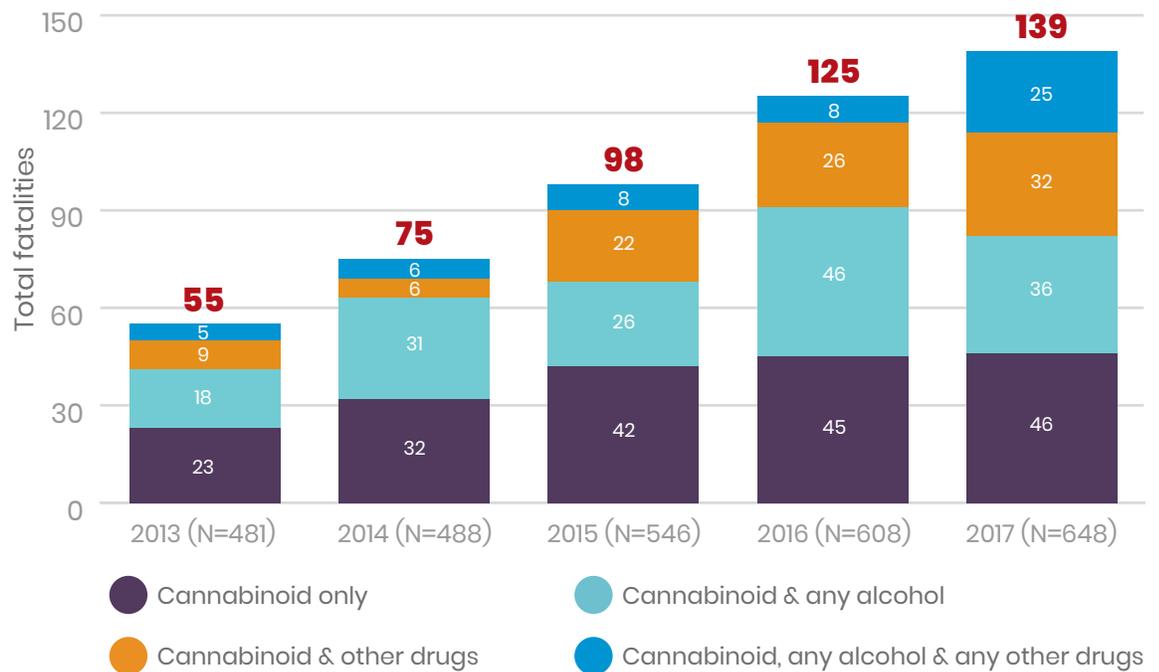


Skip it!

Reasons to reject on-site public marijuana use in your community



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



More drugged drivers will endanger kids and communities.

Traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana have already more than doubled in Colorado, the first state to legalize recreational marijuana, even without legalized pot clubs.¹ 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. THC from edible marijuana products 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 drive on our roads.

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It is still culturally acceptable to drive high. Colorado data from 2018 show that 69% of 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. Adding marijuana social consumption will increase sales density by creating “marijuana mini-marts” in pot clubs on top of already existing stores. 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 A state-sponsored survey of Colorado high school students found a statistically significant increase in youth use of edibles and ultra-potent concentrates including dabs and vaping.⁶ The U.S. Surgeon General recently said that no amount of marijuana use is safe for the developing brain of an adolescent.⁷

Marijuana presents unique challenges that are different from alcohol. The amount of marijuana needed to get high is so small that sales amounts are not the equivalent of a single serving.⁸ It is almost impossible to package and sell single serve marijuana. These large quantities will encourage overconsumption and intoxication, limiting the ability of the establishment to monitor for impairment. Unlike alcohol—there is no standard serving, nor standard potency, for smoked, vaped or dabbed marijuana. 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

Sources:

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

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>

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://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xb9wXeAKPrDsN4E3vunxlZDAgzxmYbkn/view>

⁷ <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/addiction-and-substance-misuse/advisory-on-marijuana-use-and-developing-brain/index.html>

⁸ Research studies have observed impairment at approximately 35 mg of THC. This is an incredibly small dose. For comparison, a single tablet of pain relieved contains 200mg of Ibuprofen or 500mg of Acetaminophen. <http://www.notthesamepot.org>

⁹ <http://thcphotos.org>

¹⁰ Recreational marijuana remains illegal under federal law. No federal agency regulates the safety of marijuana.

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

One Chance to Grow Up is an initiative developed by Smart Colorado that focuses on protecting kids across the nation from the dangers of today's marijuana. We serve as a reliable resource for parents, media, policymakers, and all those who care about kids. Started by concerned parents, we're a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by charitable contributions.

