



COMPREHENSIVE STUDY FINDS MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION DRIVES YOUTH USE, CRIME RATES, THE BLACK MARKET, AND HARMS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

*Dramatic Increases in Fatal Drugged Driving Crashes,
Workplace Accidents, Arrest Rates, Black Market
Activity in States That Have Legalized Marijuana*

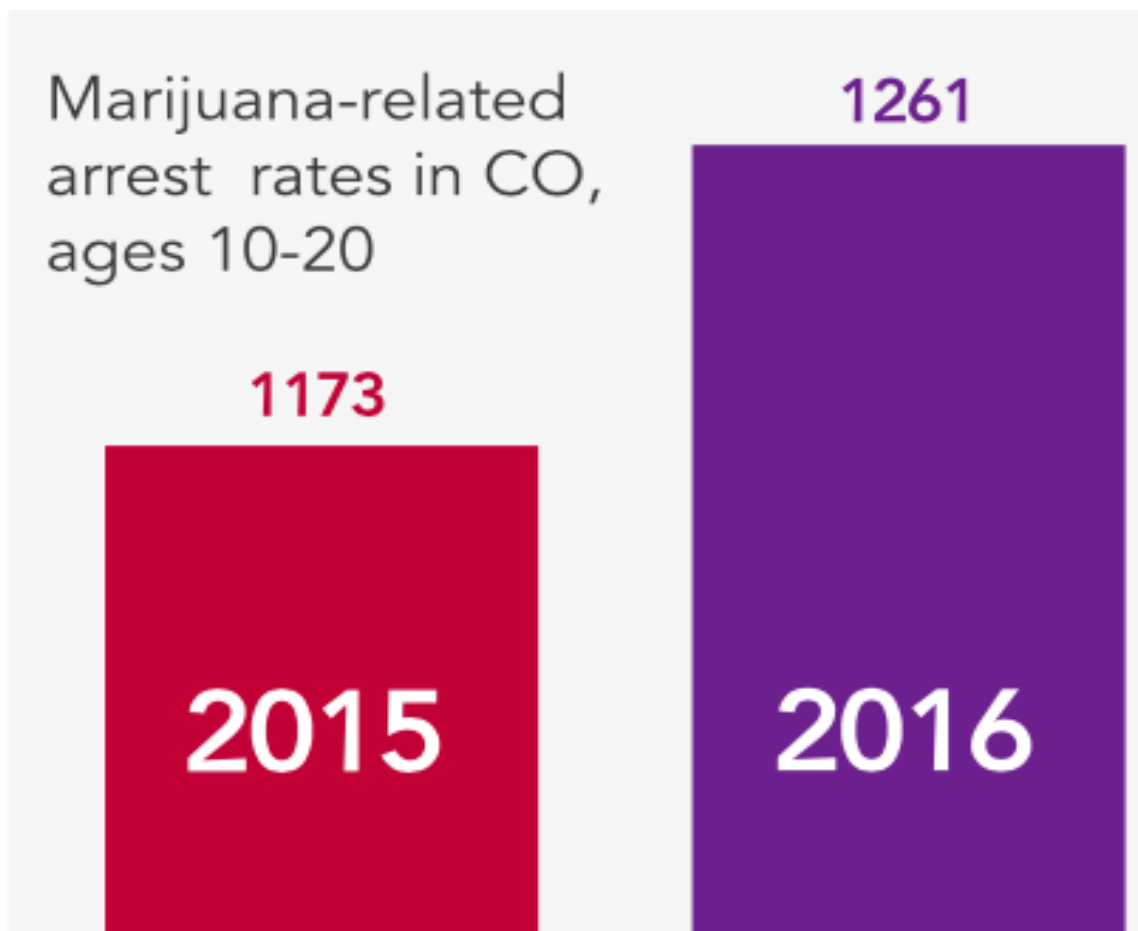
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Contact: Colton Grace Colton@learnaboutsam.org (864)-492-6719

(Alexandria, VA) - Today, [Smart Approaches to Marijuana](#) (SAM), the leading, nonpartisan U.S. organization offering a science-based approach to marijuana policy, [released the most comprehensive study to date today entitled: Lessons from Marijuana Legalization in Four U.S. States and D.C.](#) This [study](#), validated by scientists from around the country, found that since legalization, marijuana use has soared, the black market is thriving, and communities of color are being negatively affected.

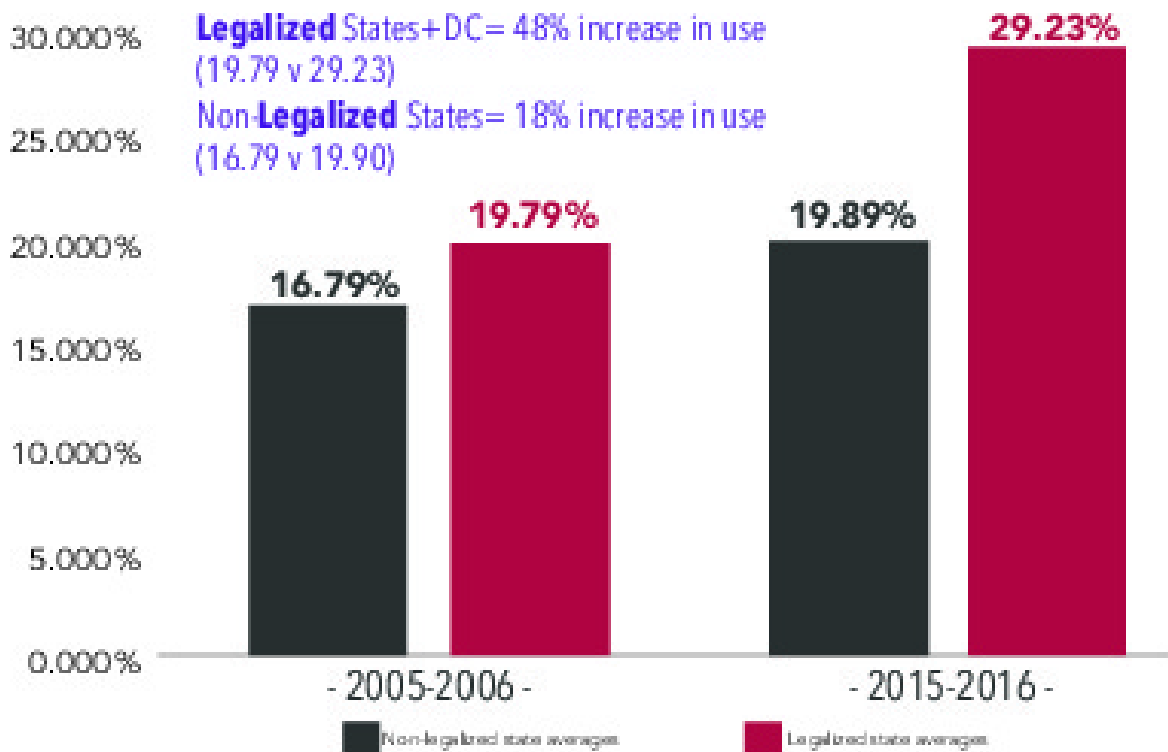
The [study](#) found that legalized states are leading the nation in past-year marijuana use among every age group. Among

those states, Colorado currently holds the lead for first-time marijuana use among youth aged 12-17, representing a 65% increase since legalization. Young adult use is also highest in legalized states. Further, the number of young people arrested for marijuana use in Colorado saw an increase from 2015-2016.



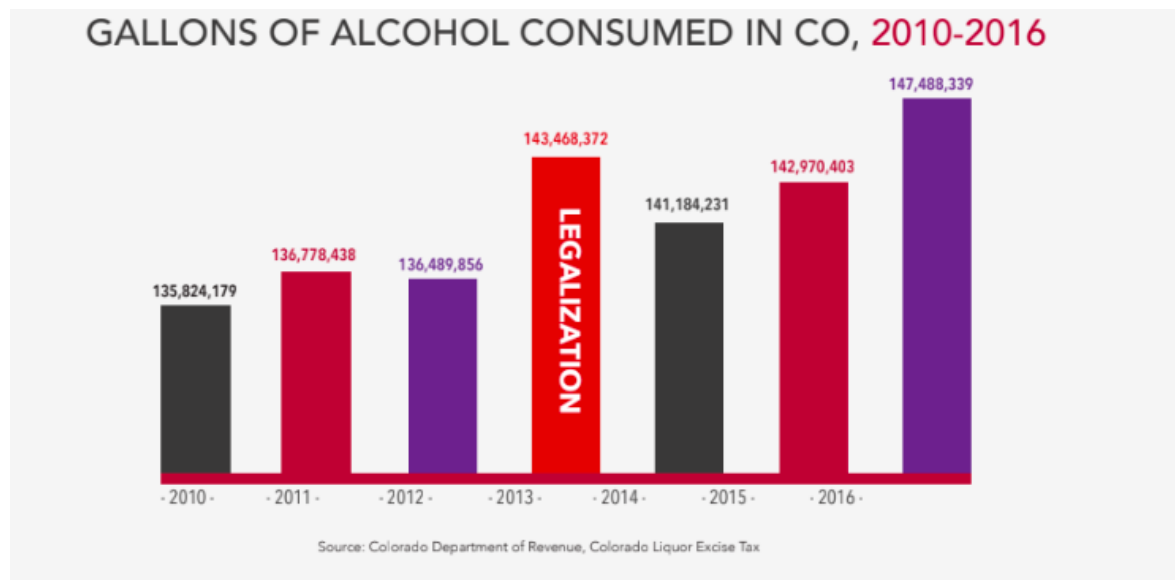
Not only are more young people being arrested for marijuana use in states that have legalized the substance, but Colorado has also seen an increase in the amount of youth on probation who have tested positive for the drug.

18-25 Year-Old Monthly Marijuana Use Legal vs. Non-Legal State Averages



This rise in youth use of marijuana is particularly frightening to see given the longterm implications involved with young people becoming addicted to marijuana. "Since commercialization, those of us in addiction treatment have been seeing an increase in the number of patients who have become addicted to marijuana. Their symptoms, particularly sleep disturbance, appetite disturbance and psychosis, don't consistently remit after ninety days of treatment," said Bari Platter, Clinical Nurse Specialist at the University of Colorado Hospital's CeDAR (Center for Dependency, Addiction and Rehabilitation). "We need to do more research about the devastating long-term effects of marijuana before considering commercialization in other states," continued Platter.

Some supporters of legalization have argued that the relaxing of marijuana laws would lead to lower rates of alcohol consumption. The data prove otherwise. In the immediate year following legalization of marijuana, there was a clear drop off, but by year three alcohol consumption was at a multi-year high.



Commercialization advocates have long argued that legalization will reduce black market marijuana activity in legalized states. However, criminal activity has only been amplified. In 2016 alone, Colorado law enforcement confiscated 7,116 pounds of marijuana, carried out 252 felony arrests, and made 346 highway interdictions of marijuana headed to 36 different U.S. states. The U.S. mail system has also been affected by the black market, seeing an 844% increase in postal marijuana seizures. Narcotics officers in Colorado have been busy responding to the 50% increase in illegal growing operations across rural areas in the state.

STATES TO WHICH COLORADO MARIJUANA WAS
DESTINED, 2016 (TOTAL REPORTED INCIDENTS PER STATE)

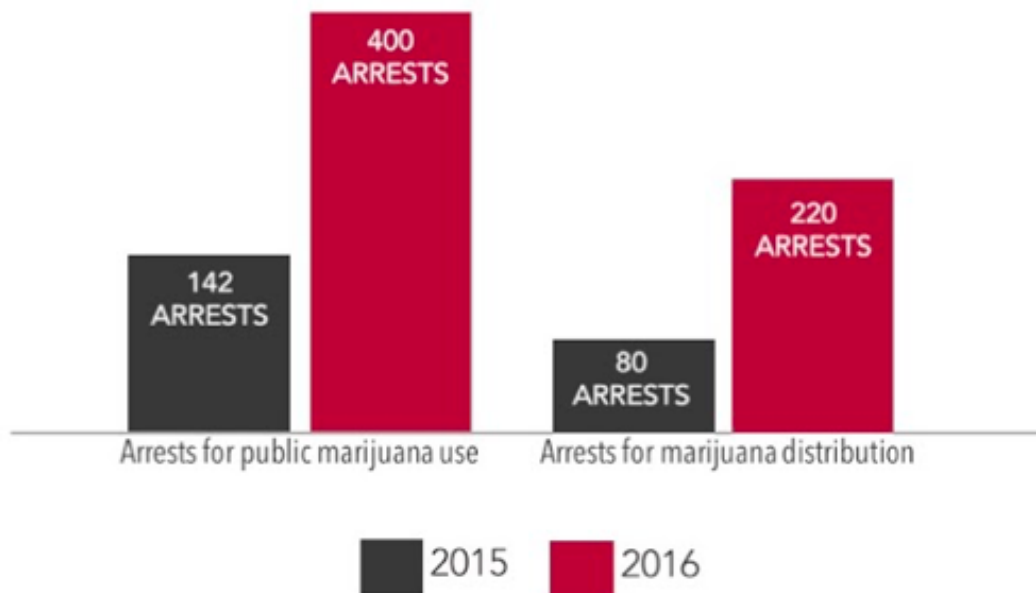


"It's very concerning that this data is not what we're hearing in the news, but is instead spin jobs, incomplete information, and biased information promoted and pushed by Big Marijuana," said Dr. Aaron Weiner, PhD, Director of Addictions at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health. "It's impossible to read this brief and not want push back to keep our kids and young adults safe from this predatory industry," Wiener continued.

One of the most common arguments prevalent amongst the pro-marijuana lobby is that the legalization of the substance will greatly assist communities of color. The study found that the common disparities among use and criminal offense rates continue among race, ethnicity, and income levels. The District of Columbia saw public consumption and

distribution arrests nearly triple and a disproportionate number of those marijuana-related arrests occur among African-Americans.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARRESTS FOR PUBLIC MARIJUANA USE & MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION, 2015-2016



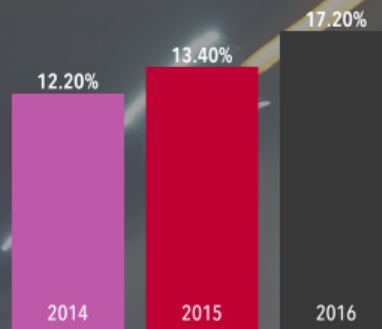
Source: Moyer JW. D.C. arrests for public use of marijuana nearly tripled last year. The Washington Post. July 11, 2017.

Finally, the [study](#) found a disturbing trend in that drugged driving and motor vehicle fatalities have increased in states that have legalized recreational marijuana. The number of drivers in Colorado intoxicated with marijuana and involved in fatal traffic crashes increased 88% from 2013-2015 and marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 66% between the four-year averages before and after legalization.

DRUGGED DRIVING

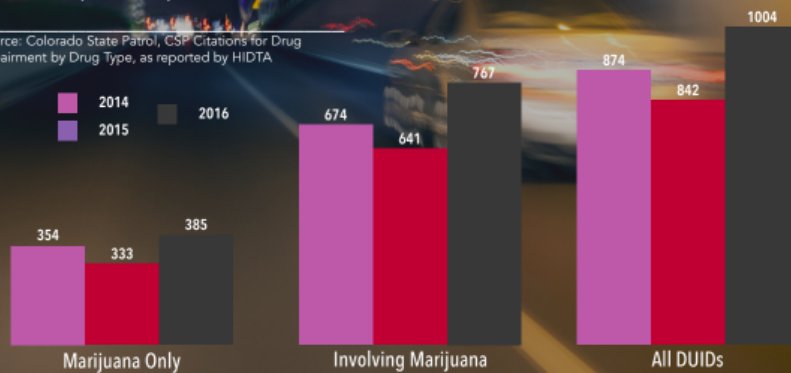
MARIJUANA AS A PERCENT OF ALL DUI AND DUIDS IN COLORADO

Source: Colorado State Patrol, CSP Citations for Drug Impairment by Drug Type, as reported by HIDTA



COLORADO STATE PATROL NUMBER OF DRIVERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS (DUIDS)

Source: Colorado State Patrol, CSP Citations for Drug Impairment by Drug Type, as reported by HIDTA



"The gradual normalization of marijuana commercialization in Colorado and other states means people become accustomed to the rise in THC-impaired driving fatalities or to witnessing psychosis induced by marijuana," said Dr. Christine Miller, PhD, former instructor and research associate at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

"The marijuana industry is actively working to become the next Big Tobacco. The use of THC candies and drinks are catering to young people and getting them into the drug at an early age," said SAM President Kevin Sabet, PhD. "At a time when our nation is struggling with a crippling opioid epidemic, the last thing we need is young people getting caught up in drug use thanks to a relaxing of drug laws. This study should serve as an eye-opener for our policy makers at both the state and federal level," continued Sabet.

