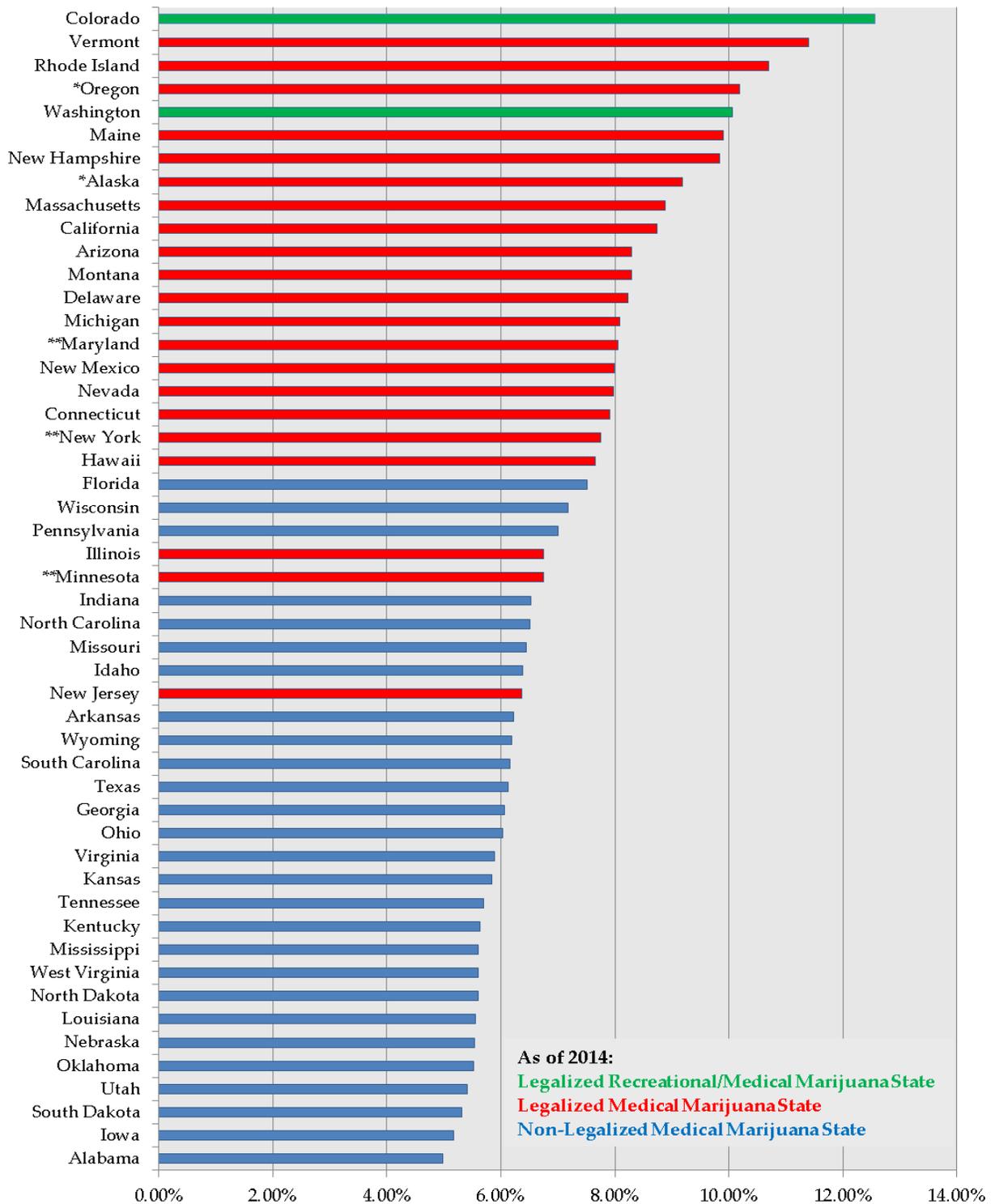
Prevalence of Past 30-Day Marijuana Use Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Substate Region Estimates 2006-2014

NOTE: SUBSTATE DATA IS ONLY AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH IN THE ABOVE TIMEFRAMES.

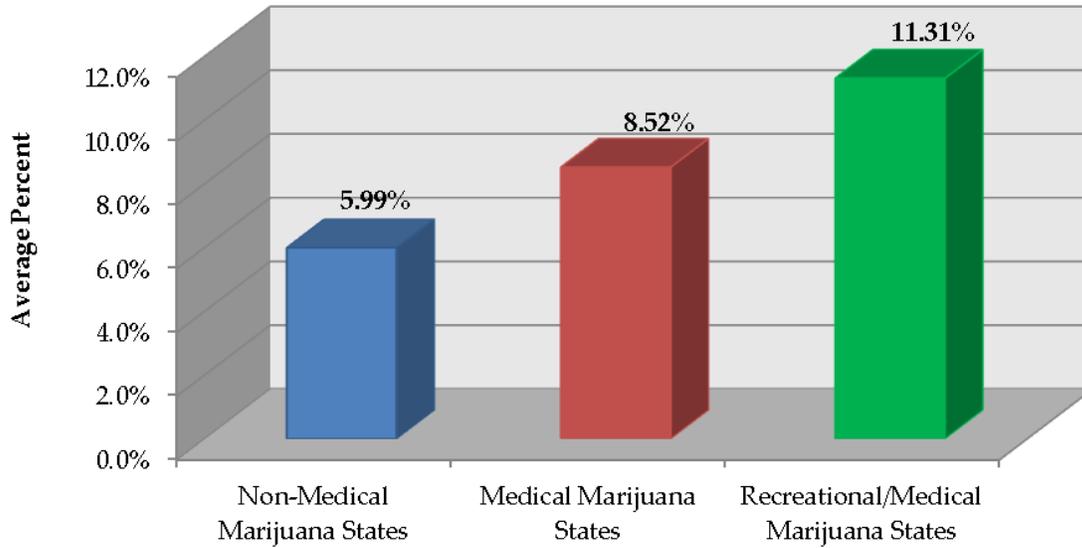
Past Month Usage, 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

NOTE: *Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014
 **States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

Average Past Month Use Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014



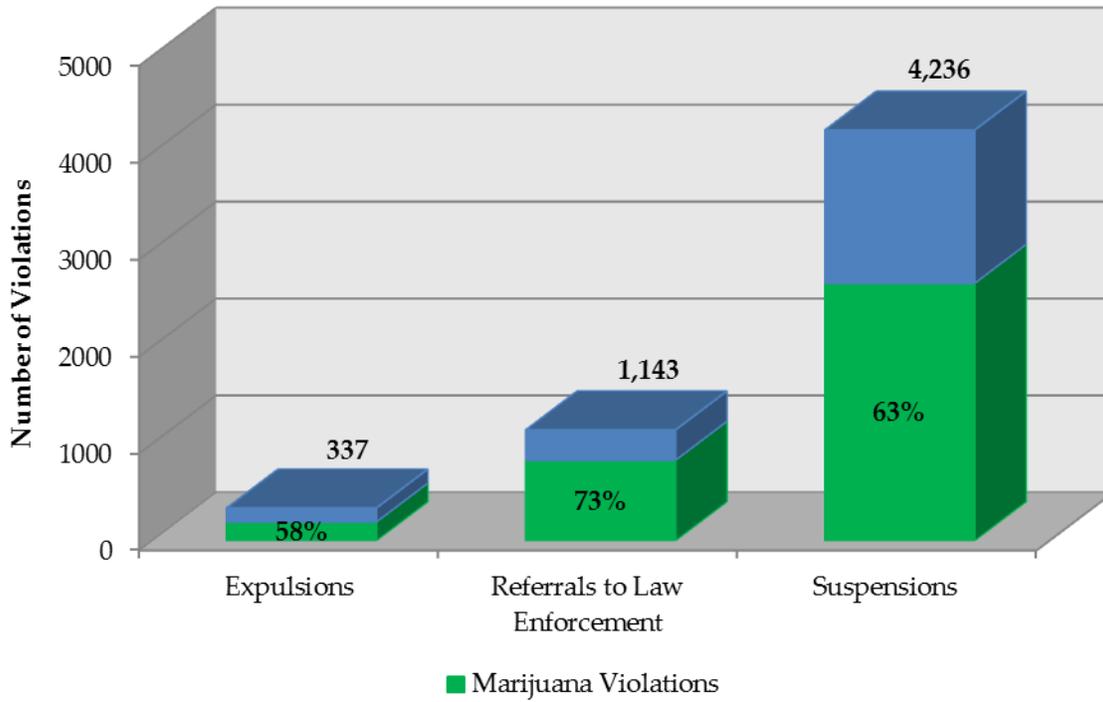
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

States for Past Month Marijuana Use Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014

<u>Top 10</u> (Medical/Recreational States)	<u>Bottom 10</u> (Non-Medical or Recreational States)
National Average = 7.22%	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colorado – 12.56% 2. Vermont – 11.40% 3. Rhode Island – 10.69% 4. Oregon – 10.19% 5. Washington – 10.06% 6. Maine – 9.90% 7. New Hampshire – 9.83% 8. Alaska – 9.19% 9. Massachusetts – 8.88% 10. California – 8.74% 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 41. Mississippi – 5.60% 42. West Virginia – 5.60% 43. North Dakota – 5.60% 44. Louisiana – 5.55% 45. Nebraska – 5.54% 46. Oklahoma – 5.52% 47. Utah – 5.42% 48. South Dakota – 5.32% 49. Iowa – 5.17% 50. Alabama – 4.98%

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

All Drug Violations, 2015-2016 School Year



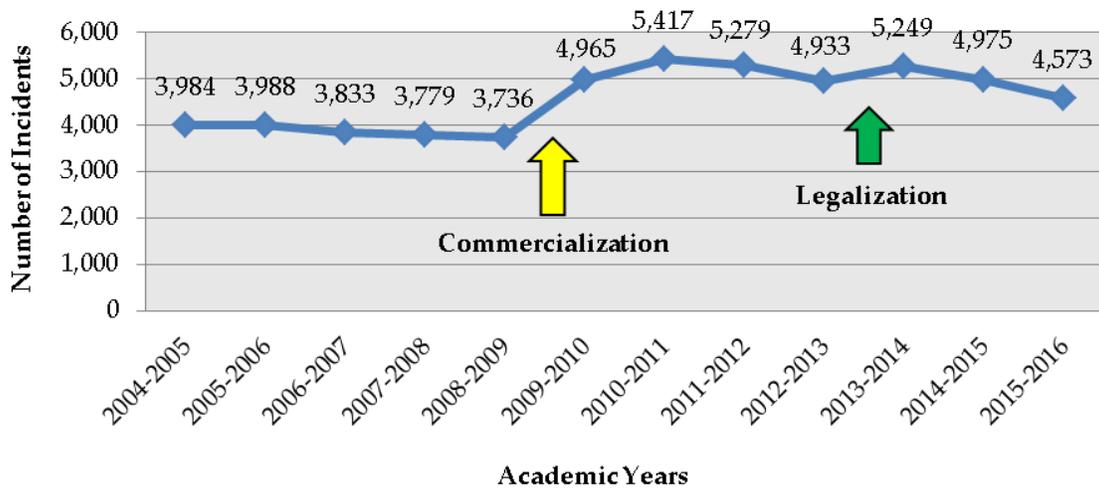
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data : State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

NOTE: THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BEGAN COLLECTING MARIJUANA VIOLATIONS SEPARATELY FROM ALL DRUG VIOLATIONS DURING THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.

Impact on School Violation Numbers

❖ “Note that Senate Bill 12-046 and House Bill 12-1345 targeted reform of ‘zero tolerance’ policies in schools, and appear to have decreased expulsions, suspensions and referrals to law enforcement.” – Colorado Department of Public Safety, *Marijuana Legalization in Colorado: Early Findings, A Report Pursuant to Senate Bill 13-283*, March 2016

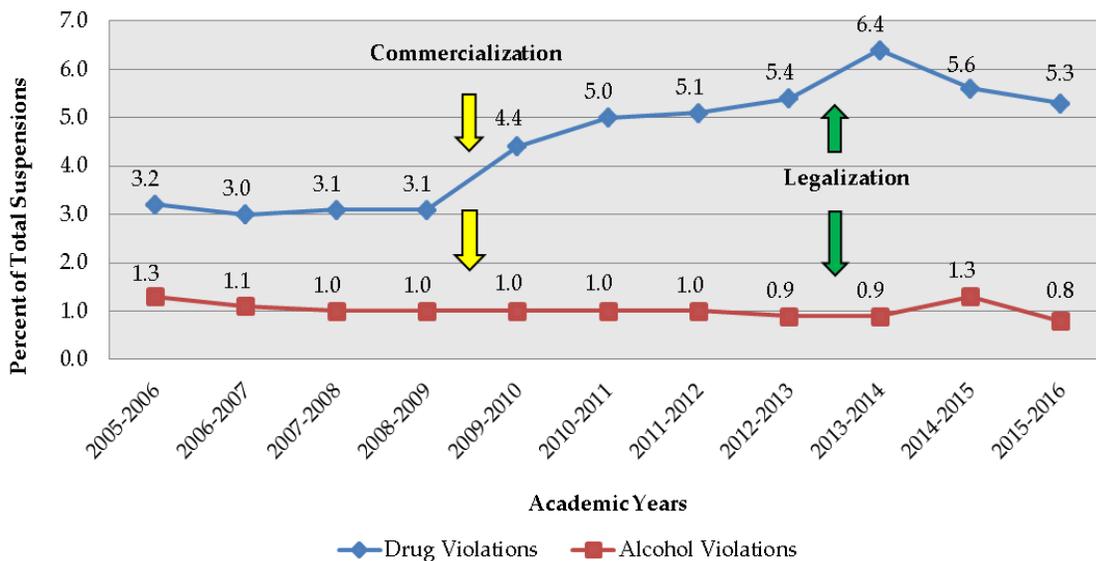
Drug-Related Suspensions/Expulsions



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data : State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

- ❖ In school year 2015/2016, 62 percent of all drug expulsions and suspensions were for marijuana violations.

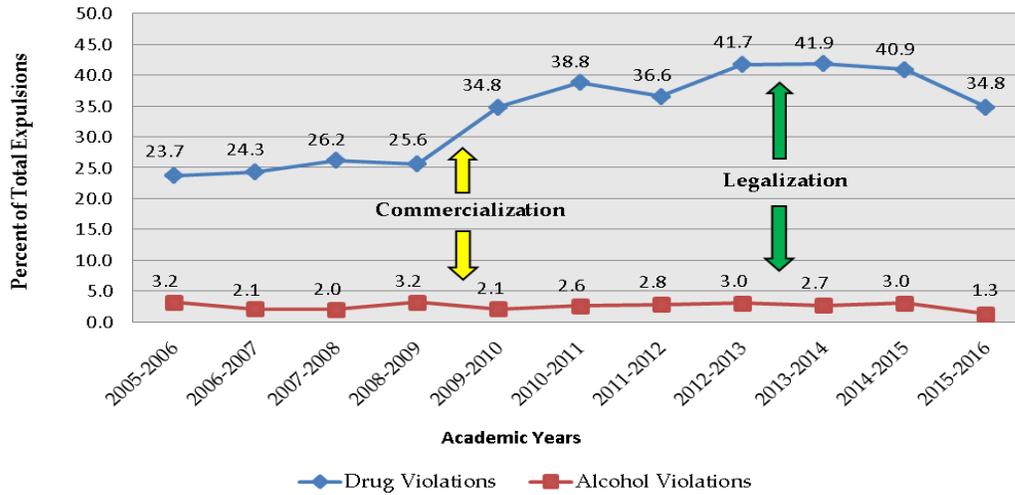
Percent of Total Suspensions in Colorado



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data : State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

- ❖ In school year 2015/2016, 63 percent of total suspensions were for marijuana violations.

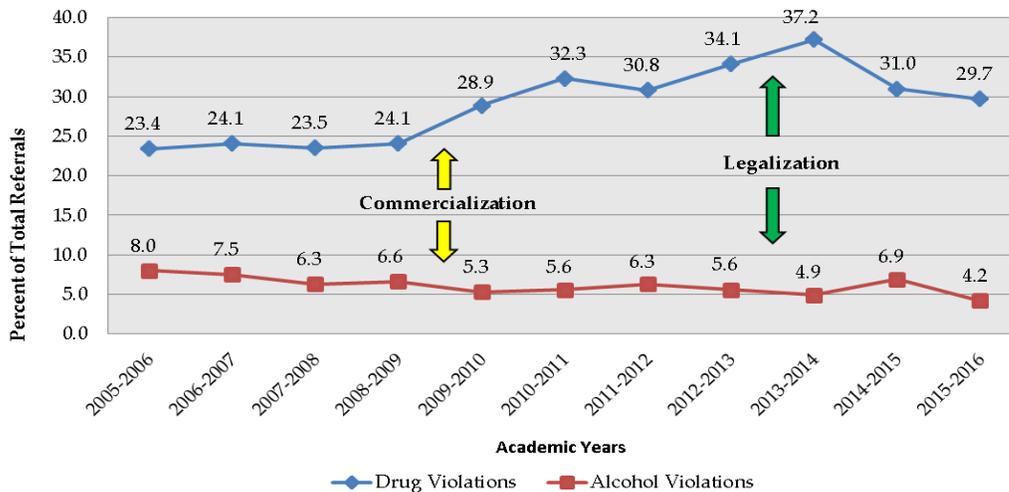
Percent of Total Expulsions in Colorado



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data : State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

❖ In school year 2015/2016, 58 percent of total expulsions were for marijuana violations.

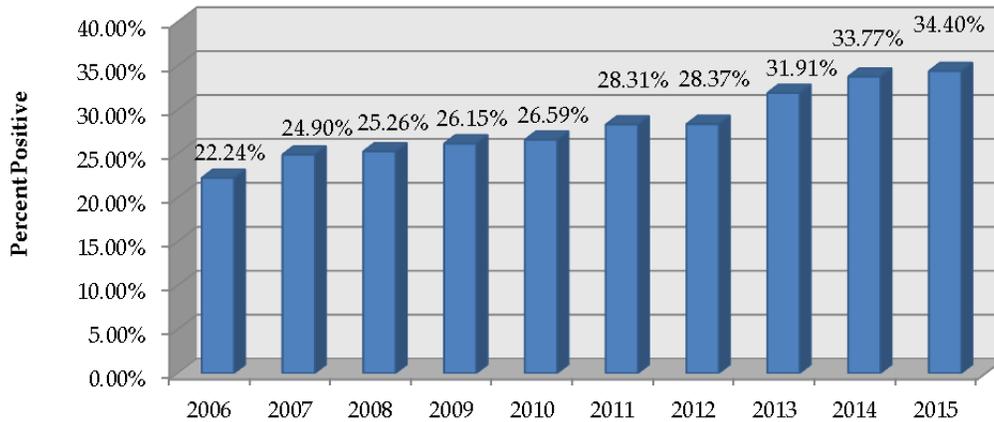
Percent of Total Referrals to Law Enforcement in Colorado



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data : State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

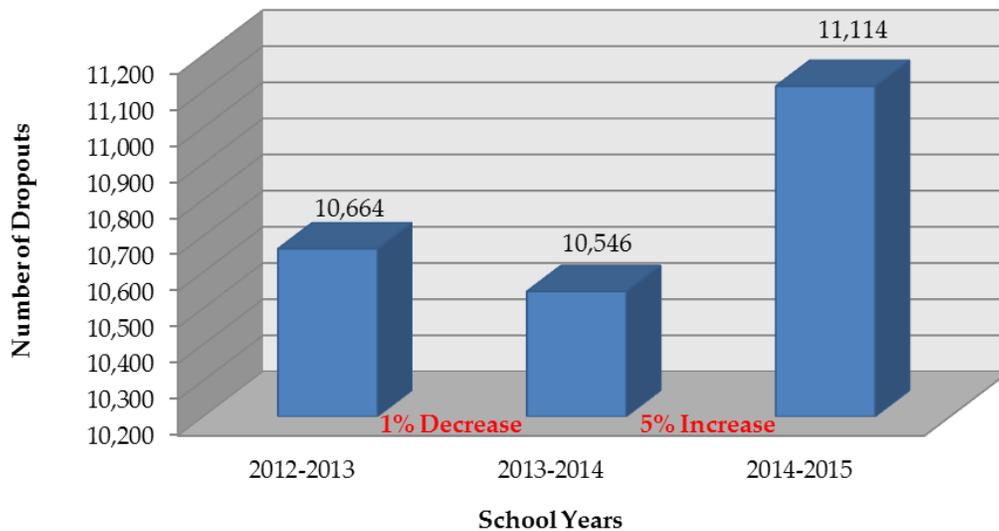
❖ In school year 2015/2016, 73 percent of all referrals to law enforcement were for marijuana violations.

Colorado Probation Percent of All Urinalysis Tests Positive for Marijuana Youth Ages 10 - 17 Years Old



SOURCE: Division of Probation Services/State Court Administrator’s Office

Colorado School Dropout Rates



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education

NOTE: ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA HAS BEEN ASKED ABOUT SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES IN COLORADO NUMEROUS TIMES AND IS, THEREFORE, PROVIDING THE DATA. ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA IS NOT EQUATING THE DROPOUT RATES WITH MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION.

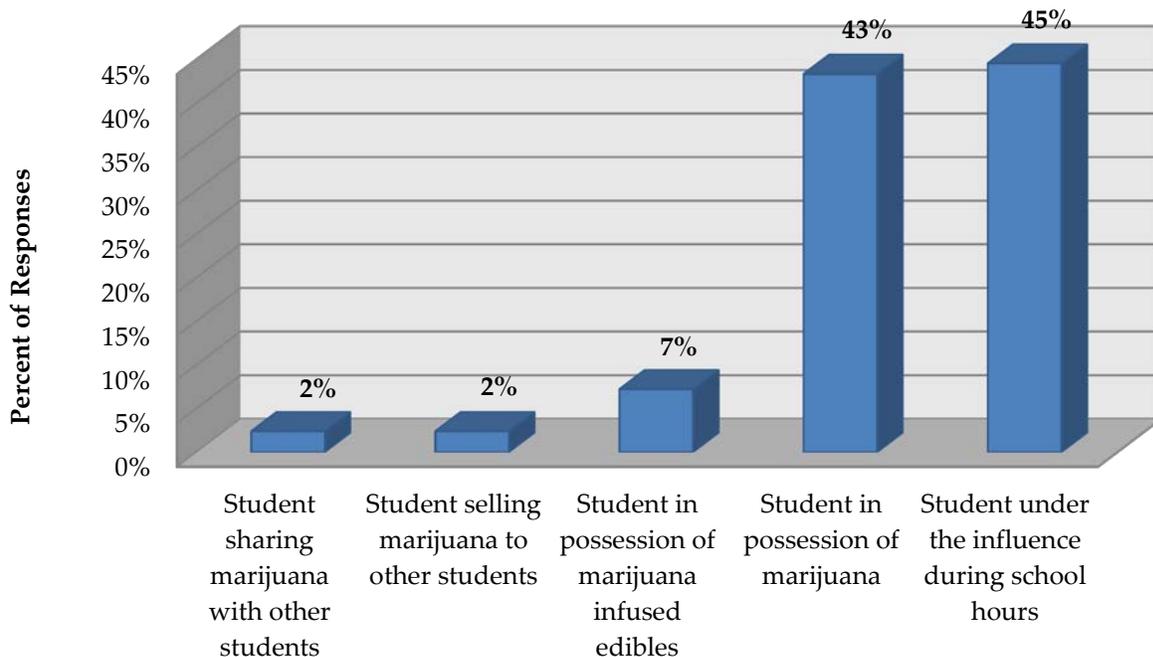
Colorado School Resource Officer Survey

In June 2016, 103 school resource officers (SRO) participated in a survey concerning marijuana in schools. The majority were assigned to high schools with an average tenure of six years as an SRO. They were asked for their professional opinion on a number of questions, including:

- Since the legalization of recreational marijuana, what impact has there been on marijuana-related incidents at your school?
 - 82 percent reported an increase in incidents
 - 12 percent reported no change in incidents
 - 6 percent reported a decrease in incidents

- What were the most predominant marijuana violations by students on campus?
 - 45 percent reported being under the influence during school hours
 - 43 percent reported possession of marijuana
 - 7 percent reported possession of marijuana-infused edibles
 - 2 percent reported selling marijuana to other students
 - 2 percent reported sharing marijuana with other students

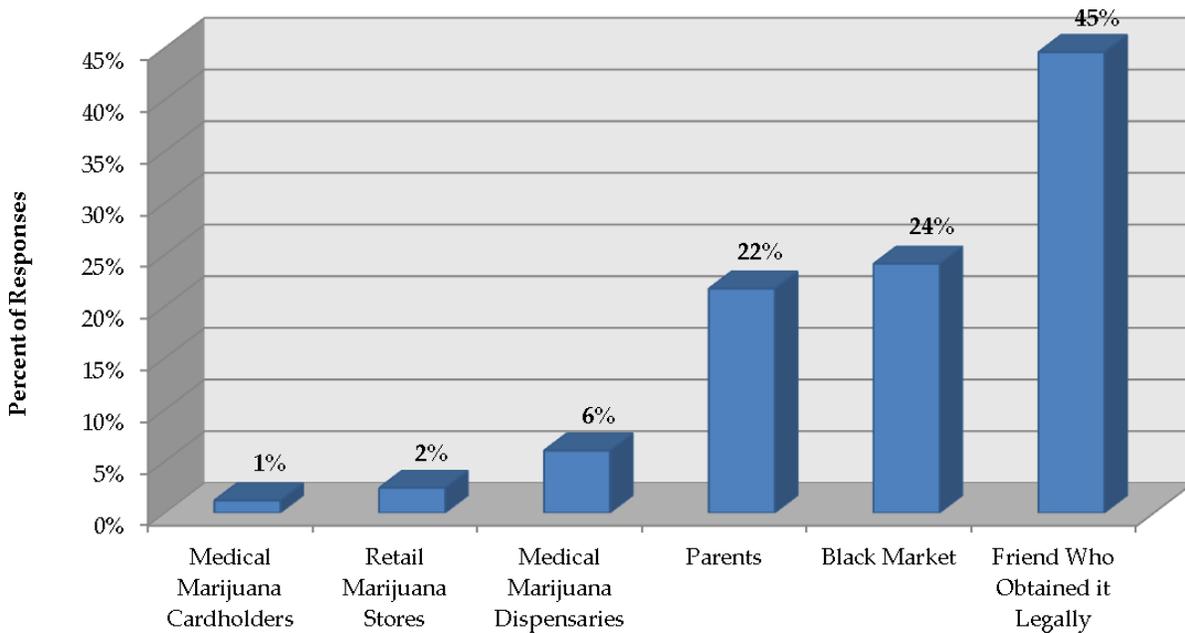
Predominant Marijuana Violations, 2016



SOURCE: Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

- Where do the students get their marijuana?
 - 45 percent reported friends who obtain it legally
 - 24 percent reported from the black market
 - 22 percent reported from their parents
 - 6 percent reported from medical marijuana dispensaries
 - 2 percent reported from retail marijuana stores
 - 1 percent reported from medical marijuana cardholders

Student Marijuana Source, 2016



SOURCE: Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Some Comments from School Resource Officers

High at School: “Multiple incidents of students leaving campus during lunch, smoking marijuana and returning to campus under the influence.”

Home Grows:

- “Children coming in clothes smelling like marijuana.”
- “Incidents are slightly up from last year but seeing an increase in BHO [butane hash oil] (homemade). Had an incident in which 2 elementary students came to school smelling of product. Father had a licensed care giver operation and was growing 160 plants in house. DHHS took no action because of the grow being legal.”

Middle School Users: “On several occasions students have shown up to school obviously high on marijuana. When asked where they obtained the drug it's 50-50 parents or friends. I have seen this at the 6th grade level, but mostly 8th grade level. Hardest part telling kids that marijuana usage at an early age is detrimental to brain growth, but some tell me that my mom and dad say it's ok.”

Getting High and Skipping Class: “The amount of marijuana use/sales has climbed since it became legal for legal users. One of the primary problems I see is the strength (potency) of the marijuana. Students use on a break/lunch and cannot return to class, therefore the truancy rates are high.”

School Marijuana Use on the Rise: “Students at the middle and high school levels have brought leaf marijuana, edibles, and paraphernalia to school either for personal use or to share with others. They tend to store said items in their cars, backpacks, and other personal belongings. Having worked in the schools before Marijuana was legal and then returning after legalization the number of middle school students who are using and exposed to marijuana seems to be on the rise in my opinion.”

“Legal” Users Selling to Kids: “Former students gather across the street from school and sell to current students. Sellers are either 21+ years old or 18 & have medical marijuana cards.”

Home Environment Encourages Use: “8th grade kid high at school he and 6th grade sister both smoke marijuana at home with parents while watching TV at night. Parents also let both eat marijuana edibles that parents make. Search warrant in home has illegal grow, but much finished products (marijuana) and other drugs and stolen gun.”

Edibles Resulting in Paramedics: “In Feb. 2016 a juvenile male brought edibles into the school. The male gave it out to several students and consumed himself. Paramedics were called and the male was transported to the ER. The juvenile’s parent was a user and the source of the edibles.”

Elementary Students Defending Pot Use: “I have taught D.A.R.E over 20 years. The attitude towards marijuana has drastically changed among grade school kids. They are more vocal in defending the useful purpose and benefits of marijuana. Kids defend parent and sibling use. I asked a 5th grade boy what he thought he would be doing when he was 25 years old. He replied ‘work in a weed shop.’ I asked why he chose that for a job, he said ‘because that's what my dad wants me to do.’ Common parenting in my community. I have seen a large increase in pro-marijuana clothing in students 4-

12 grades. I have a large Native American population of students in my classes. Many will defend the use of marijuana as they are taught it is medicine and has always been so in their culture, no matter if legal or not by 'the white man laws.' Many Native American students have explained to me the use of marijuana is a 'right of passage.'"

Buying Marijuana on Facebook: "There has been a definite increase in hash/marijuana concentrate at the school. There has also been a significant increase in delivery methods showing up at school (pipe/vape pens/etc.). I have also seen the increase in the use of social media to buy their product. Just go to a certain Facebook page, order your hash/marijuana and the sellers will deliver the product to the local park by your home. I had a case this year (2016) where I now have a warrant out for an adult for selling marijuana to a child and contributing to the delinquency of a child and the deal was made on Facebook and was sold at a business near the school. Internet sales are a booming business in the marijuana world."

Regular Marijuana Use:

- "Students at alternative high school come to school high or leave campus and get high and don't return to school. Students admitting getting high on regular basis 3-4 times a week and usually high most of the weekend. Alcohol also involved. Middle school students report experimenting with marijuana. Few (3-4) report smoking once a month."
- "Many students skip their study period just prior to lunch and return from lunch high on marijuana. This is pretty much a daily occurrence."

Medical Marijuana Diversion: "In April 2016 three students were in parking lot of school smoking marijuana. One student recently turned 18 and shortly after, obtained medical MJ card. That student was sharing with the other two. Student contacted with MJ at Prom. Had recently turned 18 and then got medical MJ card. That led to discovery of possession of alcohol. January 2016 sophomore student found near campus selling marijuana to other students. Suspended by school, court gave diversion."

School Counselor Survey

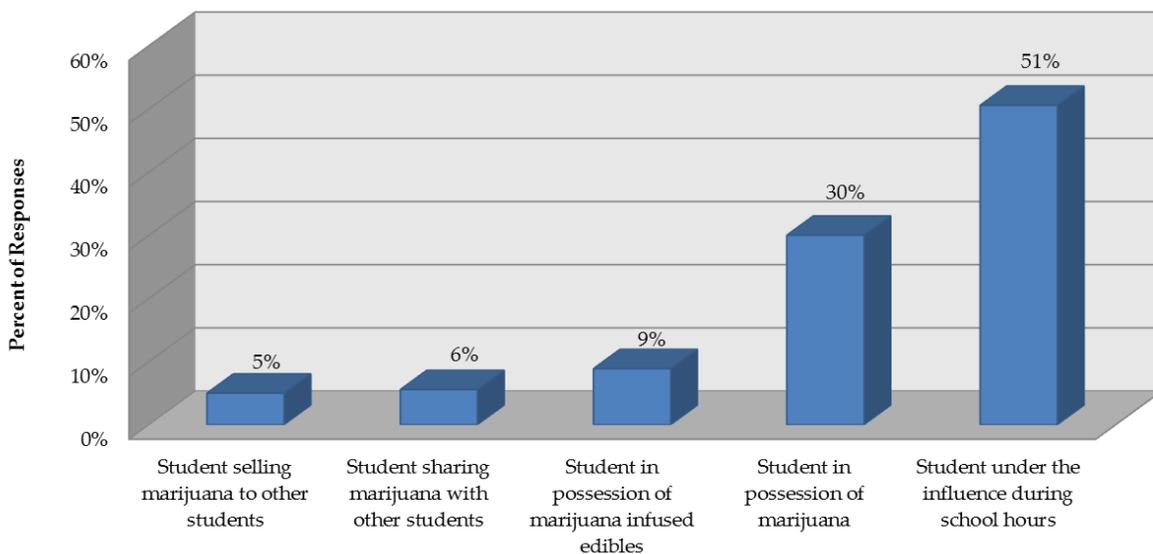
❖ The Colorado School Counselor Association elected not to participate in a 2016 survey.

In August 2015, 188 school counselors participated in a survey concerning the legalization of marijuana in schools. The majority were assigned to high schools with an average tenure of ten years. They were asked for their professional opinion on a number of questions including:

- Since the legalization of recreational marijuana, what impact has there been on marijuana-related incidents at your school?
 - 69 percent reported an increase in incidents
 - 30 percent reported no change in incidents
 - 2 percent reported a slight decrease in incidents

- What were the most predominant marijuana violations by students on campus?
 - 51 percent reported being under the influence during school hours
 - 30 percent reported possession of marijuana
 - 9 percent reported possession of marijuana-infused edibles
 - 6 percent reported sharing marijuana with other students
 - 5 percent reported selling marijuana to other students

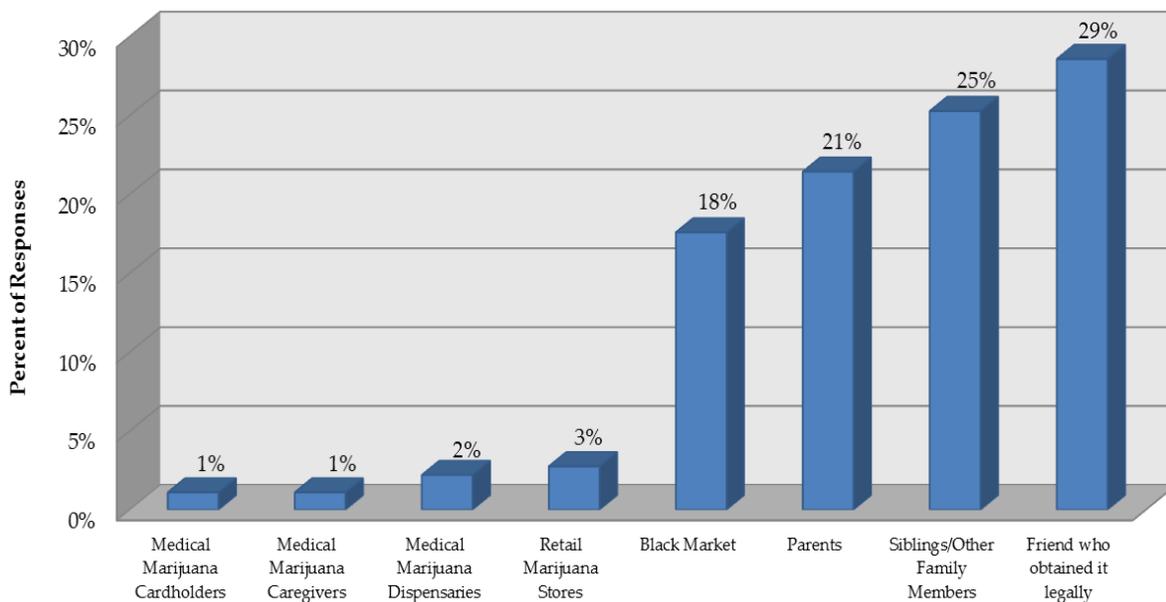
Predominant Marijuana Violations, 2015



SOURCE Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

- Where do the students get their marijuana?
 - 29 percent reported friends who obtain it legally
 - 25 percent reported from their siblings or other family members
 - 21 percent reported from their parents
 - 18 percent reported from the black market
 - 3 percent reported from retail marijuana stores
 - 2 percent reported from medical marijuana dispensaries
 - 1 percent reported from medical marijuana cardholders
 - 1 percent reported from medical marijuana caregivers

Student Marijuana Source, 2015



SOURCE Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Some Comments from School Counselors

Halls Reek of Pot After Lunch:

- “Many kids come back from lunch highly intoxicated from marijuana use. Halls reek of pot, so many kids are high that it is impossible to apprehend all but the most impaired.”
- “They go off campus and smoke during lunch with friends. They will run home with friends during lunch and smoke then.”

- “There have been several instances of students in their cars on lunch or during their off hours ‘hotboxing’ or smoking marijuana. Most students are seniors but on occasion, seniors will provide marijuana to 9th or 10th grade students.”
- “2014/2015 school year, several students caught coming back from off-campus lunch under the influence of marijuana.”
- “Had a student come back from lunch, teacher believed that they were high. Student was escorted to the office, student admitted they were indeed high to the administrator.”
- “Students are often referred after lunch (open campus) after they have been riding around smoking marijuana with their friends.”
- “More and more students are coming back to school high after lunch.”
- “In April 2015, students were going out for a break. 2-3 students smoked marijuana about a block away from school. They smelled like pot when they got back.”

Just a Plant: “In March of 2015 a fifth grade boy offered marijuana to another fifth grader on the playground. In October of 2014 a kindergarten girl described the pipe in her grandmother’s car and the store where you go to buy pipes. In May of 2015 a first grade girl reported that her mom smokes weed in the garage. ‘It’s not a drug, it’s just a plant.’”

Arrives at School Stoned:

- “At the beginning of the second semester, three middle school boys were routinely arriving late at school, and noticeable intoxicated.”
- “We have middle school students who either come to school high, or have it on them in a bag. Or they have pipes on them.”
- “In May 2015, a teacher witnessed 2 seniors smoking marijuana while driving to school. One student admitted to having done so; the other denied it.”
- “Teaching a lesson in class during first period that started 7:30 AM and 2 students were already high in class.”
- “A male 13 y/o student fell asleep in several classes. He was interviewed by the school counselor and the RSO (sic). He was assessed as being high and admitted that he uses marijuana often before school. He steals it from his older brother.”
- “12 yr. old, sixth grader, was suspected of coming to summer school high. When confronted he told the teacher that he smoked it at home the night before but denied being high at the time. Later, he confirmed that he had smoked early that morning. The marijuana came from his mother’s stash.”