

THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN COLORADO *THE IMPACT*

Volume 3 Preview 2015



Rocky Mountain High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area
www.rmhidta.org

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Introduction

Purpose

In August 2014, Rocky Mountain HIDTA published *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact Volume 2*. The purpose of that report was to document the impact of Colorado legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational use. This dramatic change in drug policy provides an opportunity to gather and examine factual data on the results of marijuana legalization. The report allows citizens and policymakers to make an informed decision on this important issue.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA intends to publish *Volume 3* in late summer of 2015. However, based on numerous inquiries from community leaders, government officials, drug policy experts, media and citizens Rocky Mountain HIDTA elected to publish a preview of the most updated data available. This information will be included in *Volume 3*.

Preface

Volume 3 Preview 2015 will be formatted using the same ten sections used in *Volume 2*. It is important to note that, for purposes of the debate on legalizing marijuana in Colorado, there are three distinct timeframes to consider. Those are: The early medical marijuana era (2000 – 2008), the medical marijuana commercialization era (2009 – current) and the recreational marijuana era (2013 – current).

- **2000 – 2008:** In November 2000, Colorado voters passed Amendment 20 which permitted a qualifying patient and/or caregiver of a patient to possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana and grow 6 marijuana plants for medical purposes. During that time there were between 1,000 and 4,800 medical marijuana cardholders and no known dispensaries operating in the state.
- **2009 – Current:** Beginning in 2009 due to a number of events, marijuana became *de facto* legalized through the commercialization of the medical marijuana industry. By the end of 2012, there were over 100,000 medical marijuana

cardholders and 500 licensed dispensaries operating in Colorado. There were also licensed cultivation operations and edible manufacturers.

- **2013 – Current:** In November 2012, Colorado voters passed Constitutional Amendment 64 which legalized marijuana for recreational purposes for anyone over the age of 21. The amendment also allowed for licensed marijuana retail stores, cultivation operations and edible manufacturers.

SECTION 1: Impaired Driving

Definitions

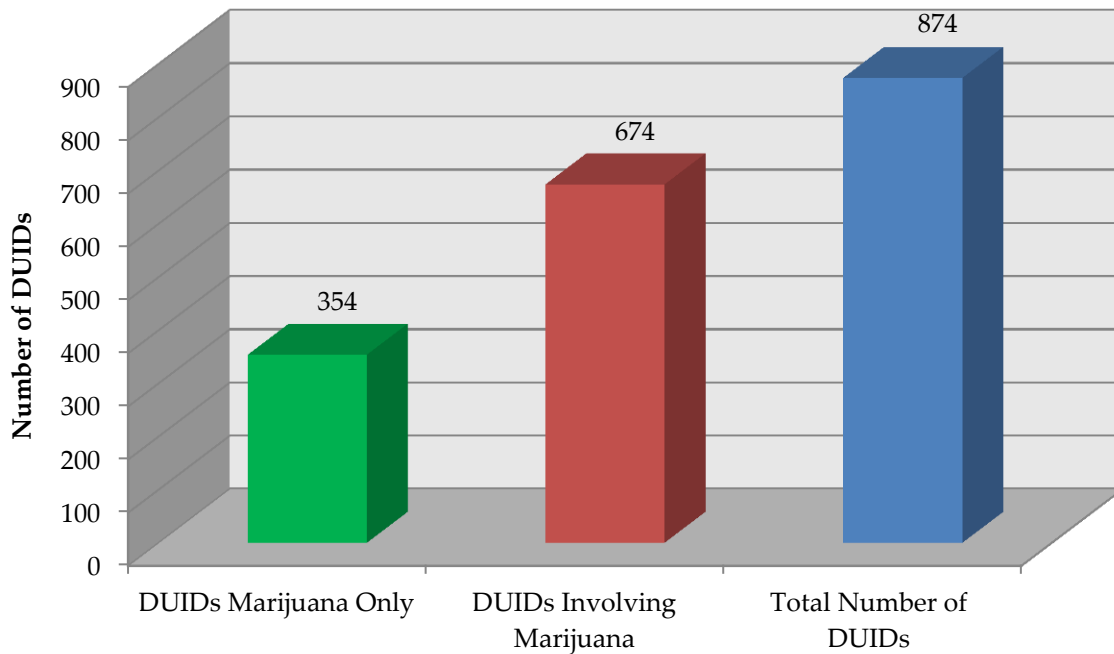
DUID: **Driving Under the Influence of Drugs** (DUID) which can include alcohol in combination with drugs. This is an important measurement since the driver's ability to operate a vehicle was sufficiently impaired that it brought his or her driving to the attention of law enforcement. Not only the erratic driving but the subsequent evidence that the subject was under the influence of marijuana confirms the causation factor. Traffic fatalities related to marijuana will be addressed in *Volume 3*. The 2014 toxicology results are still being compiled.

Findings

- Impaired driving related to marijuana is increasing.
- Statewide data is limited.

Data

Colorado State Patrol Number of DUIDs, 2014

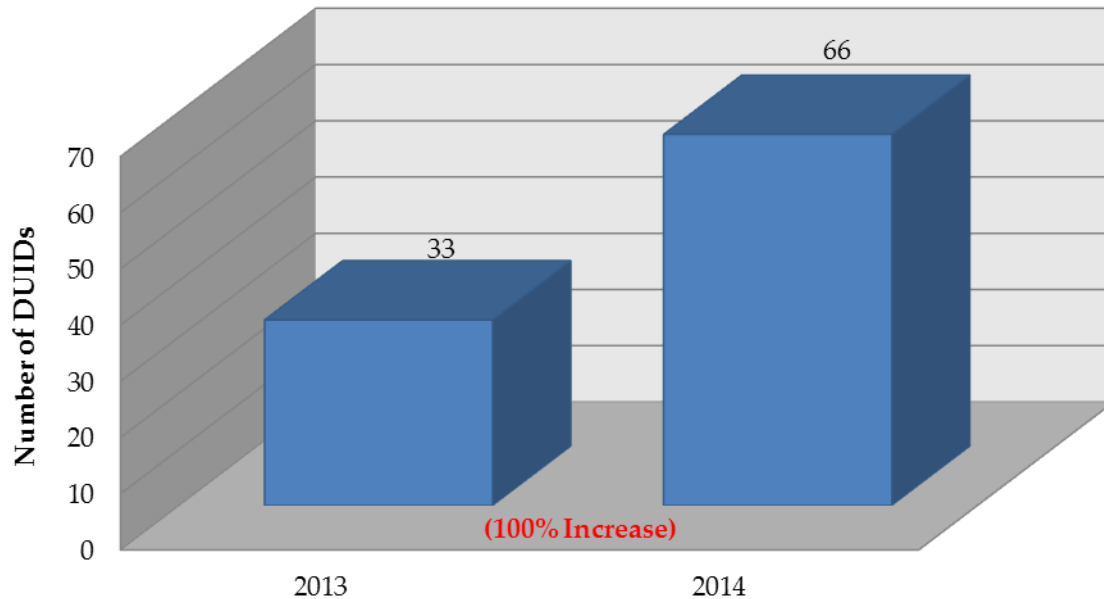


"MARIJUANA CITATIONS DEFINED AS ANY CITATION WHERE CONTACT WAS CITED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) OR DRIVING WHILE ABILITY IMPAIRED (DWAI) AND MARIJUANA INFORMATION WAS FILLED OUT ON TRAFFIC STOP FORM INDICATING MARIJUANA & ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA & OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OR MARIJUANA ONLY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

**NOTE: 77 PERCENT OF TOTAL DUIDS INVOLVED MARIJUANA
41 PERCENT OF TOTAL DUIDS INVOLVED MARIJUANA ONLY**

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

Denver Police Department Number of DUIDs Involving Marijuana

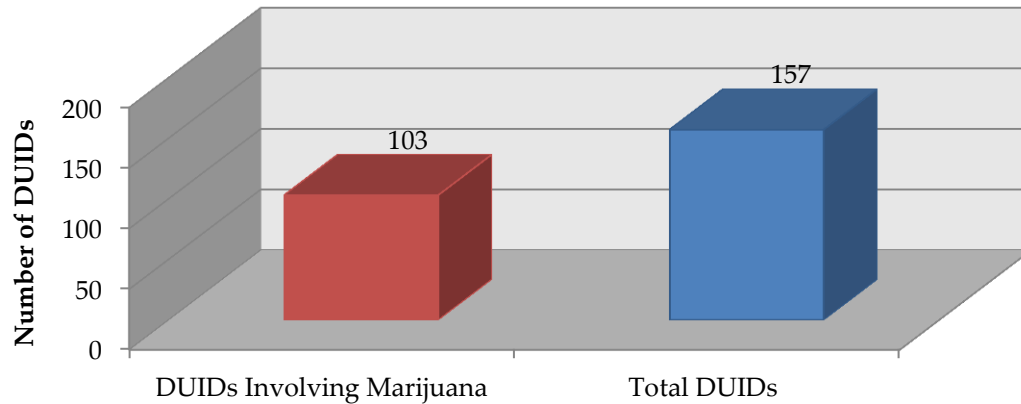


NOTE: THE NUMBER OF DUID ARRESTS IS NOT REFLECTIVE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE WHO ARE INTOXICATED ON NON-ALCOHOL SUBSTANCES. IF SOMEONE IS DRIVING BOTH INTOXICATED ON ALCOHOL AND INTOXICATED ON ANY OTHER DRUG (INCLUDING MARIJUANA), ALCOHOL IS ALMOST ALWAYS THE ONLY INTOXICANT TESTED FOR. A DRIVER WHO TESTS OVER THE LEGAL LIMIT FOR ALCOHOL WILL BE CHARGED WITH DUI, EVEN IF HE OR SHE IS POSITIVE FOR OTHER DRUGS. HOWEVER, WHETHER OR NOT HE OR SHE IS POSITIVE FOR OTHER DRUGS WILL REMAIN UNKNOWN BECAUSE OTHER DRUGS ARE NOT OFTEN TESTED FOR.

*THE NUMBER OF DUID ARRESTS IN WHICH MARIJUANA WAS MENTIONED REFLECTS ANY DUID ARREST WHERE POSSIBLE MARIJUANA INTOXICATION IS MENTIONED BY THE OFFICER IN THE REPORT AND IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF LEGAL INTOXICATION.

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

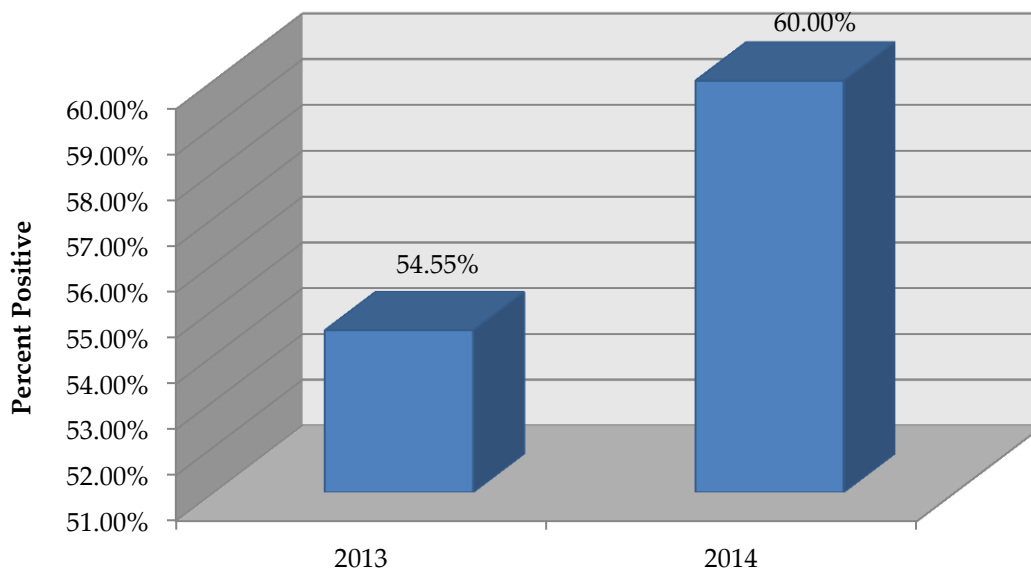
Aurora Police Department Number of DUIDs, 2014



NOTE: 66 PERCENT OF TOTAL DUIDs INVOLVED MARIJUANA

SOURCE: Aurora Police Department, Traffic Division

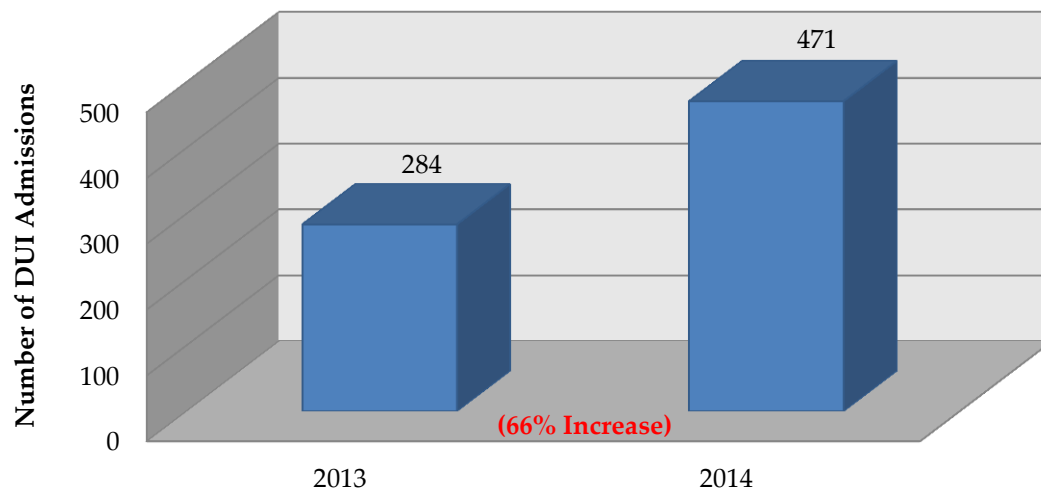
Larimer County Sheriff's Office Percent of DUIDs Involving Marijuana



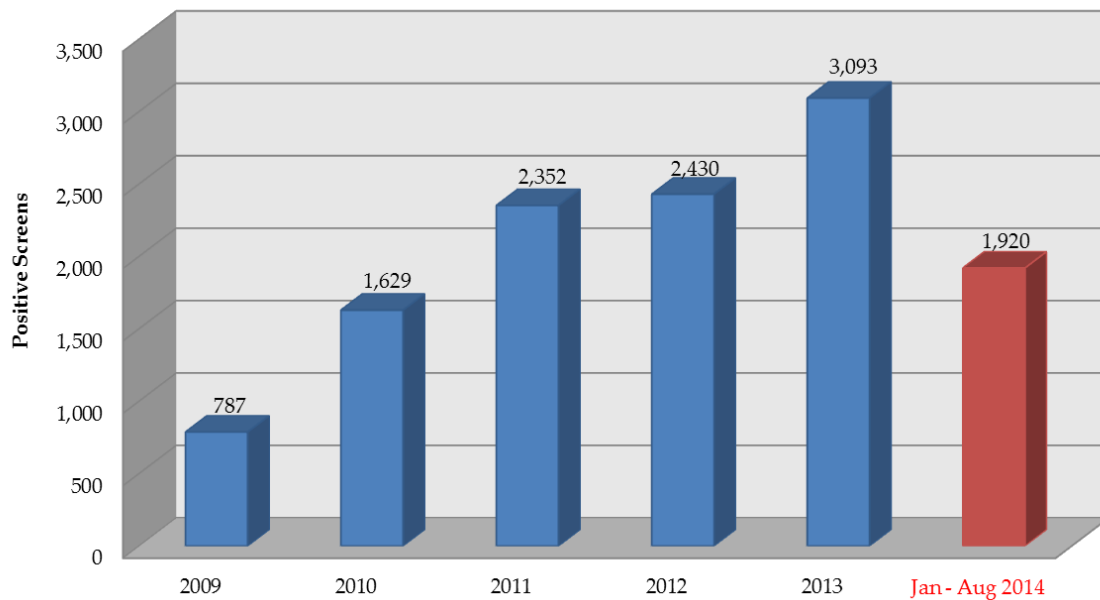
NOTE: PERCENT OF ALL DUID BLOOD SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR DRUG TESTING.

SOURCE: Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Records Unit

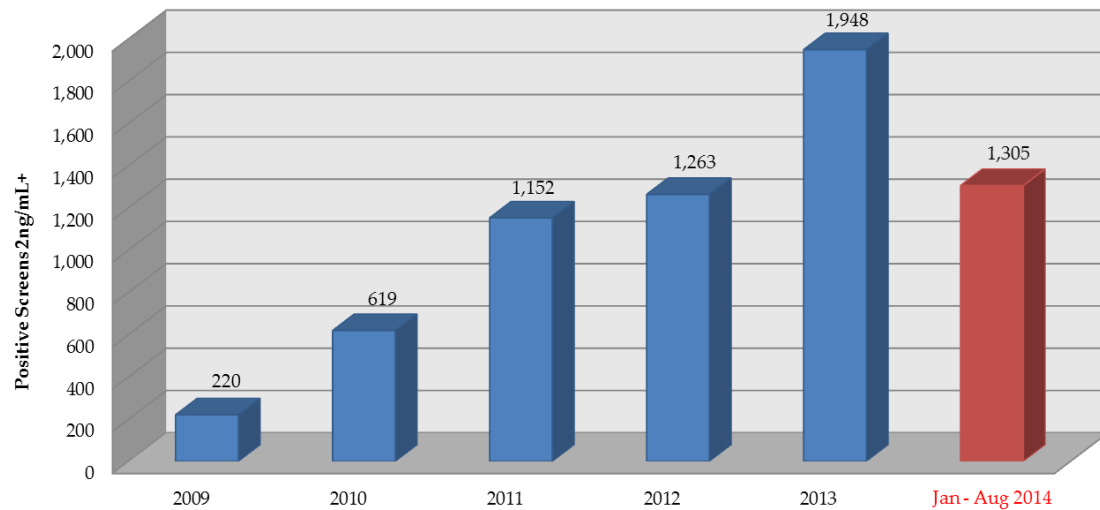
Number of DUI Admissions to Arapahoe House with Marijuana as a Self-Reported Drug of Choice



SOURCE: Arapahoe House, Public Communications Office

Cannabinoid Screens Positive for THC

SOURCE: ChemaTox Laboratory, Inc.

**Positive THC 2ng/mL or Higher
(Percent of Positive Screens with THC Confirmed)**

SOURCE: ChemaTox Laboratory, Inc.

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.

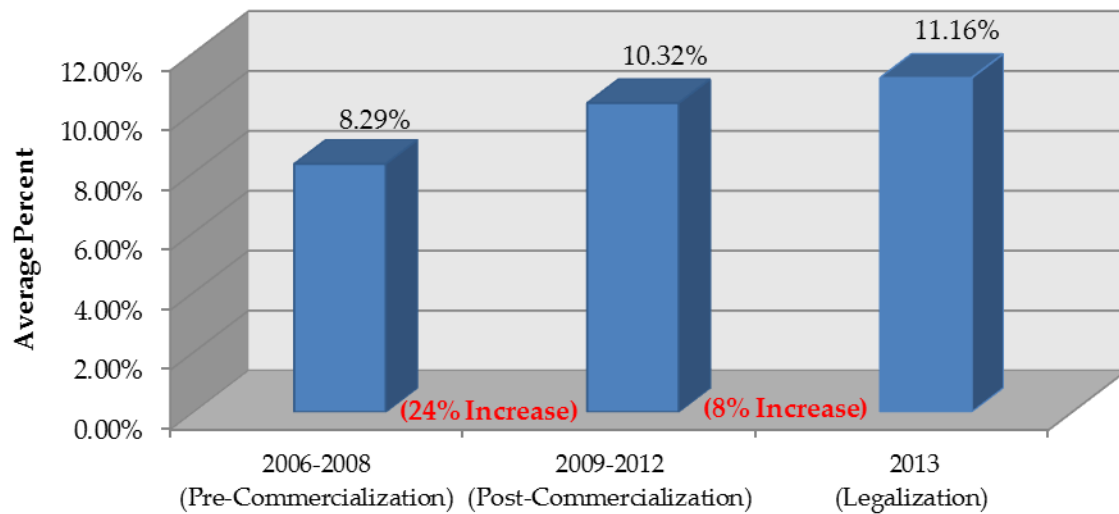
SECTION 2: Youth Marijuana Use

Findings

- Youth (ages 12 to 17 years) Past Month Marijuana Use, 2013
 - National average for youth was 7.15 percent
 - Colorado average for youth was 11.16 percent
 - Colorado was ranked 3rd in the nation for current marijuana use among youth (56.08 percent higher than the national average)
 - In 2006, Colorado ranked 14th in the nation for current marijuana use among youth
- In just one year when Colorado legalized marijuana (2013), past month marijuana use among those ages 12 to 17 years increased 6.6 percent

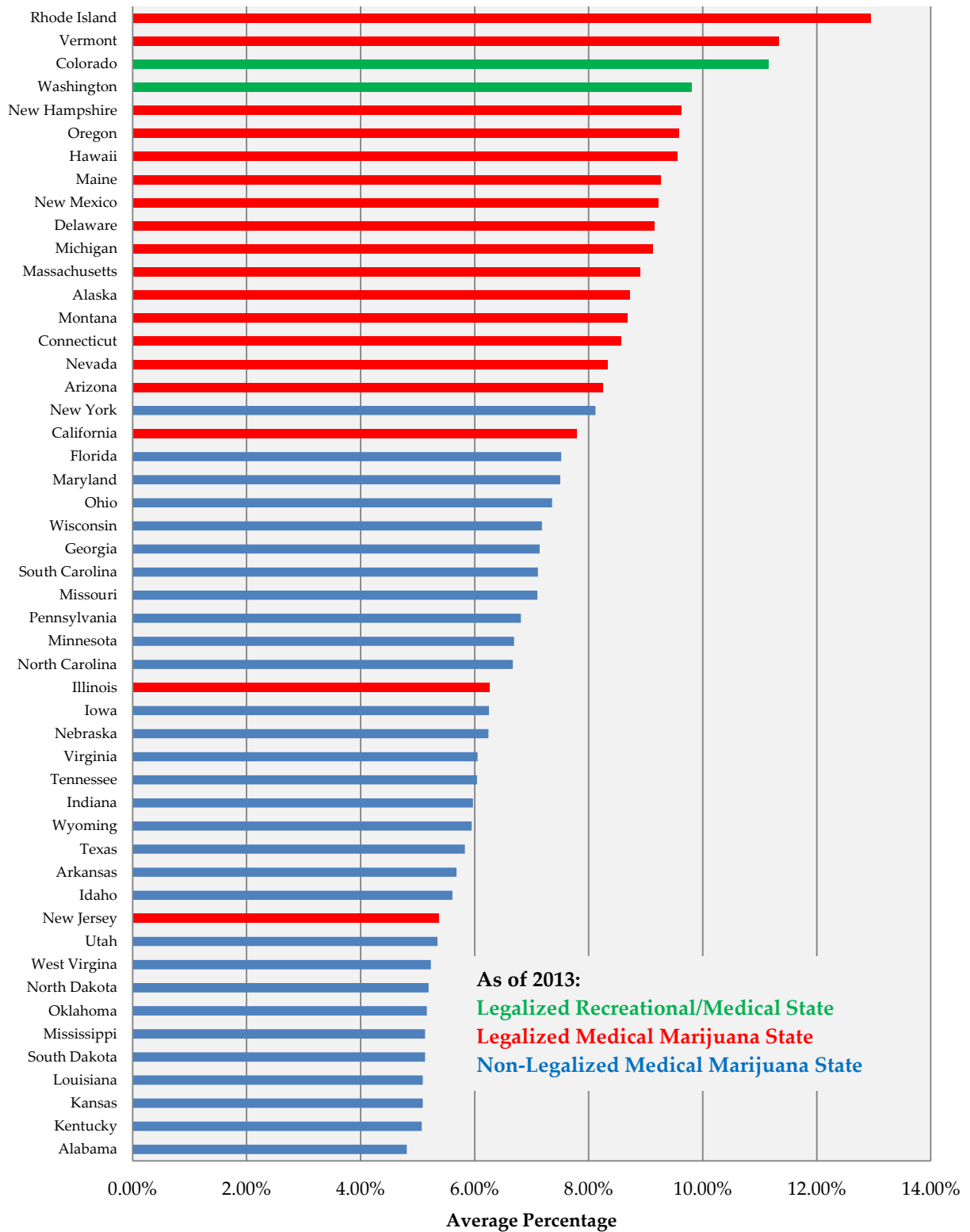
Data

Average Past Month Use of Marijuana Ages 12 to 17 Years



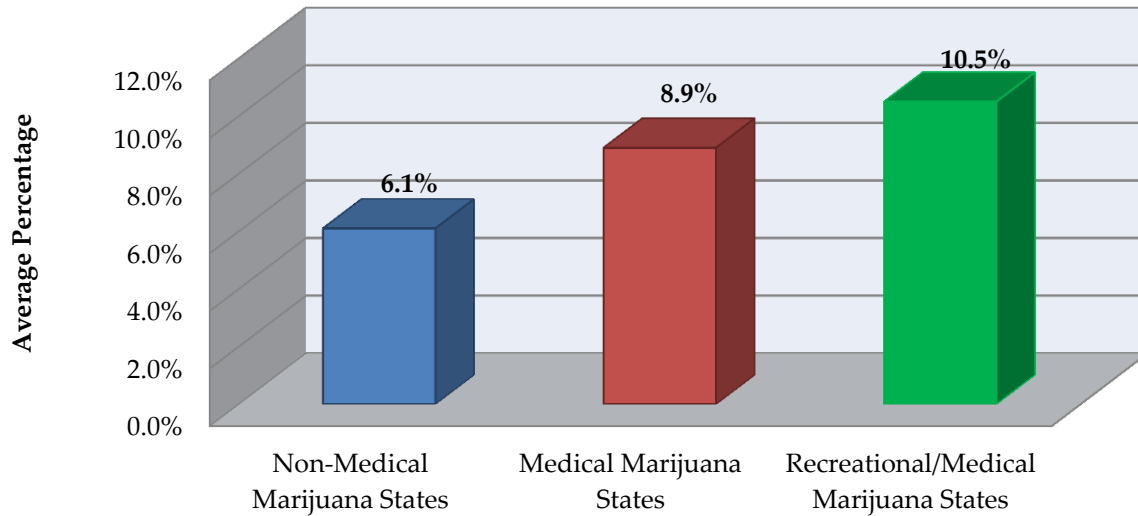
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2012 and 2013

Past Month Usage by 12 to 17-Year-Olds, 2013



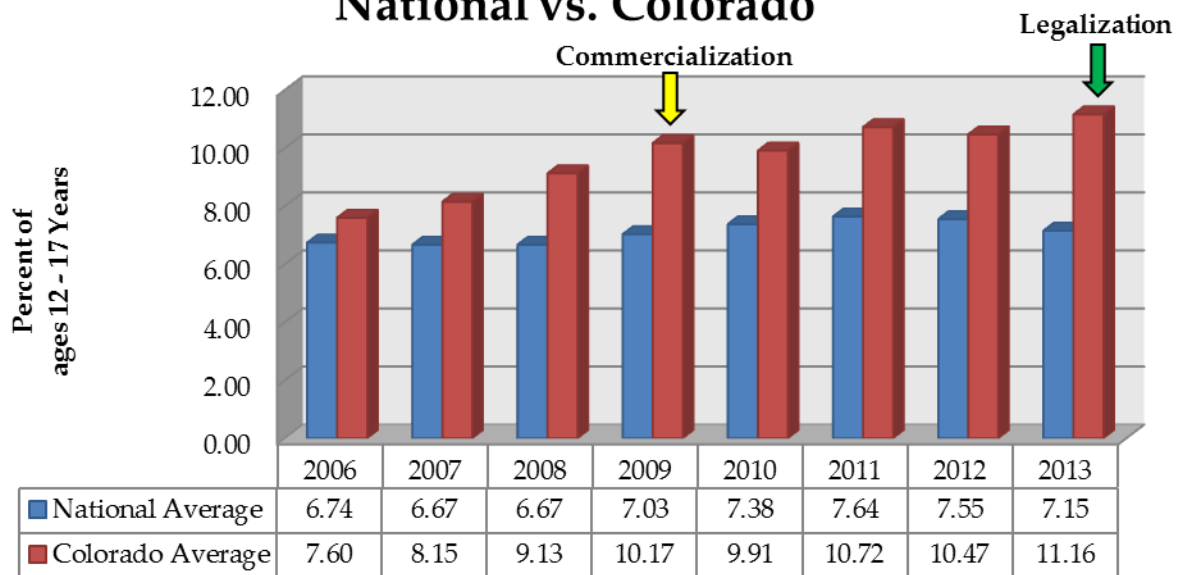
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2012 and 2013

Average Past Month Use by 12 to 17-Year-Olds, 2013



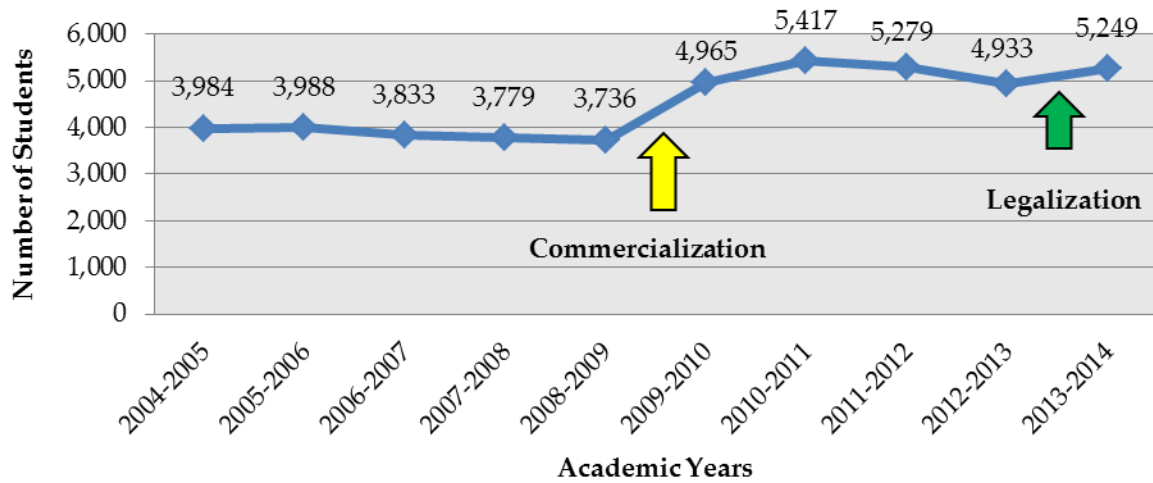
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2012 and 2013

Youth (Ages 12 to 17 Years) Past Month Marijuana Use National vs. Colorado



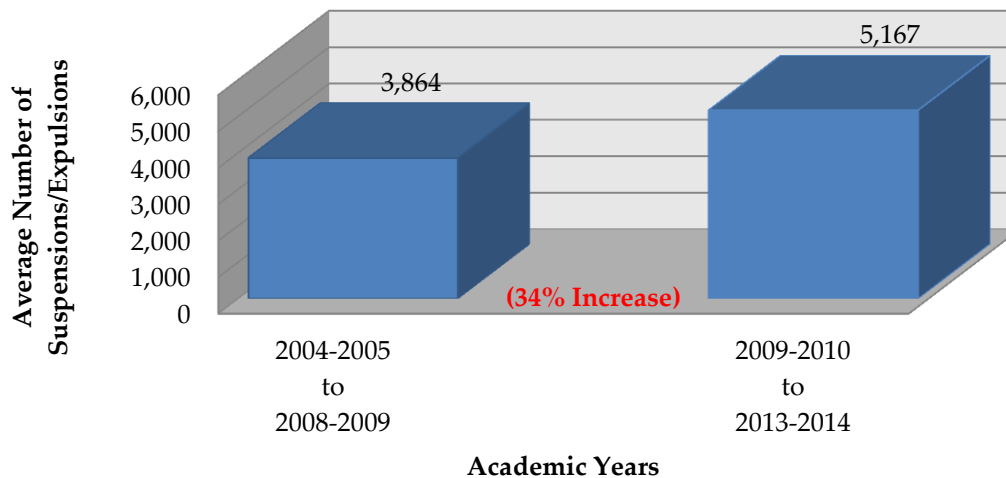
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006-2013

Drug-Related Suspensions/Expulsions



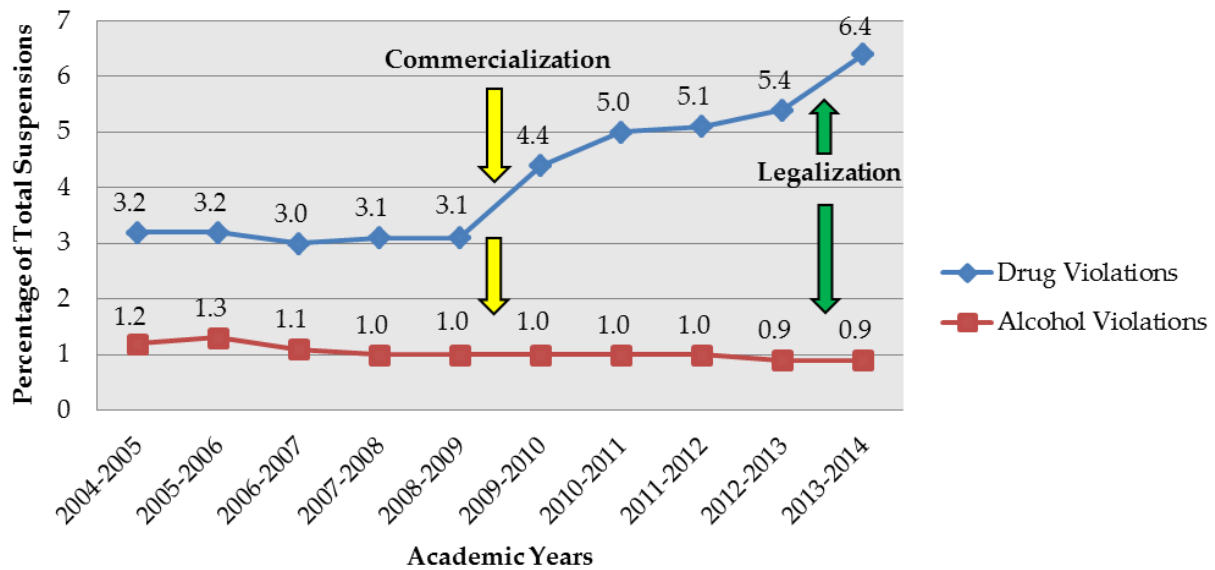
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data: State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

Average Drug-Related Suspensions/Expulsions



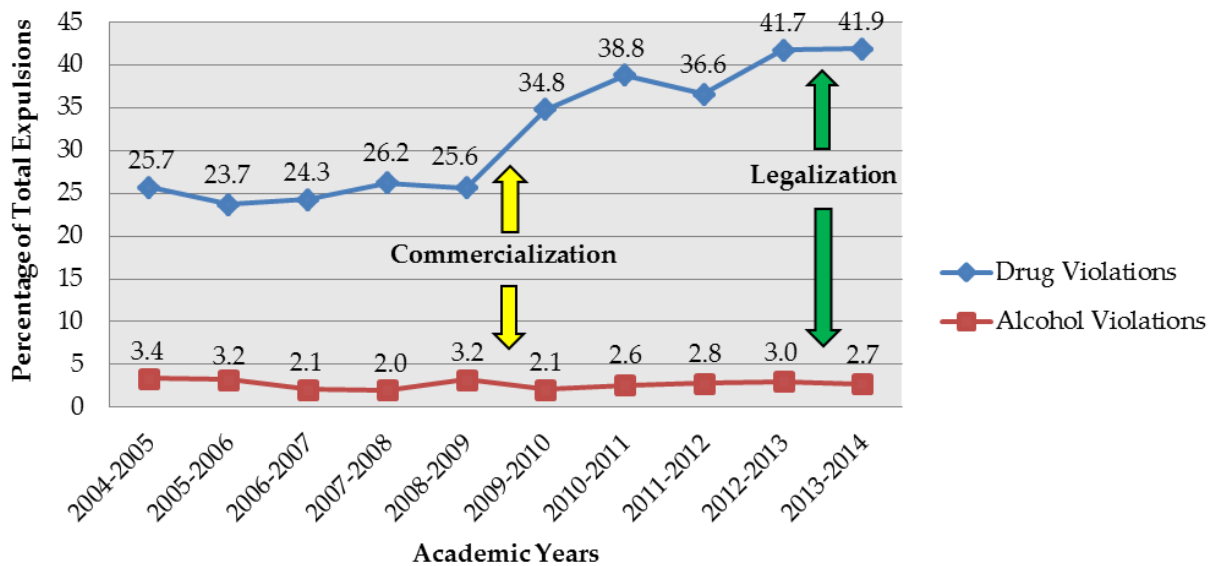
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data: State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

Percentage of *Total Suspensions* in Colorado from 2004-2014 School Years



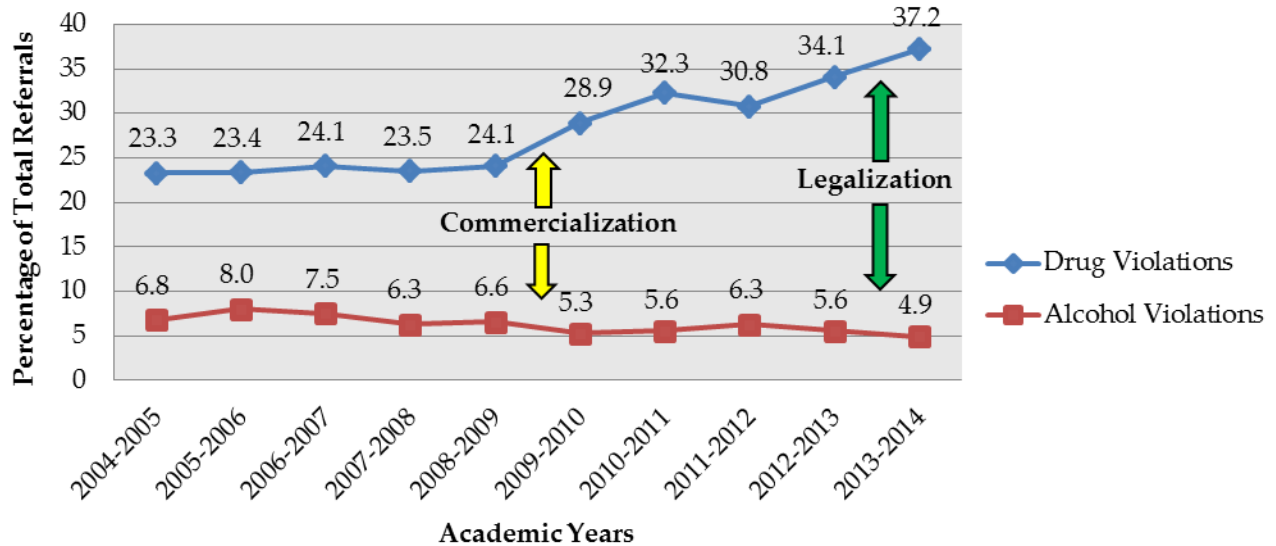
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data: State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

Percentage of *Total Expulsions* in Colorado from 2004-2014 School Years



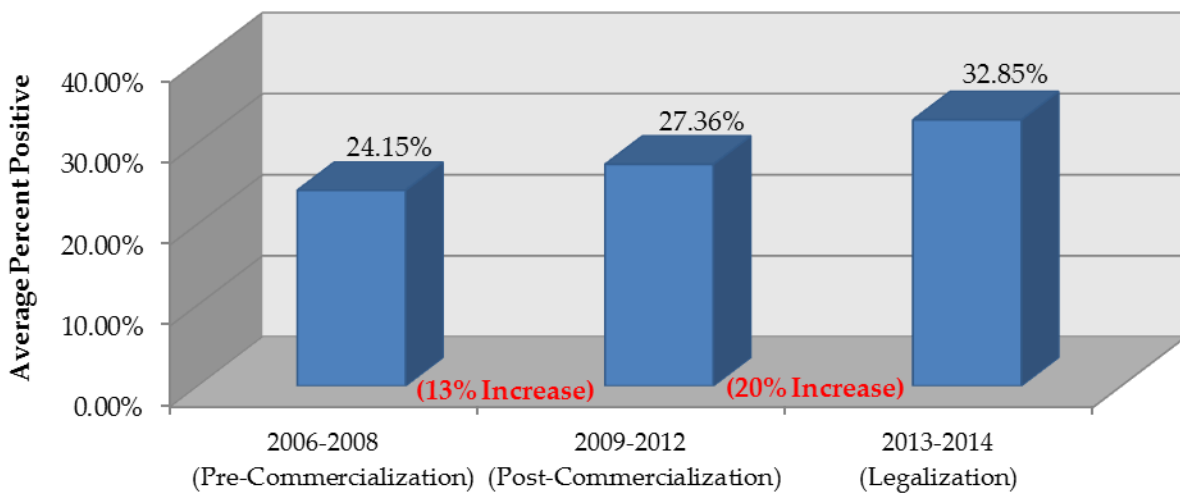
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data: State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

Percentage of Total Referrals to Law Enforcement in Colorado from 2004-2014 School Years



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

State of Colorado Probation Average Percent Positive THC Urinalyses Ages 12 to 17 Years



SOURCE: State of Colorado Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services

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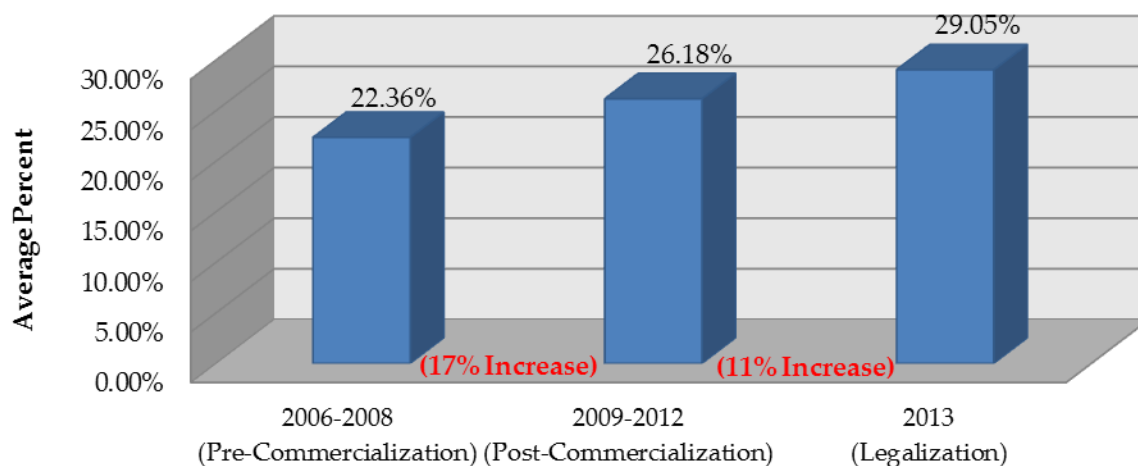
SECTION 3: Adult Marijuana Use

Findings (College Age)

- College Age Adults (ages 18 to 25 years) Current Marijuana Use 2013
 - National average – 18.91 percent
 - Colorado average – 29.05 percent
 - Colorado was ranked 2nd in the nation for current marijuana use among college-age adults (53.62 percent higher than the national average)
 - In 2006, Colorado was ranked 8th in the nation for current marijuana use among college-age adults
- In just one year when Colorado legalized marijuana (2013), past month marijuana use among college-age (18 to 25 years) use increased 8.4 percent

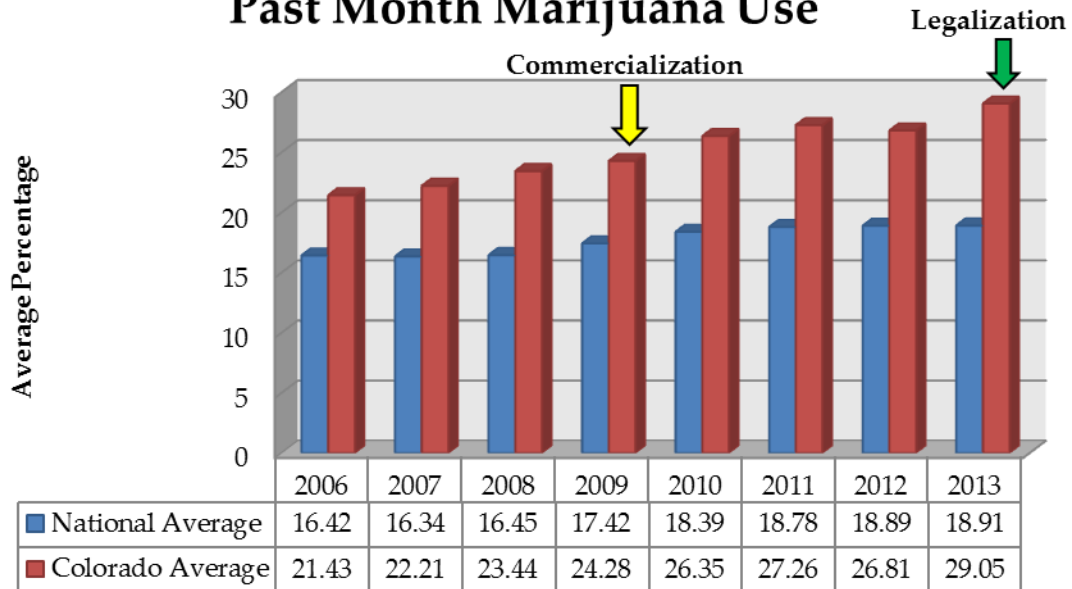
Data

Average Past Month Use of Marijuana College Age (18 to 25 Years-Old)



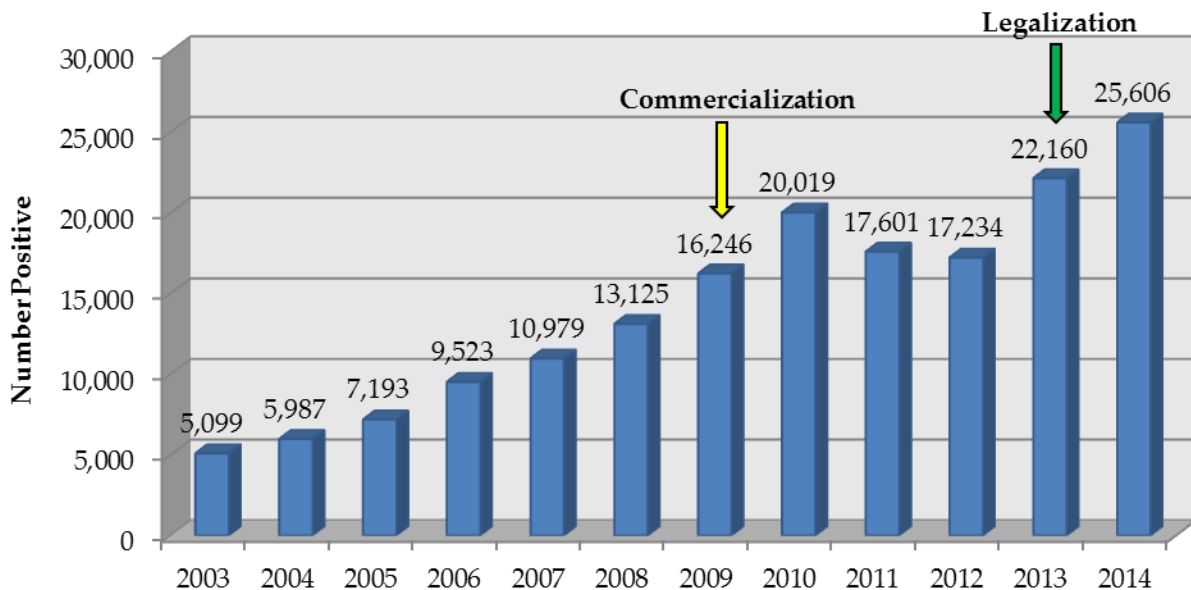
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006–2013

College Age (18 to 25 Years-Old) Past Month Marijuana Use



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006 - 2013

State of Colorado Probation Number of Positive THC Urinalyses Ages 18 to 25 Years



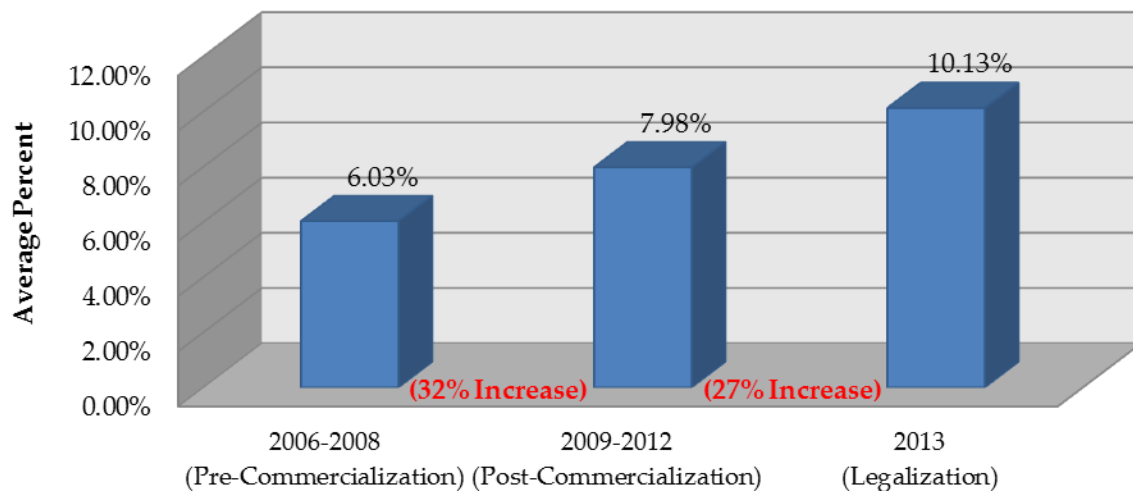
SOURCE: State of Colorado Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services

Findings (Adults)

- Adults (ages 26+ years) Current Marijuana Use 2013
 - National average – 5.45 percent
 - Colorado average = 10.13 percent
 - Colorado was ranked 5th in the nation for current marijuana use among adults (85.87 percent higher than the national average)
 - In 2006, Colorado was ranked 8th in the nation for current marijuana use among adults
- In just one year when Colorado legalized marijuana (2013), past month marijuana use among adults increased 32.8 percent

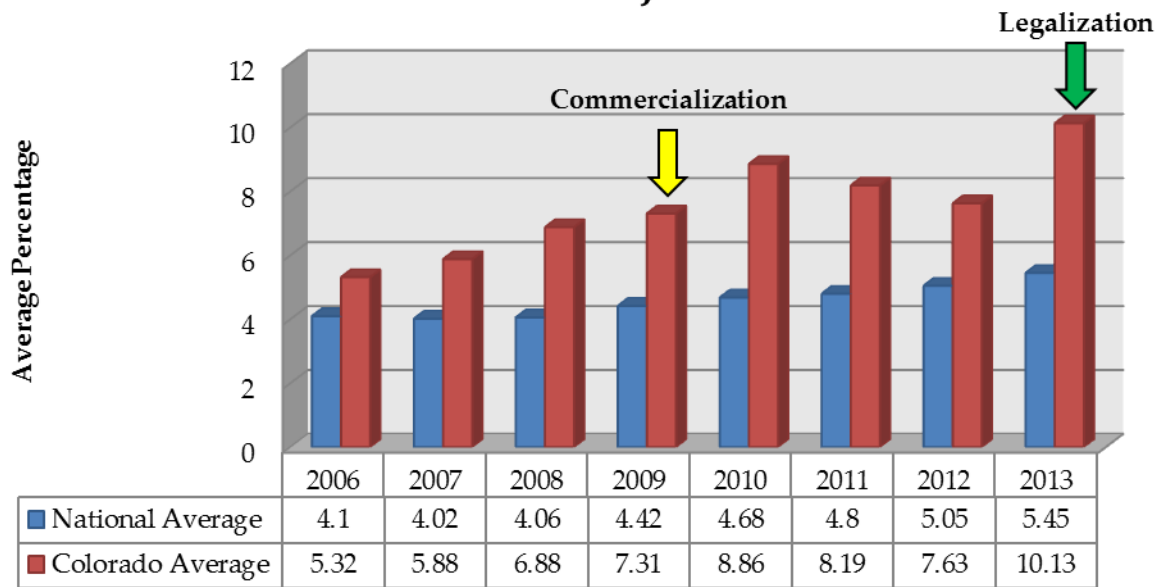
Data

Average Past Month Use of Marijuana Adults (Age 26+)



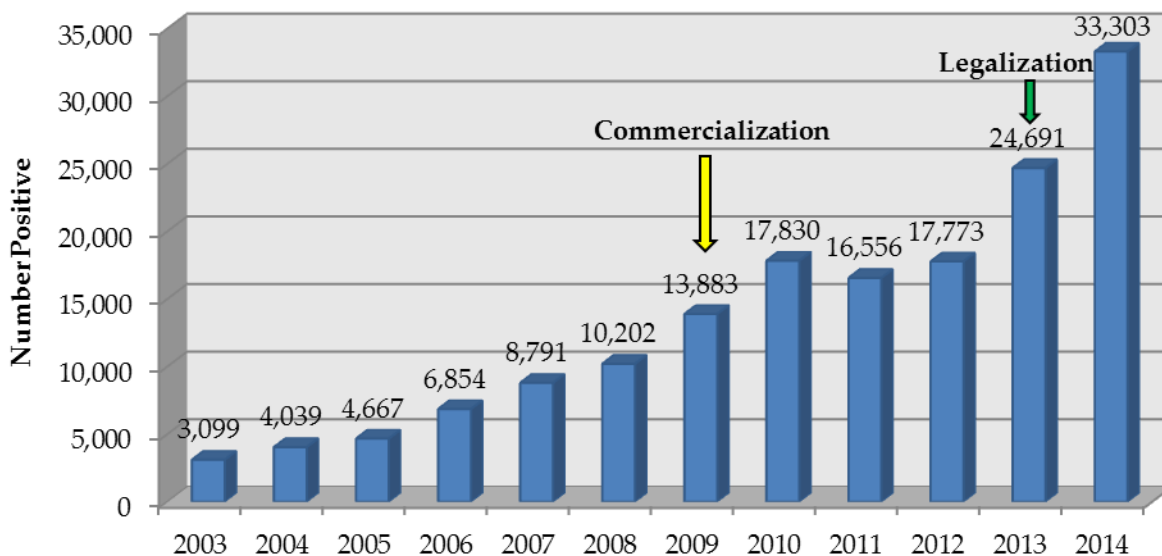
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006-2013

Adult (Age 26+) Past Month Marijuana Use



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006-2013

State of Colorado Probation Number of Positive THC Urinalyses Ages 26+



SOURCE: State of Colorado Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services

SECTION 4: Emergency Room and Hospital Marijuana-Related Admissions

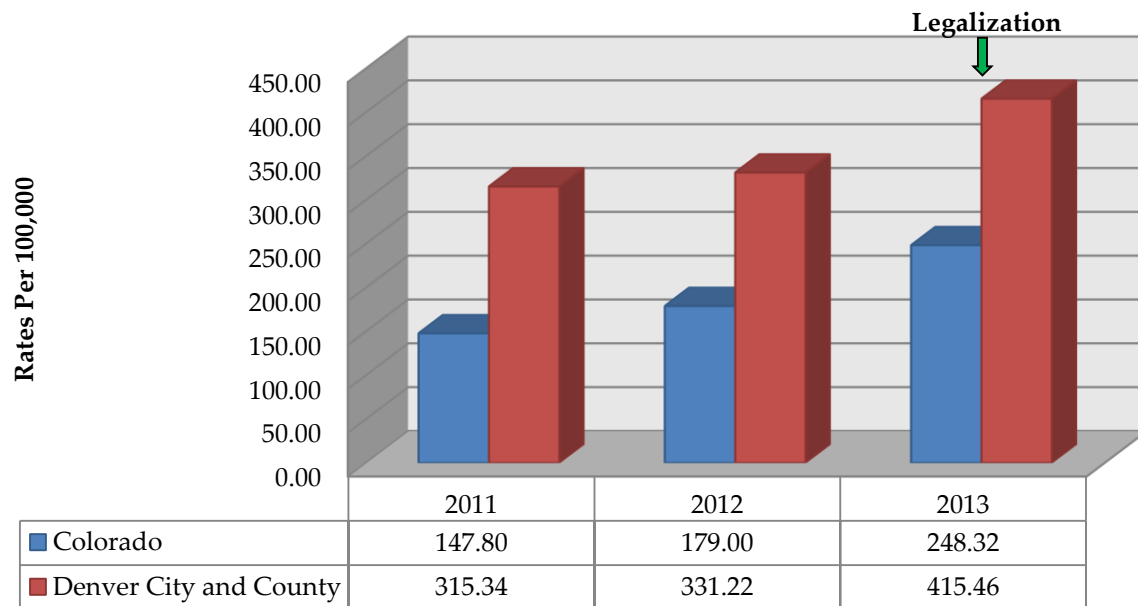
Findings

- There has been an upward trend of marijuana-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations since medical marijuana was commercialized in 2009.
- There has also been a significant increase in both categories in the first six months of 2014 when retail marijuana businesses began operating.

Data

NOTE: “MARIJUANA-RELATED” IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS “MARIJUANA MENTIONS.” THIS MEANS THE DATA COULD BE OBTAINED FROM LAB TESTS, SELF-ADMITTED OR SOME OTHER FORM OF VALIDATION BY THE PHYSICIAN. THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY MARIJUANA WAS THE CAUSE OF THE EMERGENCY ADMISSION OR HOSPITALIZATION.

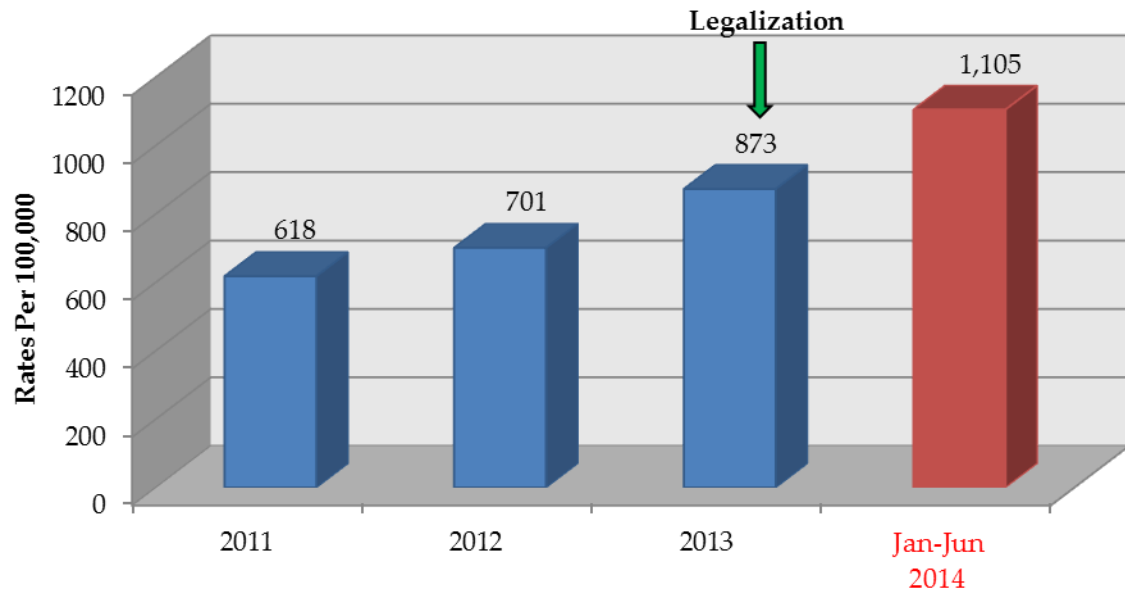
Emergency Department Rates Per 100,000 Marijuana-Related, 2011-2013



NOTE: THE HIGHEST RATES FROM 2011-2013 WERE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS (18-25 YEARS).

SOURCE: Denver Office of Drug Strategy, The Denver Drug Strategy Commission, *Proceedings of the Denver Epidemiology Work Group (DEWG)*, October 29, 2014

Rates of Emergency Department (ED) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes per 100,000 ED Visits by Year in Colorado

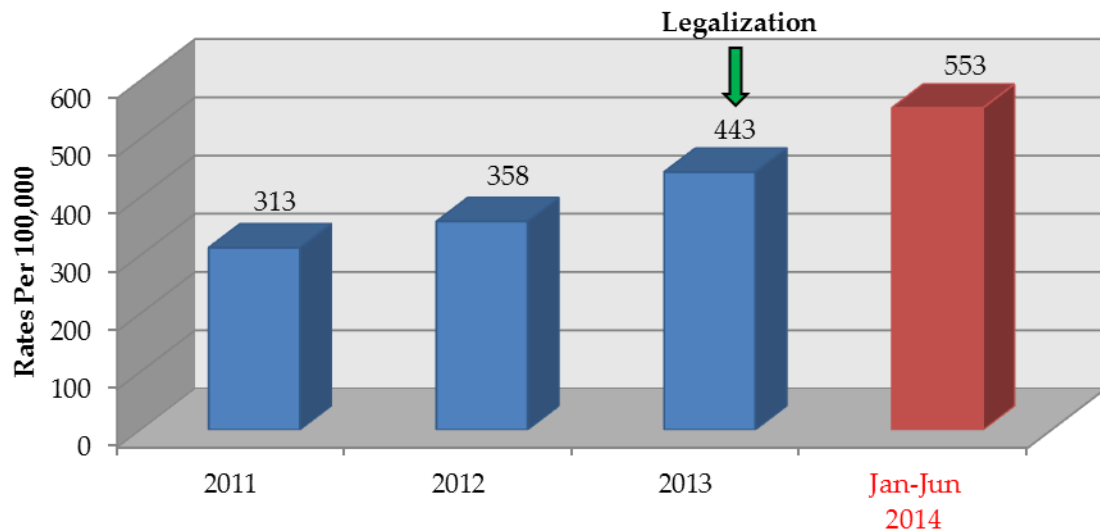


"POSSIBLE MARIJUANA EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, OR BILLING CODES IN ANY OF LISTED DIAGNOSIS CODES: THESE DATA WERE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE HD AND ED VISITS WHERE MARIJUANA COULD BE A CAUSAL, CONTRIBUTING, OR COEXISTING FACTOR NOTED BY THE PHYSICIAN DURING THE HD OR ED VISIT. FOR THESE DATA, MARIJUANA USE IS NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THE HD OR ED VISIT. SOMETIMES THESE DATA ARE REFERRED TO AS HD OR ED VISITS WITH ANY MENTION OF MARIJUANA." - COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, MONITORING HEALTH CONCERNS RELATED TO MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: 2014

NOTE: DATA NOT AVAILABLE PRE-2011.

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, *Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2014*

Rates of Emergency Department (ED) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes in the *First Three* *Diagnosis Codes* per 100,000 ED Visits by Year in Colorado

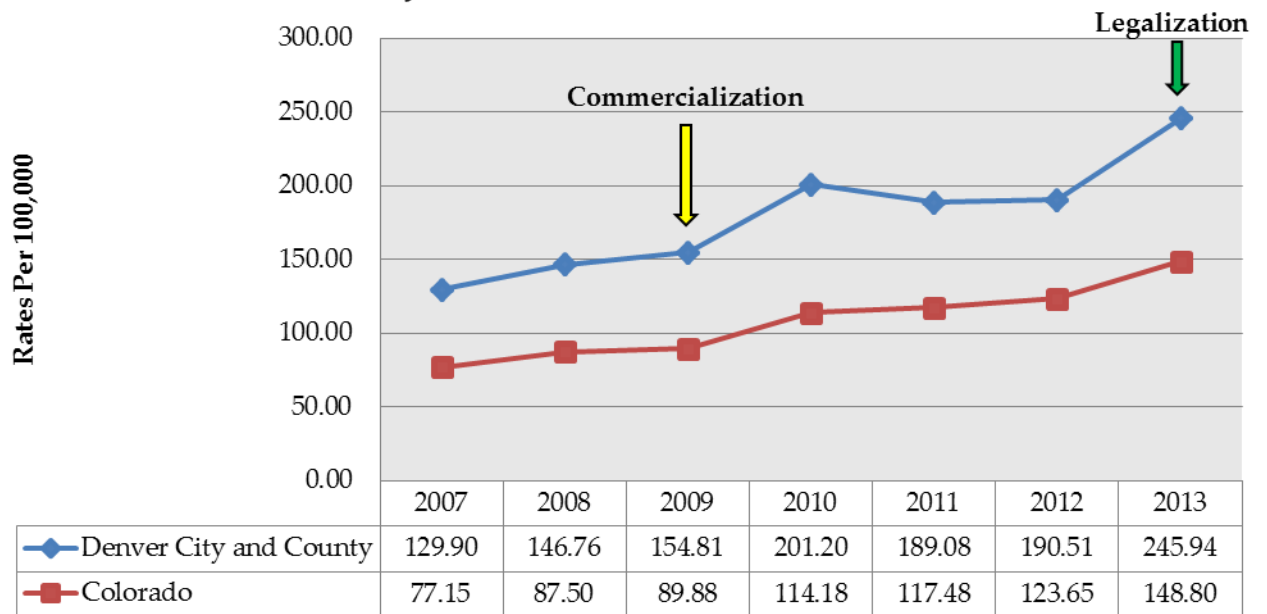


"POSSIBLE MARIJUANA EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, OR BILLING CODES IN THE FIRST THREE DIAGNOSIS CODES: THESE DATA WERE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE HD AND ED VISITS WHERE MARIJUANA USE WAS LIKELY A CAUSAL OR STRONG CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THE HD AND ED VISIT. THESE DATA CONSISTED OF HD AND ED VISITS CODED WITH DISCHARGE CODES RELATED TO POISONING BY PSYCHODYSLEPTICS OR SEPARATE CODES RELATED TO CANNABIS ABUSE IN THE FIRST THREE DIAGNOSIS CODES WHICH ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT CODES." - COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, *MONITORING HEALTH CONCERNS RELATED TO MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: 2014*

NOTE: DATA NOT AVAILABLE PRE-2011.

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, *Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2014*

Hospital Discharge Rates Per 100,000 Marijuana-Related, 2007-2013

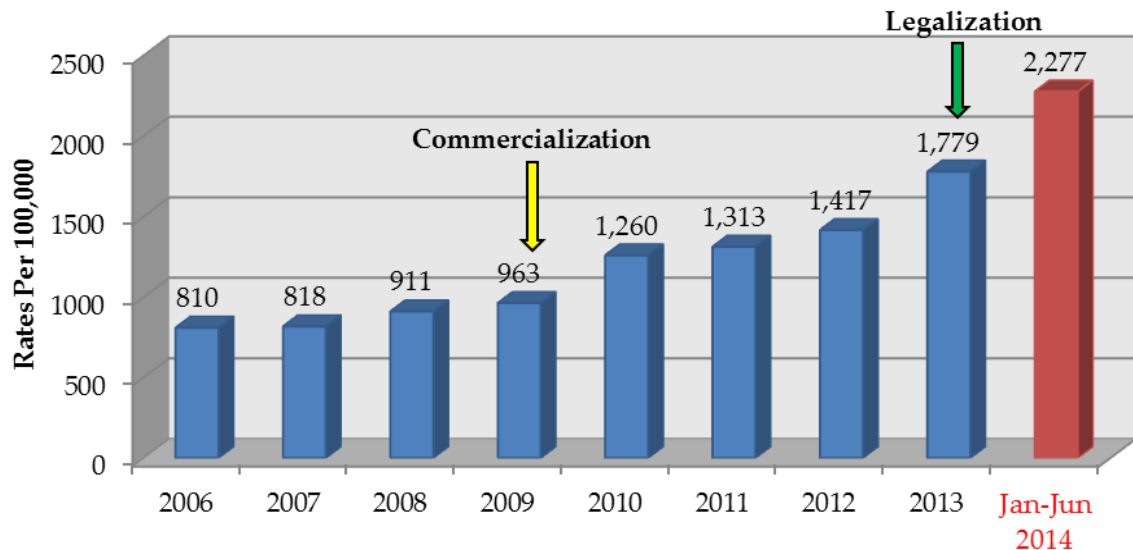


NOTE: THE HIGHEST RATES FROM 2011-2013 WERE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS (18-25 YEARS).

SOURCE: Denver Office of Drug Strategy, The Denver Drug Strategy Commission, *Proceedings of the Denver Epidemiology Work Group (DEWG)*, October 29, 2014

NOTE: HOSPITAL DISCHARGE DATA REPRESENTS AN INDIVIDUAL'S INPATIENT STAY AT A HOSPITAL REQUIRING, AT MINIMUM, AN OVERNIGHT STAY, AND IS IN REFERENCE TO WHEN THE PATIENT LEAVES THE HOSPITAL. A CODE IS ASSIGNED AS TO WHY THE PATIENT WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, CALLED THE ICD-9 CODE, WHICH IS USED FOR BOTH THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD AND FOR BILLING PURPOSES.

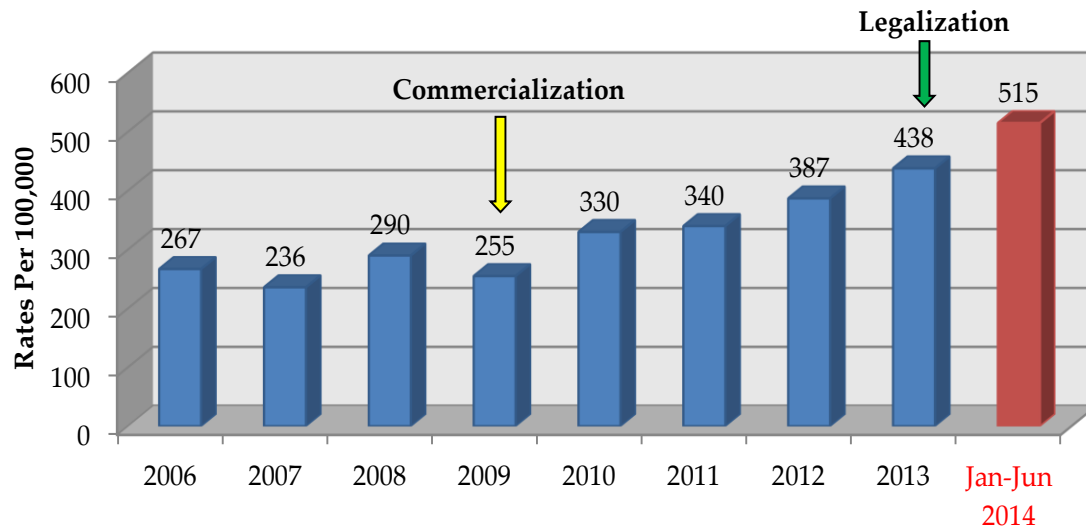
Rates of Hospitalization (HD) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes per 100,000 HD Visits by Year in Colorado



"POSSIBLE MARIJUANA EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, OR BILLING CODES IN ANY OF LISTED DIAGNOSIS CODES: THESE DATA WERE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE HD AND ED VISITS WHERE MARIJUANA COULD BE A CAUSAL, CONTRIBUTING, OR COEXISTING FACTOR NOTED BY THE PHYSICIAN DURING THE HD OR ED VISIT. FOR THESE DATA, MARIJUANA USE IS NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THE HD OR ED VISIT. SOMETIMES THESE DATA ARE REFERRED TO AS HD OR ED VISITS 'WITH ANY MENTION OF MARIJUANA.'" - COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, MONITORING HEALTH CONCERNS RELATED TO MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: 2014

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, *Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2014*

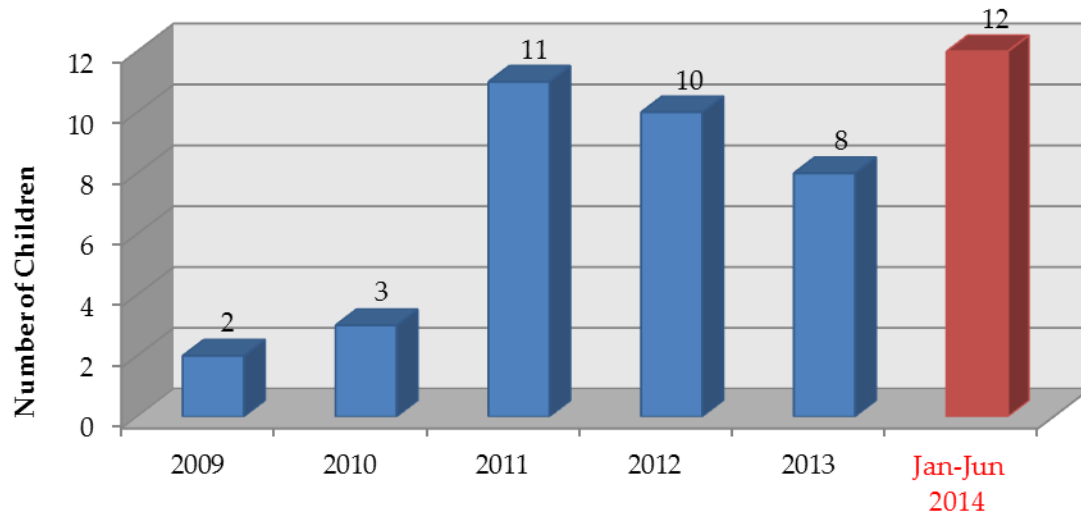
Rates of Hospitalization (HD) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes in the *First Three Diagnosis Codes* per 100,000 HD Visits by Year in Colorado



"POSSIBLE MARIJUANA EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, OR BILLING CODES IN THE FIRST THREE DIAGNOSIS CODES: THESE DATA WERE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE HD AND ED VISITS WHERE MARIJUANA USE WAS LIKELY A CAUSAL OR STRONG CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THE HD AND ED VISIT. THESE DATA CONSISTED OF HD AND ED VISITS CODED WITH DISCHARGE CODES RELATED TO POISONING BY PSYCHODYSLEPTICS OR SEPARATE CODES RELATED TO CANNABIS ABUSE IN THE FIRST THREE DIAGNOSIS CODES WHICH ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT CODES." - COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, MONITORING HEALTH CONCERNS RELATED TO MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: 2014

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, *Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2014*

Marijuana Ingestion Among Children Under 12 Years-of-Age



SOURCE: Dr. George Sam Wang, pediatric emergency physician, Children's Hospital Colorado, July 8, 2014

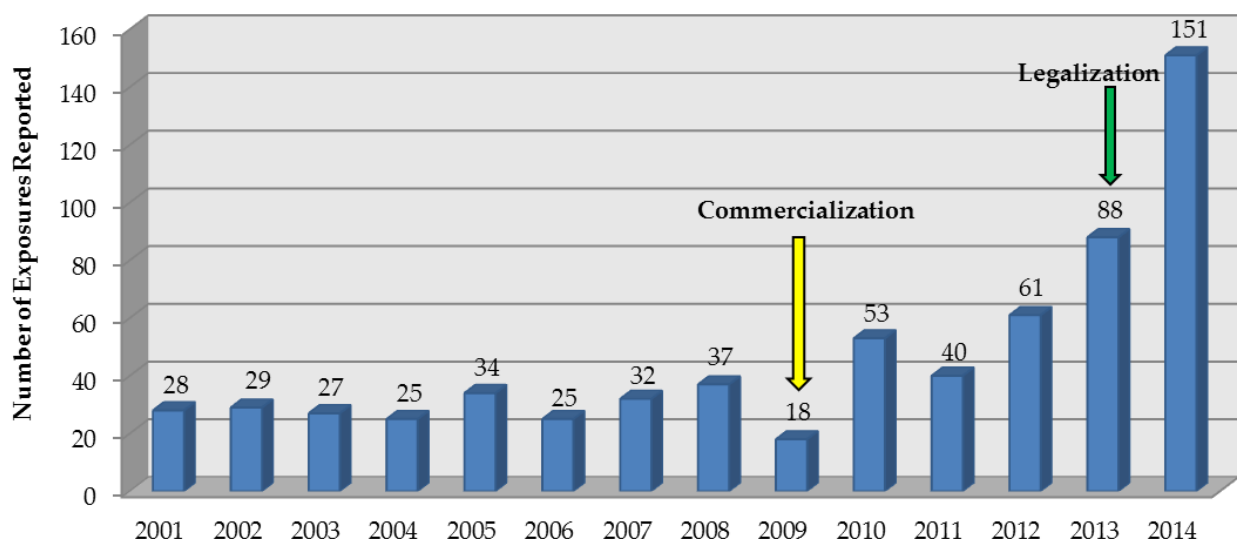
SECTION 5: Marijuana-Related Exposure

Findings

- There has been an upward trend of marijuana-related calls to the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center since medical marijuana was commercialized in 2009.
- In 2014, when marijuana retail businesses began operating, marijuana-related calls increased over 70 percent from 2013.

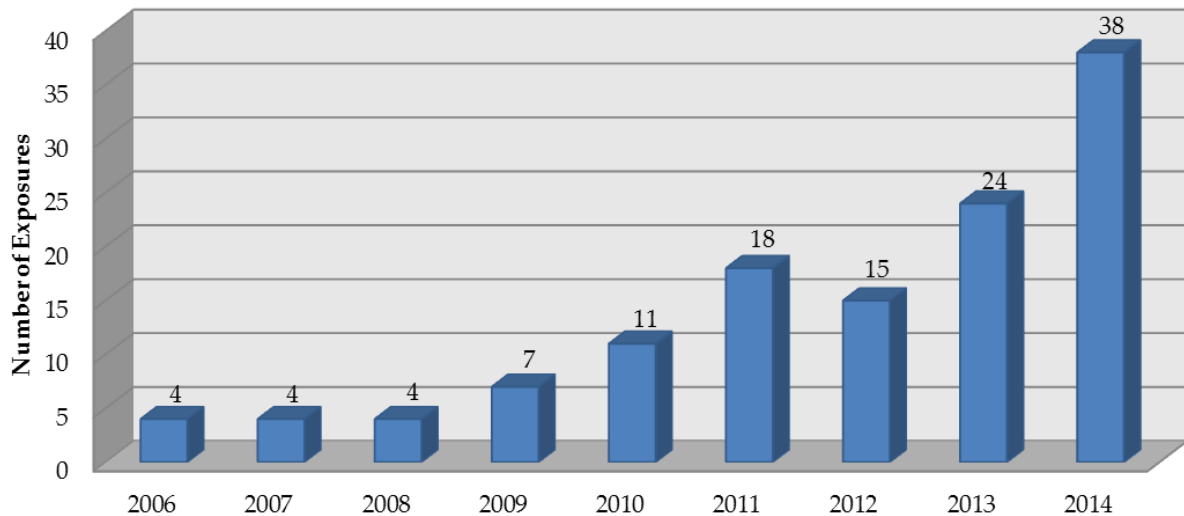
Data

Number of Exposures Reported for Marijuana Only



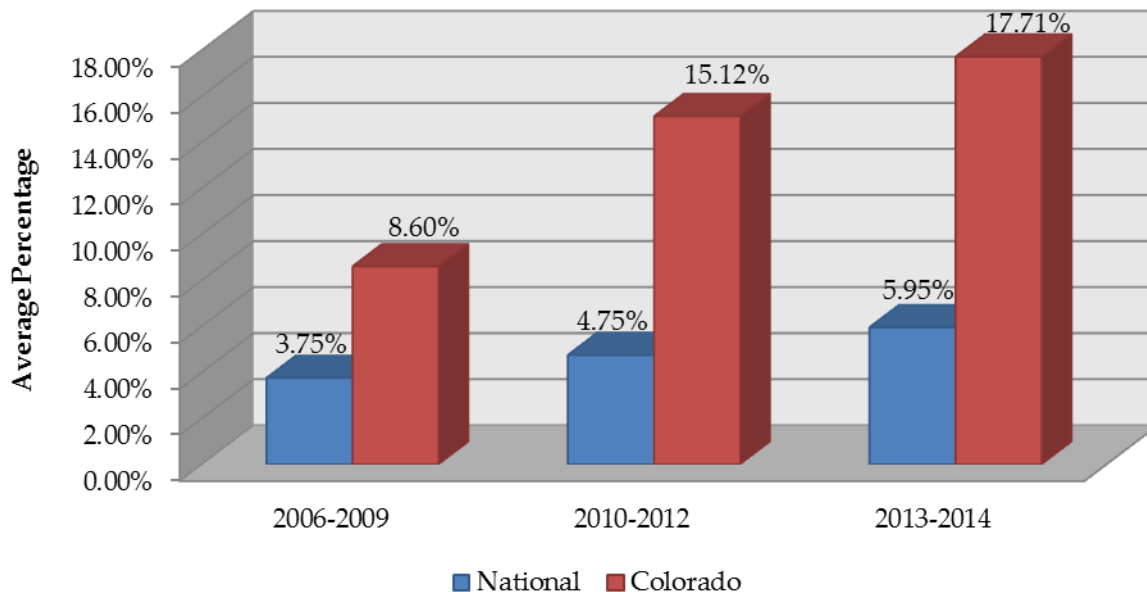
SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, *Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2014* via Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

Marijuana-Related Exposures Children Ages 0 to 5



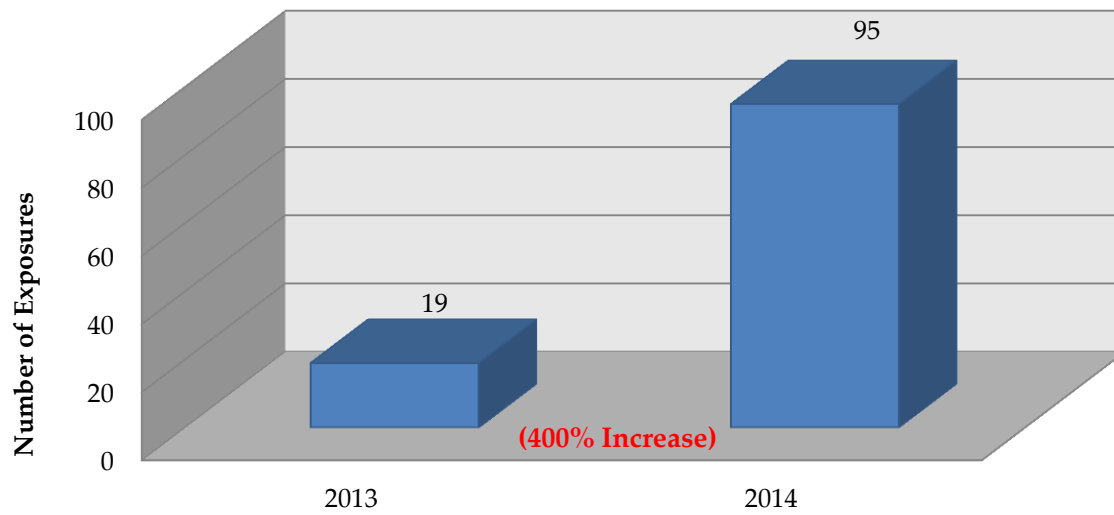
SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

Average Percent of Marijuana Exposures Ages 0 to 5



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

Number of THC Infused Edible Exposures



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

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SECTION 6: Treatment

Data

NOTE: THE MOST CURRENT DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE. SEE *THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: THE IMPACT, VOLUME 2, AUGUST 2014*.

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SECTION 7: *Diversion of Colorado Marijuana*

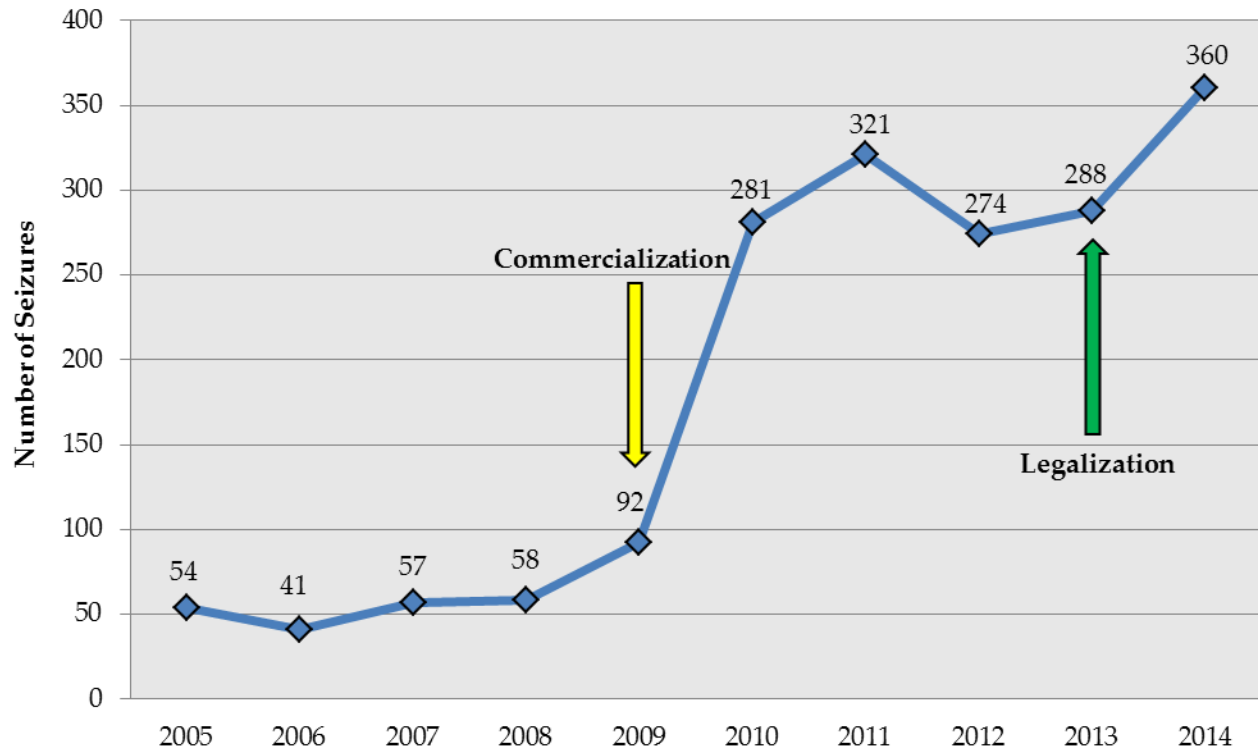
Definitions

Colorado Marijuana Interdiction Seizures: Incidents where highway or state patrols stopped a driver for a traffic violation and subsequently found Colorado marijuana destined for other parts of the country. These interdiction seizures are reported on a voluntary basis to the National Seizure System (NSS) managed by the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). These are random traffic stops, not investigations, and do not include local police.

NOTE: A 2014 SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 100 INTERDICTION EXPERTS ESTIMATE THEY SEIZE 10 PERCENT OR LESS OF WHAT GETS THROUGH UNDETECTED.

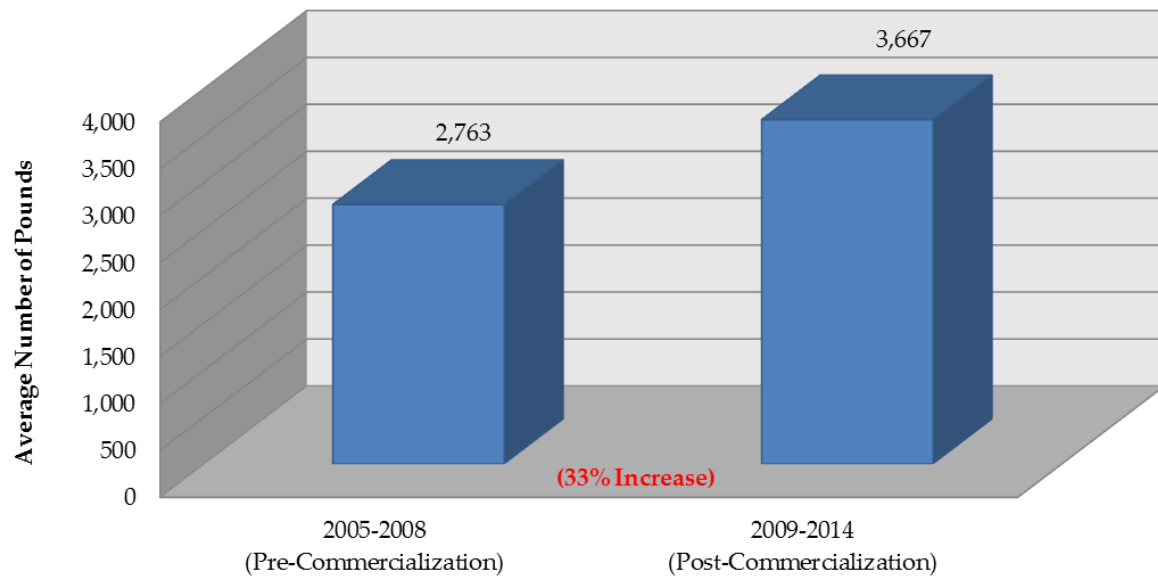
Findings

- Prior to the commercialization of medical marijuana in 2009, there was a yearly average of 52 interdiction seizures between 2005 and 2008.
- In 2014, there were 360 interdiction seizures of Colorado marijuana destined for other states.
 - This is a 592 percent increase.
- In just one year, 2013 to 2014 when marijuana retail stores began operating, there was a 25 percent increase in the number of interdiction seizures.

Data**Colorado Marijuana Interdiction Seizures**

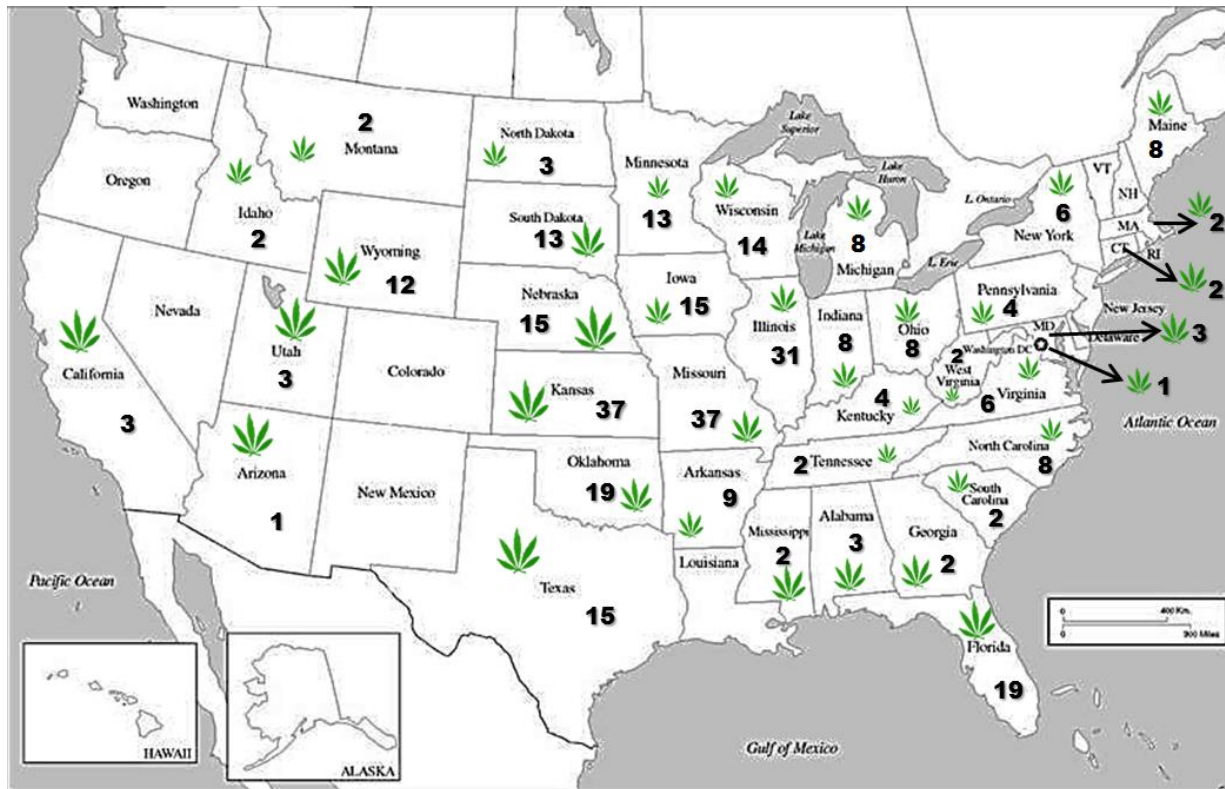
SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of March 20, 2015

Average Pounds of Colorado Marijuana from Interdiction Seizures



SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of March 20, 2015

States to Which Colorado Marijuana Was Destined (2014) (Total Reported Incidents per State)



SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of March 20, 2015

Top Three Cities of Marijuana Origin

Originating City Rank	Number of Seizures from Originating City	Percentage
1. Denver	227	63.06%
2. Yuma	20	5.56%
3. Colorado Springs	14	3.89%

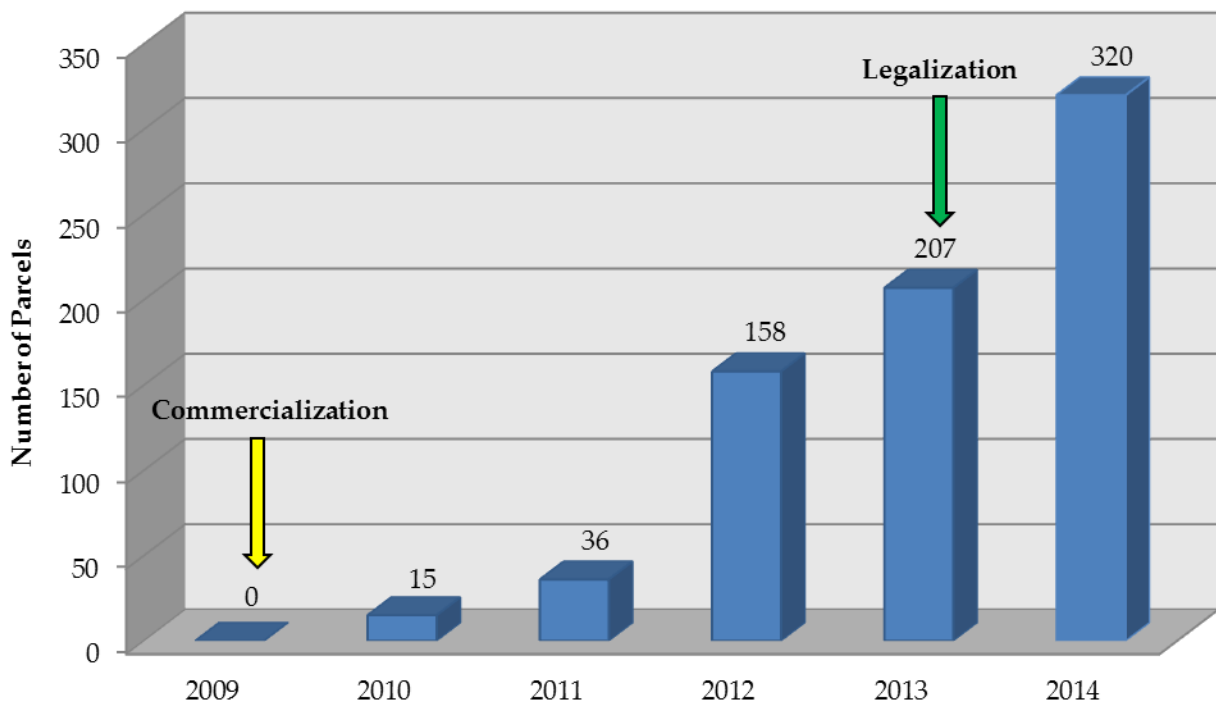
SECTION 8: *Diversion by Parcel*

Findings

- From 2010 through 2014, the number of parcels with Colorado marijuana destined for other states increased 2,033 percent.
- In just one year, from 2013 to 2014 when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a 55 percent increase in Colorado marijuana seized in the mail.

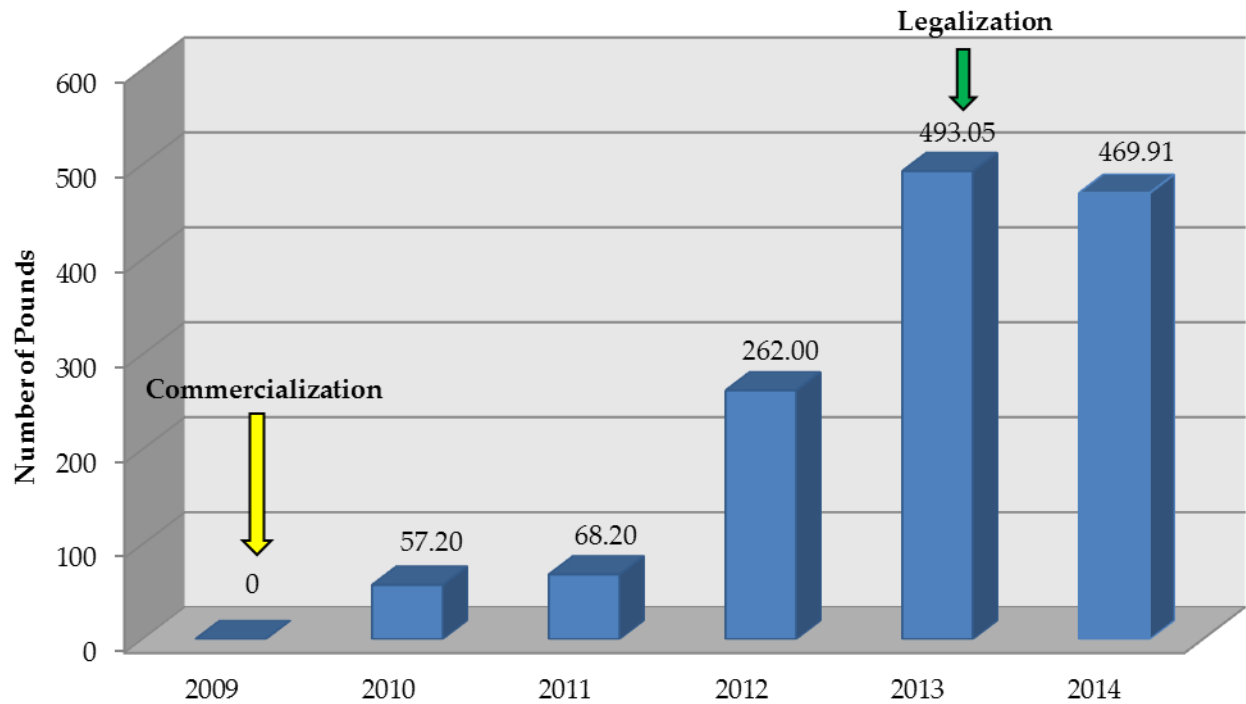
Data

Parcels Containing Marijuana Mailed from Colorado to Another State



SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service, Prohibited Mailing of Narcotics, as of January 21, 2015

Pounds of Colorado Marijuana Seized by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service

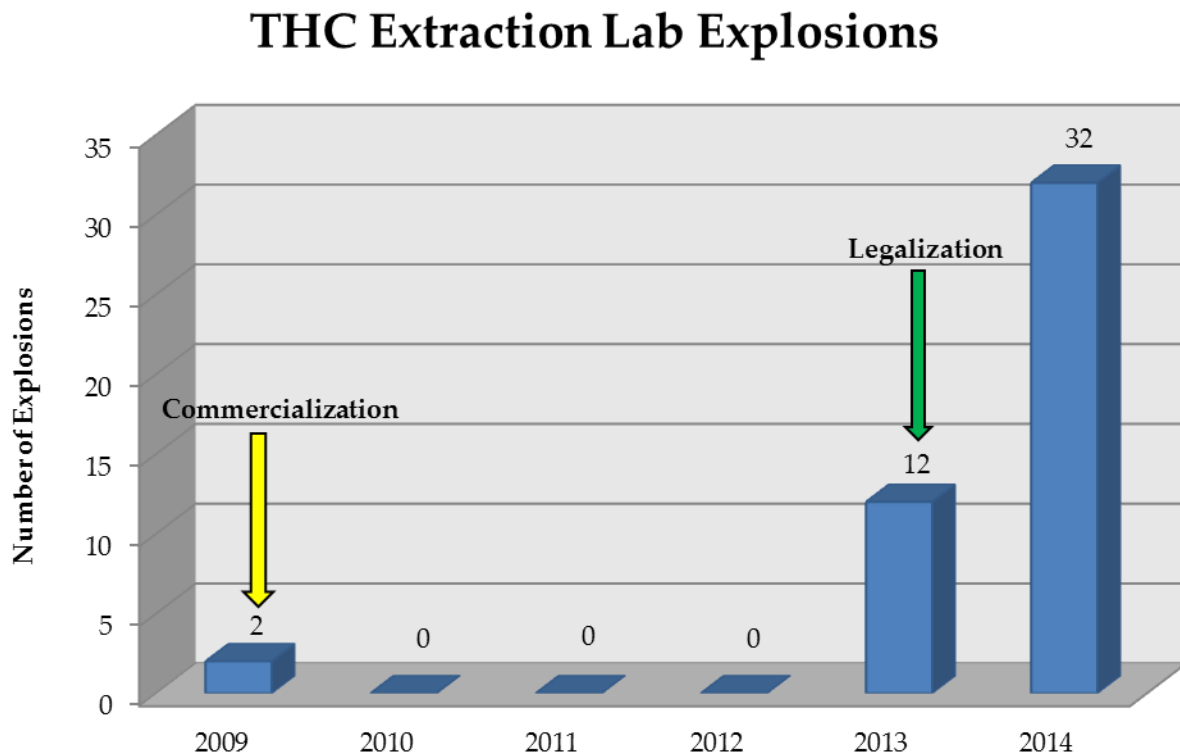


SECTION 9: THC Extraction Labs

Findings

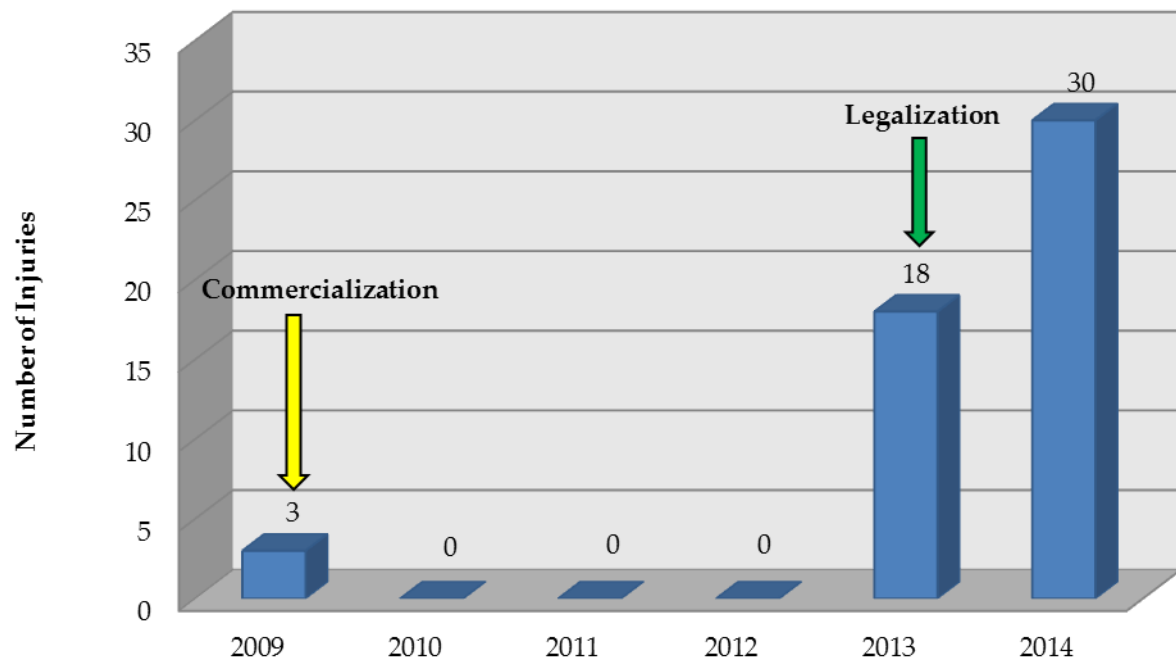
- In one year, from 2013 to 2014 when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a 167 percent increase in explosions involving THC extraction labs.

Data



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA, Investigative Support Center

THC Extraction Lab Explosion Injuries



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA, Investigative Support Center

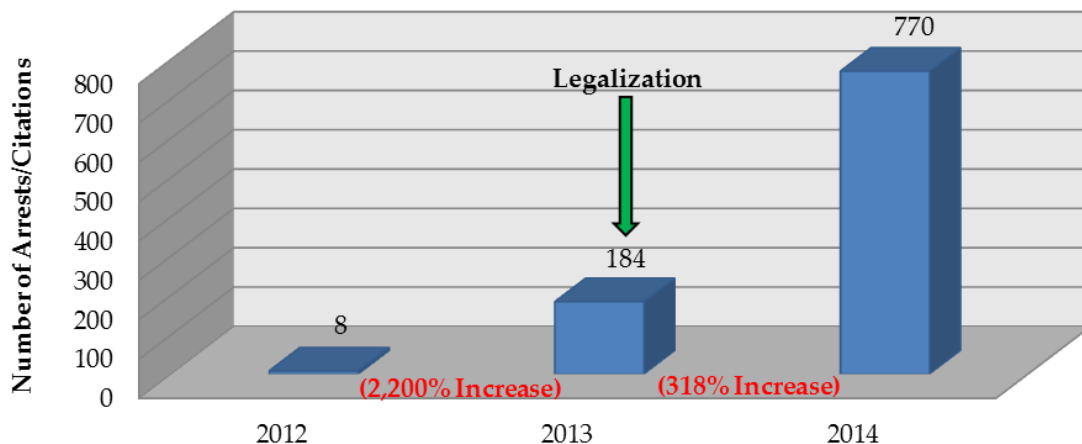
SECTION 10: Related Data

Crime

All Reported Crime in Denver			
2012	2013	2014	
43,867 reported crimes	48,147 reported crimes	49,258 reported crimes	5,391 reported crimes increase from 2012 through 2014 (+12.3 percent)

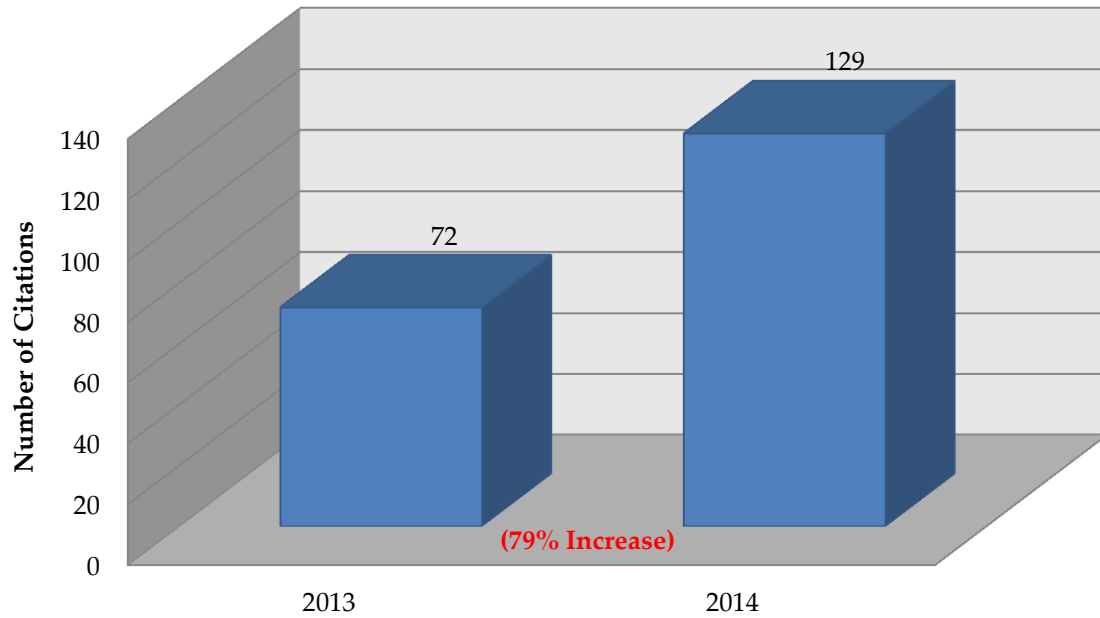
SOURCE: National Incident Based Reporting System definitions in the City and County of Denver, January 9, 2015

Denver Police Department Unlawful Public Display/Consumption of Marijuana



SOURCE: Denver Police Department, Traffic Operations Bureau via Vice/Drug Bureau

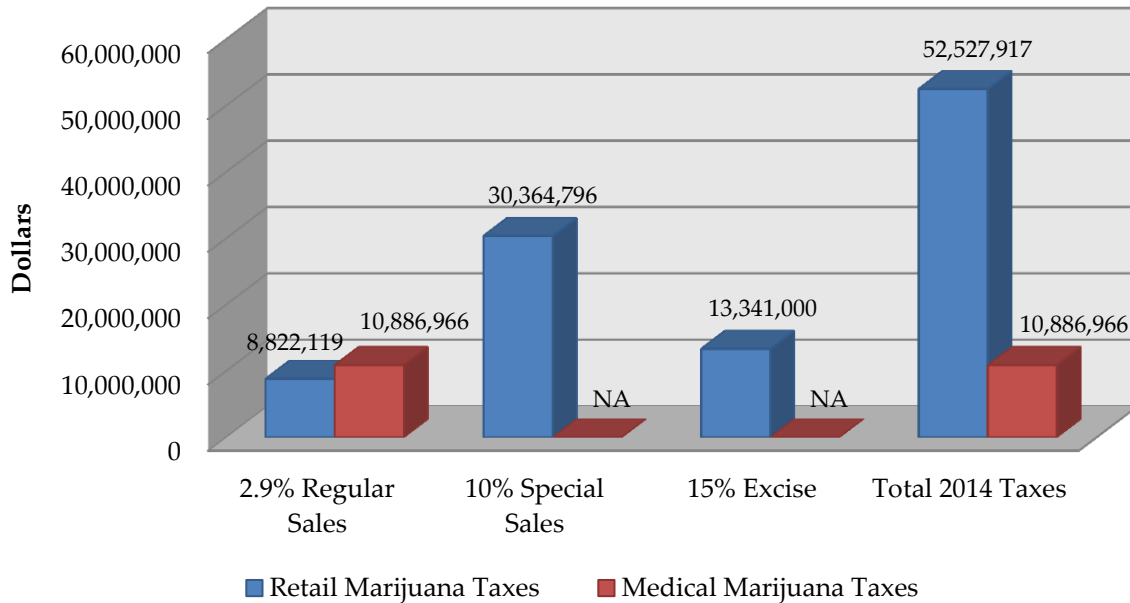
Boulder Police Department Marijuana Public Consumption Citations



NOTE: THE CITY OF BOULDER DID NOT HAVE A MUNICIPAL STATUTE SPECIFIC TO PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA UNTIL MID-2013.

SOURCE: Boulder Police Department, Records and Information Services

Total Revenue from Marijuana Taxes, Calendar Year 2014



NOTE: FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE ANY CITY TAXES: THE STATE DOES NOT ASSESS OR COLLECT THOSE TAXES.

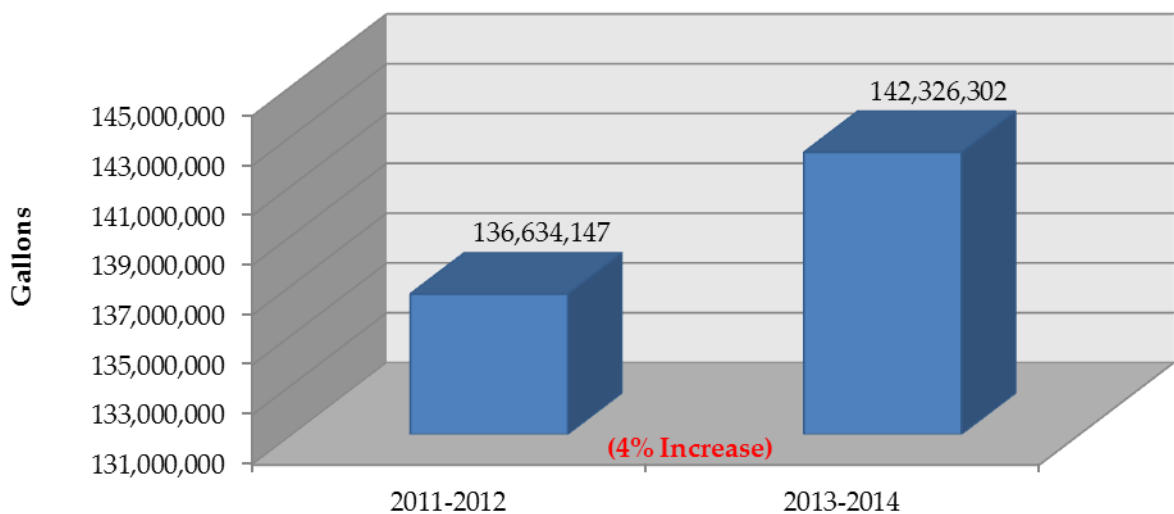
NOTE: THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS OF RETAIL MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO FOUR-TENTHS OF 1 PERCENT (0.4 %) OF COLORADO'S FY2014 GENERAL FUND REVENUE.

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Monthly Marijuana Taxes, Licenses and Fees Transfers and Distribution

Marijuana Use and Alcohol Consumption

One argument of those in favor of legalization is that users will switch from alcohol to marijuana, thus reducing consumption. To date, that theory is not supported by the data.

Colorado Average Consumption of Alcohol in Gallons, Per Calendar Year



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Colorado Liquor Excise Taxes

Licensed Marijuana Businesses as of January 2015

Medical Marijuana:¹

- 505 medical marijuana centers (“dispensaries”)
- 748 marijuana cultivation facilities
- 163 infused products (edibles) businesses

Recreational Marijuana:¹

- 322 marijuana retail stores
- 397 marijuana cultivation facilities
- 98 infused product (edibles) businesses

Business Comparisons as of January 2015

Colorado:

- 505 medical marijuana centers (“dispensaries”)¹
- 322 recreational marijuana stores¹
- 405 Starbucks coffee shops²
- 227 McDonalds restaurants³

Denver:

- 198 licensed medical marijuana centers (“dispensaries”)¹
- 117 pharmacies (as of February 12, 2015)⁴

¹ Colorado Department of Revenue, Enforcement Division – Marijuana, *Annual Update*, February 27, 2015

² Starbucks Coffee Company, Corporate Office Headquarters

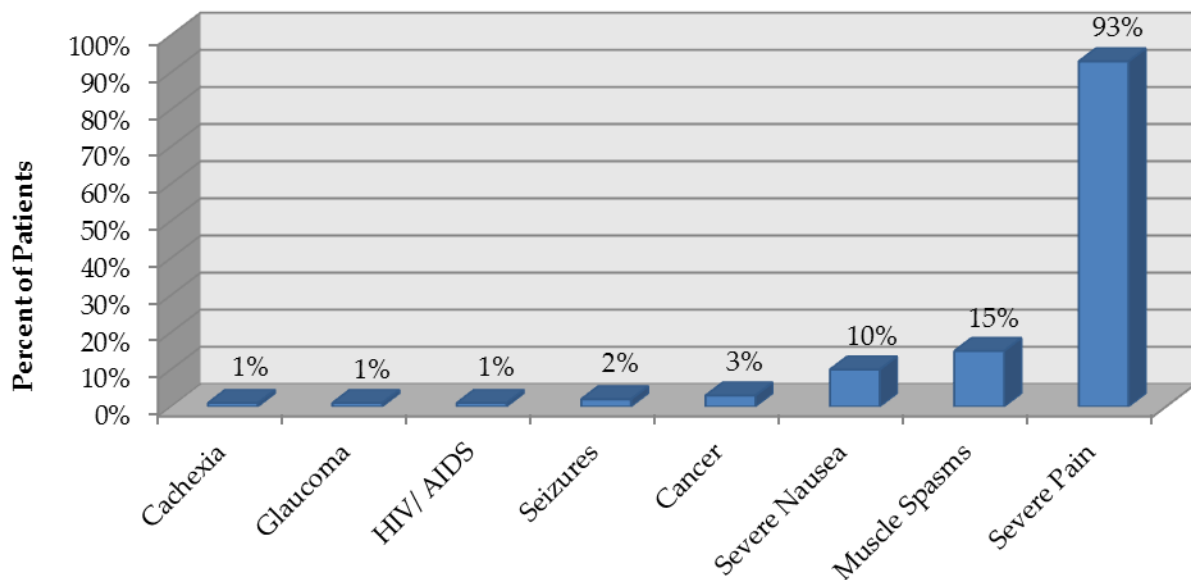
³ McDonalds Corporation, Corporate Office Headquarters

⁴ Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, State Board of Pharmacy

Medical Marijuana Registry Identification Cards

- December 31, 2009 – 41,039
- December 31, 2010 – 116,198
- December 31, 2011 – 82,089
- December 31, 2012 – 108,526
- December 31, 2013 – 110,979
- December 31, 2014 – 115,467

Percent of Medical Marijuana Patients Based on Reporting Condition



NOTE: TOTAL DOES NOT EQUAL 100 PERCENT AS SOME PATIENTS REPORT USING MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR MORE THAN ONE DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITION.

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Medical Marijuana Statistics

Local Response to Medical and Recreational Marijuana in Colorado⁵

- 321 total local jurisdictions
 - 228 (71 percent) prohibit any medical or recreational marijuana businesses
 - 67 (21 percent) allow any medical and recreational marijuana businesses
 - 26 (8 percent) allow either medical or recreational marijuana businesses, not both

2014 Reported Sales of Marijuana in Colorado⁵

- 109,578 pounds of medical marijuana flower
- 36,600 pounds of recreational marijuana flower
- 1,964,917 units of medical edible products
- 2,850,733 units of recreational edible products

⁵ Colorado Department of Revenue, Enforcement Division – Marijuana, *Annual Update*, February 27, 2015

Election Results

November 2012 Amendment 64 Election Results:

- 54 percent in favor
- 46 percent opposed

Polling

September 2014 Suffolk University/*USA Today* Poll Colorado

- 46 percent continue to support Amendment 64
- 50.2 percent do not agree with Amendment 64 decision

October 2014 Gallup Poll

	Favor Legalized	Oppose Legalized	Unsure
2013	58 percent	39 percent	3 percent
2014	51 percent	47 percent	2 percent

October 2014 Pew Research Center Poll

	Favor Legalized	Oppose Legalized	Unsure
Feb. 2014	54 percent	42 percent	3 percent
Oct. 2014	52 percent	45 percent	3 percent

SOURCE: Polling Report.com

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Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Investigative Support Center
Denver, Colorado
www.rmhidta.org/reports
