

TODAY'S MARIJUANA IT'S NOT JUST A PLANT



© THCPhotos.org

From Left: THC-infused candy, E-cigarette with THC, **22% THC** Leaf, THC-infused drink, THC-infused baked good, **74% THC** hash oil syringe, **73% THC** shatter for dabbing, THC-infused breath mints.

A rapidly evolving range of commercialized marijuana products contain unprecedented levels of THC, the drug's psychoactive ingredient.

THC potency levels have increased dramatically in recent decades. The 1960s "Woodstock weed" typically had less than 2% THC. Even into the 1990s, marijuana potency averaged 3.8% THC, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Some of today's ultra high-potency products are nearly 100% THC.

Go to NotTheSamePot.org to learn more about high potency marijuana products and the impact on the developing teenage brain.

February 17, 2020

Re: "Marijuana Hospitality Establishments" - Skip It!

Dear Community Member,

During the 2019 legislative session, the marijuana lobby successfully pushed for a bill, HB19-1230, allowing Colorado businesses to permit on-site public marijuana consumption.

But this new law will only be implemented in local communities that agree to participate. As of January 1, Colorado municipalities and counties can -- but don't have to -- opt into this expansion of marijuana commercialization in their community.

Considerable concerns and risks were identified during the deliberations of the bill, including:

- These businesses can be located in everyday establishments such as restaurants, laundromats, yoga studios and tour buses.
- THC potencies and quantities permitted in such businesses and locations are dangerously high.
- Products and THC potencies are not limited in state law, which are particularly worrisome when one considers the potential for edibles and other concentrates to cause delayed and unpredictable levels of impairment for drivers.

Challenges remain on how to test drivers for THC impairment and how to educate consumers on what leads to impairment - and that it's not OK to drive high.

Opting in will increase marijuana businesses in your communities, expand availability and exposure to marijuana, and further normalize marijuana use - three factors that research shows impact youth perceptions and increase use.

The U.S. Surgeon General recently warned that no amount of marijuana use is safe for the developing brain. For these reasons, allowing these on-site marijuana consumption businesses may cost your community in ways that far exceed any additional revenues from increased marijuana sales.

When it comes to on-site marijuana consumption we ask your community to skip it! Skipping on-site public marijuana consumption will benefit not only your youngest constituents, who watch and learn from the adults around them, but the overall well-being and safety of your entire community.

Thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

Please contact me at info@smartcolorado.org if I can answer any questions you may have about this new law and the implications on your community.

With great appreciation for your community service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henny Lasley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

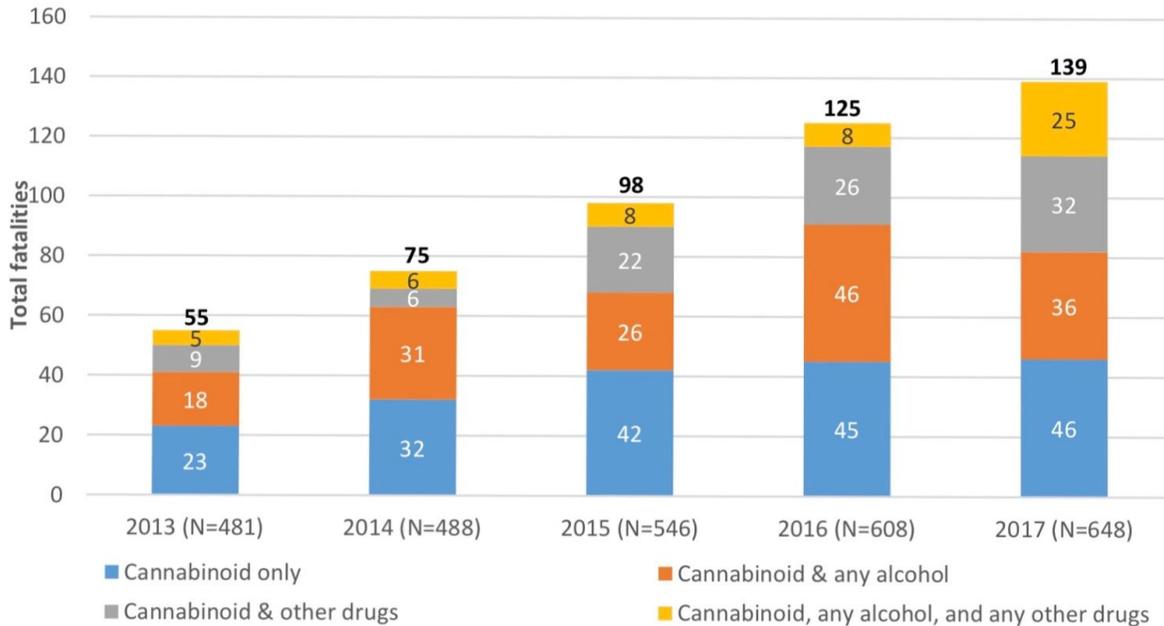
Henny Lasley
Co-founder and Executive Director

P.S. We've enclosed handouts to illustrate the wide range of THC products and to explain the issue in more detail.

SKIP IT!

REASONS TO REJECT ON-SITE PUBLIC MARIJUANA USE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Colorado Fatalities Involving Drivers Testing Positive for Cannabinoids, 2013-2017



Source: Colorado Department of Transportation, Data Intelligence Group, Toxicology Data (2018).

More drugged drivers will endanger kids and communities. Traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana have already more than doubled even without legalized pot clubs.¹ According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, marijuana impairs the ability to drive, including slowed reaction time, difficulties in road tracking, decreased attention, and impaired route planning.² Marijuana edibles present an additional danger to our roads. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, THC from edibles is absorbed much slower (up to four hours) than smoked or vaped marijuana.³ This delayed onset poses significant risk when the edibles are being consumed in a public setting and users then are on our roads.

¹ https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2018-SB13-283_Rpt.pdf,
<https://rmhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-Volume6.pdf>

² <https://www.codot.gov/safety/alcohol-and-impaired-driving/safety/alcohol-and-impaired-driving/druggeddriving>

³ <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/marijuana/safety-edibles>

In Colorado, it is still culturally acceptable to drive high. Preliminary data from CDOT's 2018 Cannabis Conversation shows that 69% of cannabis consumers have driven under the influence of marijuana at least once in the past year—with 27% admitting they drive high almost daily.⁴ Forty percent of recreational users and 34% of medical users said they don't think being under the influence of marijuana affects their ability to drive safely. About 10% of all users think it makes them a better driver.

An increase in marijuana commercialization will send the wrong message to kids, suggesting to them that marijuana use is safe. With hundreds of store locations already across the state, this new marijuana license will increase sales density by creating “marijuana mini-marts” in pot clubs, tasting rooms and tour buses. This license type also allows for marijuana use in everyday establishments such as bookstores, coffee shops, yoga studios, laundromats, restaurants and hotels. Research out of California shows that young people aged 18-22 who live in neighborhoods with more marijuana commercialization use marijuana more frequently than their peers and have a more positive view of the drug.⁵ Colorado's state-sponsored survey already shows a statistically significant increase in youth use of edibles and ultra-potent concentrates.⁶ The U.S. Surgeon General recently said that no amount of marijuana use is safe for the developing brain of an adolescent.⁷

The authorized sales amounts of marijuana are dangerously high. These sales amounts are not the equivalent of a single serving.⁸ Non-edible Colorado products have unlimited THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, and -- unlike alcohol -- there is no standard serving, nor standard potency, for smoked, vaped or dabbed marijuana. These large quantities will encourage overconsumption and intoxication, limiting the ability of the budtender to monitor for impairment. Moreover, the products⁹ that could be sold are not proven safe.¹⁰ THC vaporizers are implicated in the national vaping crisis, accounting for over 80% of reported illnesses.¹¹

⁴ <https://www.codot.gov/news/2018/april/cdot-survey-reveals-new-insight-on-marijuana-and-driving>

⁵ <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2019/06/17.html>

⁶ <https://smartcolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CO-Canaries.pdf>

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<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>

⁸ State regulations set sales limits at 2 grams of flower and ½ gram of concentrate. Those sales limits are the equivalent of 392 mg of THC and 343 mg of THC, respectively (based on average potencies of 19.6% THC in flower and 68.6% THC in concentrates). Research studies have observed impairment at 1/10 that amount (approximately 35 mg of THC). <http://www.notthesamepot.org>

⁹ <http://thcphotos.org>

¹⁰ All marijuana products manufactured and sold in Colorado contain the following warning: “This product was produced without regulatory oversight of health, safety or efficacy.” 1 CCR 212-3, Rule 3-1010, Packaging and Labeling: General Requirements Prior to Transfer to a Patient or Customer, <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/enforcement/med-rules>

¹¹ https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html