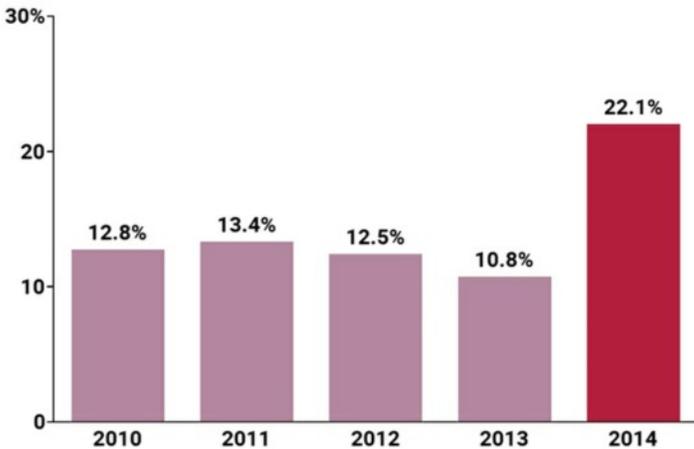


WA traffic fatalities where driver tested positive for marijuana



Source: AAA Foundation (2016).

## HEALTH RISKS

According to virtually every scientific review, including a 2016 World Health Organization report and a 2017 National Academy of Sciences study, **marijuana is addictive and harmful**—despite rhetoric from the marijuana industry.

The chances of becoming dependent on marijuana can be **up to 50% for some users**, and regular use is indisputably dangerous to the adolescent brain, in some cases linked to permanent reductions in IQ.

Unlike cigarettes, marijuana also intoxicates, sometimes with tragic results. **The percentage of traffic deaths related to marijuana more than doubled in Washington State the year retail marijuana sales were allowed**, and Colorado has seen similar increases in pot-related accidents.

## MARIJUANA EDIBLES

Marijuana legalization has spurred a boom in pot “edibles.” THC concentrate is mixed into almost any type of food or drink, including gummy candy, soda, and lollipops. Today, **these edibles comprise at least half of Colorado’s marijuana market.**

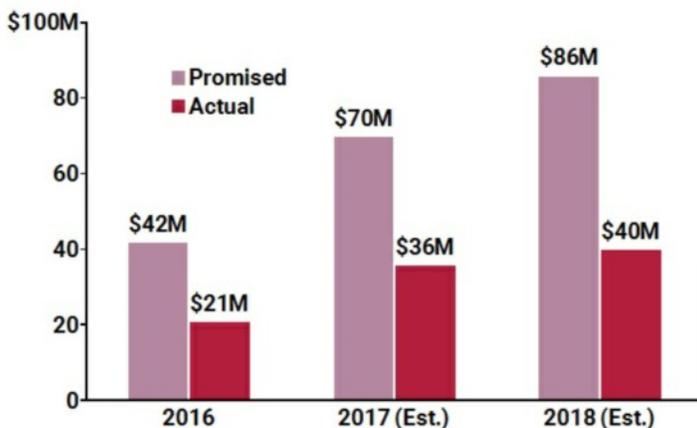
Edibles’ potency (several times that of an average joint) and their attractiveness to kids have led to **serious problems in legalized states like Colorado:**

- A 19-year-old jumped to his death from a fourth-floor balcony after eating a highly potent pot candy.
- Emergency poison control calls for children aged 0 to 8 more than tripled in Colorado after legalization.
- More high school seniors are using pot now than a decade ago, even as use of cigarettes, alcohol, and all other drugs combined has declined.



THC-infused sodas currently on the market as of February 2017.

Marijuana tax money for prevention & education, WA



Source: Initiative 502; Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (as reported by The Seattle Times)

## COSTS OUTWEIGH TAX REVENUE

Although it is still early for comprehensive cost studies on the costs of marijuana legalization, unsettling trends have already surfaced in Colorado & Washington state, suggesting that, like tobacco and alcohol, costs outweigh revenues :

- Over half the pot money promised for drug prevention, education & treatment in WA **never materialized.**
- **Bureaucracy consumes a significant portion of Colorado marijuana tax revenue.**
- **More CO youth - especially black & Latino kids - are being arrested for pot-related offenses post-legalization.**
- Adolescent suicide victims in Colorado are **increasingly found with marijuana in their systems.**
- Marijuana offenses in Colorado elementary and high schools have **increased 34 percent since legalization.**

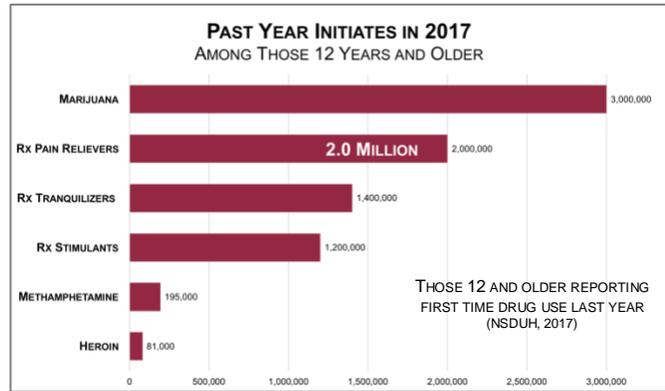
# MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: QUICK FACTS

## MARIJUANA IS ADDICTIVE & HARMFUL

ENDORSED BY:

- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (2016)<sup>1</sup>
- NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (2017)<sup>2</sup>
- NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
- AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ADDICTION MEDICINE
- AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

**IN 2017 THERE WERE 8,300 NEW MARIJUANA USERS EACH DAY; ROUGHLY 1,200 MORE THAN THERE WERE IN 2016.<sup>3</sup>**



Regular use of marijuana is linked with increased risk of developing cannabis use disorder, higher rates of mental illness and higher rates of co-substance abuse with alcohol, among other drugs<sup>4</sup>.

**THERE ARE 2X AS MANY DAILY OR NEAR DAILY MARIJUANA USERS THAN THERE WERE JUST A DECADE AGO.<sup>3</sup>**

### NOT THIS...

~5-25%  
THC

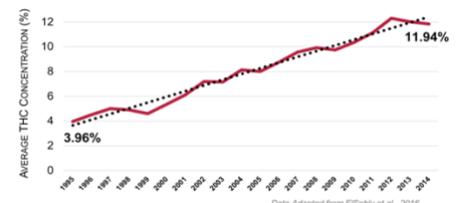


## NOT YOUR WOODSTOCK WEED

**A STUDY ON THE WASHINGTON MARKET SHOWED AVERAGE THC LEVELS OF 20% IN FLOWER PRODUCTS AND 70% IN EXTRACTS FOR INHALATION IN 2016.<sup>7</sup>**

### BUT THIS...

~20-95%  
THC



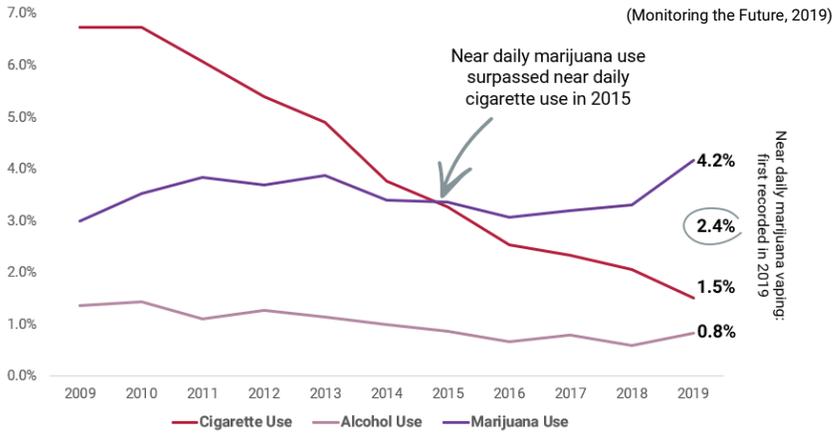
*“Epidemiological studies have clearly established that acute cannabis impairment increases the risk of motor vehicle accident involvement, including fatal collisions.”*

-AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 2017

**IN COLORADO, DRUGGED DRIVING WENT FROM KILLING ROUGHLY ONE PERSON EVERY 6.5 DAYS TO NOW EVERY 2.5 DAYS, SINCE LEGALIZATION WAS PASSED.<sup>8</sup>**

#### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. (2016). The health and social effects of nonmedical cannabis use. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from [http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/publications/cannabis\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/cannabis_report/en/)
- <sup>2</sup> The National Academies of Sciences. (2017, January). The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2017/health-effects-of-cannabis-and-cannabinoids.aspx>
- <sup>3</sup> SAMHSA. (2018, September). Reports and Detailed Tables From the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/reports-detailed-tables-2017-nsduh>
- <sup>4</sup> Hasin, D. S., Kerridge, B. T., Saha, T. D., Huang, B., Pickering, R., Smith, S. M., ... & Grant, B. F. (2016). Prevalence and correlates of DSM-5 cannabis use disorder, 2012-2013: findings from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions—III. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 173(6), 588-599.
- <sup>5</sup> EISOHLY, M. A., MEHMEDEC, Z., FOSTER, S., GON, C., CHANDRA, S., & CHURCH, J. C. (2016). Changes in cannabis potency over the last 2 decades (1995–2014): analysis of current data in the United States. *Biological psychiatry*, 79(7), 613-619.
- <sup>6</sup> Fischer, B., Jeffries, V., Hall, W., Room, R., Collier, E., & Rehm, J. (2011). Lower Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines for Canada (LRCUG): a narrative review of evidence and recommendations. *Canadian Journal of Public Health/Revue Canadienne de Sante e Publique*, 324-327.
- <sup>7</sup> Smart, R., Caulkins, J. P., Kilmer, B., Davenport, S., & Midgette, G. (2017). Variation in cannabis potency and prices in a newly legal market: evidence from 30 million cannabis sales in Washington state. *Addiction*, 112(12), 2167-2177.
- <sup>8</sup> Rocky Mountain HIDTA. (2018, September). The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, Vol. 5, Update. Retrieved September 14, 2018, from <https://mhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-VOLUME 5 UPDATE 2018.pdf>

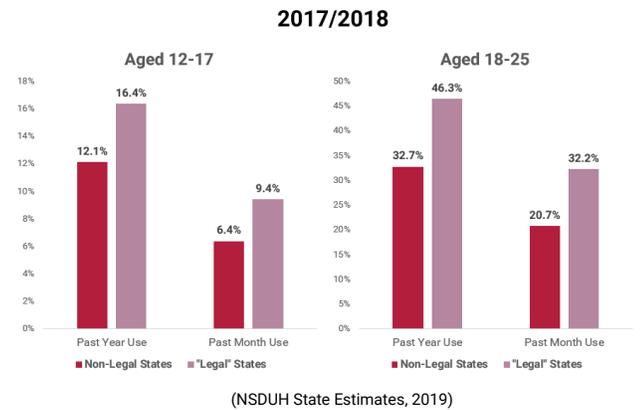


### Young people use more potent marijuana, more often.

- Near daily marijuana use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders increased 26.3% from 2018 to 2019 (Monitoring the Future, 2019).
- Studies show youth vaping of any kind increases the risk of future marijuana vaping, presenting another risk amid a youth vaping epidemic (Kowitz et al., 2019).
- Young people report vaping marijuana in increasingly large numbers since such data was first recorded in 2017 (Monitoring the Future, 2019).
- Marijuana vaping delivers more potent forms of marijuana through vaporized concentrates, which can contain as much as 99% THC.

### Marijuana use among young people in "legal" states is alarmingly high.

- Past year and past month marijuana use among 12 to 17 year-olds in "legal" states increased around 3.5%, each from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- Past year and past month marijuana use among 18 to 25 year-olds increased nearly 4.4% each from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- While 23.8% of 12 to 17 year-olds in non-legal states perceive a risk from smoking marijuana once a month, only 17.4% in "legal" states perceive such a risk (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- One study found cases of Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) in young people in "legal" states grew 25% following legalization (Cerda et al., 2019).

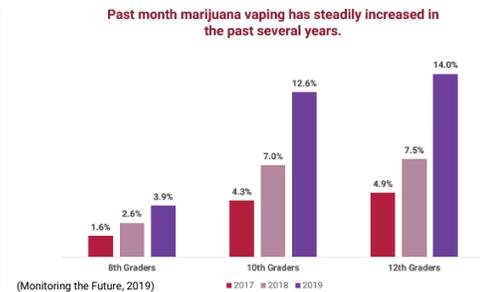


Recent data show nearly **9.2 million** young people aged 12 to 25 used marijuana in the past month (2018). Past month marijuana use is indicative of frequent use.

(NSDUH, 2019)

### Marijuana use is harmful to developing brains and youth use increases the risk of negative outcomes.

- One study discovered changes in grey matter volume in young marijuana users, indicating marijuana use may impact the way the adolescent brain develops (Orr et al., 2019).
- Adolescent marijuana use is associated with an increased risk for depression and suicidality (Silins et al., 2014; Gobbi et al., 2019). Marijuana use is linked to the development of psychosis (DiForti et al., 2019).
- Chronic marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment and worsened academic performance (Meier, et al., 2012; Silins et al., 2014; Finn, 2015; Meier et al., 2015; Arria et al., 2015; Schuster, et al., 2018).



### In "legal" states, marijuana companies target youth.

- Even though the sale of marijuana to people under the age of 21 is prohibited, marijuana companies still reach youth in "legal" states. 61% of high schoolers in Washington state believe that marijuana is easy to obtain (Washington state Healthy Youth Survey, 2018).
- Companies profit from products that resemble candy or cola, and come in flavors that appeal to young people.
- Marijuana social media marketing increased in "legal" states (Whitehill et al., 2019). One study found young people who are exposed to marijuana marketing on social media are five times more likely to use marijuana (Trangenstein et al., 2019).
- Offenses related to minors, such as sale to a minor, comprise more than one in six of all documented violations committed by "legal" marijuana companies in the state of Washington (Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board, 2019).

