Youth Marijuana Use:

*Colorado past month marijuana use by youth (ages 12 to 17) is higher than the national average.*

- Colorado past month marijuana use for youth in 2013 was 11.16%, whereas the national past month marijuana use for youth was 7.15%.

**Colorado**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>8.29% Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2012</td>
<td>10.32% 0% Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>11.16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After commercialization of medical marijuana, use of marijuana increased among youth (ages 12 to 17) and jumped again post marijuana legalization.

- Between pre-commercialization and post-commercialization of medical marijuana, there was a 24% increase in youth (ages 12 to 17 years old) monthly marijuana use. There was an 8% increase in just one year after legalization of recreational marijuana in 2013.

Drug-related suspensions and expulsions have increased in Colorado since legalization.

- There was a 40% increase in drug-related suspensions and expulsions in Colorado from school year 2008/2009 to 2013/2014.

Youth in medical marijuana states use marijuana more frequently than those who live in non-medical marijuana states.

- 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.

Youth gain access to marijuana from a variety of sources.

- 39% of students reported they received their marijuana from friends who obtain it legally, 30% reported getting it from their parents, 18% reported from the black market, 6% reported from retail marijuana stores, 3% reported from medical marijuana cardholders, 2% reported from medical marijuana caregivers, and 1% reported from medical marijuana dispensaries.
Adult Marijuana Use

The percentage of Colorado college age adults (ages 18 to 25 years old) that use marijuana is higher than the national average.

- In college age adults in Colorado the past month marijuana use was 29.05%, compared to the national average of 18.91%.

The percentage of Colorado adults ages 26 years old and over that use marijuana is higher than the national average.

- In 2013, 10.13% of adults ages 26 years old and over were considered current marijuana users compared to 5.45% nationally.

Emergency Room Marijuana and Hospital Marijuana-Related Admissions

Marijuana-related emergency room visits have increased since the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado.

- In 2014 there were 18,255 marijuana related emergency room visits, compared to 14,148 in 2013.

- In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a 29% increase in the number of marijuana related emergency room visits in only one year.

Marijuana-related hospitalizations have increased since the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado.

- In 2014 there were 11,439 hospitalizations related to marijuana, compared to 8,272 in 2013.

- In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a 38% increase in the number of marijuana related hospitalizations in only one year.

Diversion of Colorado Marijuana:

The years following the commercialization of medical marijuana in 2009 saw an increase in the number of Colorado marijuana interdiction seizures. This number jumped again after the recreational legalization of marijuana.

- During 2009 – 2012, when medical marijuana was commercialized, the yearly average number interdiction seizures of Colorado marijuana increased 365% from 52 to 242 per year.
During 2013 – 2014, when recreational marijuana was legalized, the yearly average interdiction seizures of Colorado marijuana increased another 34% from 242 to 324.

The total average number of pounds of Colorado marijuana seized from 2005 – 2008 compared to 2009 – 2014 increased 33 percent from 2,763 pounds to 3,671 pounds.

There are many different locations to which Colorado marijuana is being sent.

- Of the 360 seizures in 2014, there were 36 different states destined to receive marijuana from Colorado. The most common destinations identified were Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma and Florida.

Impaired Driving
Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths increased after retail marijuana businesses began operating.

- In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a 32% increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths in just one year.
- Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92% from 2010 – 2014. During the same time period all traffic deaths only increased 8% respectively.

The number of Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths, where the driver tested positive for marijuana, has increased since the legalization of recreational marijuana.

- In 2009, Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths involving operators testing positive for marijuana represented 10% of all traffic fatalities. By 2014, that number nearly doubled to 19.26%.
- The average number of marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 41% in the two years recreational marijuana was legalized (2013 – 2014) compared to the medical marijuana commercialization years (2009 – 2012), which was 48% higher than pre-commercialization years (2006 – 2008).

Colorado Marijuana Facts
The Colorado marijuana tax revenue makes up a miniscule percent of the Colorado total general fund.

- Total marijuana tax revenue (medical and recreational) for FY2015 comprises 7/10 of 1 percent (0.7%) of Colorado’s total general fund revenue.

There are an abundance of licensed medical and recreational marijuana centers (324) than pharmacies (117).