

Research & Data on Marijuana Legalization for the 2021 NYS Legislative Session



Below are statistics from Colorado's experience with marijuana legalization*:

Tax Revenue Generation

- A study conducted by Colorado's Centennial Institute noted that for every dollar gained in tax revenue from marijuana, the state spends \$4.50 mitigating the impacts of legalization.

Effects on Youth

- According to SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Colorado ranked #14 in past-month use of marijuana by 12-17 year olds (7.6%). After legalization, it ranked #1 with 12.6% of youth using marijuana in 2014.
- A 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey indicated that 11% of 9th graders smoked marijuana in the previous month, 18% of 10th graders, 24% of 11th graders, and 26% of 12th graders.
- Treatment providers in Colorado indicated that admissions for teenagers with marijuana use rose 66% between 2011 and 2017.
- The current average THC content in smoked marijuana in Colorado is 17% compared to the national average of 3.9% in 1995 and 23% in 2014.
- According to a Colorado Survey by the Association of School Resource Offices, 39% of youth said they obtained marijuana from an older friend or sibling who purchased it legally, 26% said they obtained it from the black market, and 23% said they obtained it from their parents.

Adult Use

- According to the SAMHSA national survey, 32% of Colorado's 18-25 year-olds had past-month use of marijuana in 2017, which was 61% higher than the national average of 19%.
- In 2016, 14.7% of Coloradans over 25 had past-month use, which was 124% higher than the national average of 6.5%.
- People in treatment for marijuana who report more than 21 days per month of use increased from 22% in 2007 to 36% in 2015.

Medical Involvement

- The Colorado Hospital Association reports that marijuana-related emergency room visits increased from 8,200 in 200 to 16,260 in 2014.
- Hospitalizations related to marijuana increased 72% since legalization in Colorado.
- Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased by 66% as of 2016.

**Statistics taken from the Office of John Suthers, the Mayor of Colorado Springs, formerly the District Attorney of Colorado.*