

# Colorado's Experience with *de facto* Legalization of Retail Sales after "Medical" Marijuana Expansion post-2009

- » 2006-2012: Medical MJ cardholders rose from **1,000** to over **108,000**
- » Licensed dispensaries rose from **zero** to **532**

## MJ Use Among Colorado Teens...



- » **Fifth** highest in the nation
- » **50%** above the national average

10.7%  
(Colorado)

7.6%  
(USA)

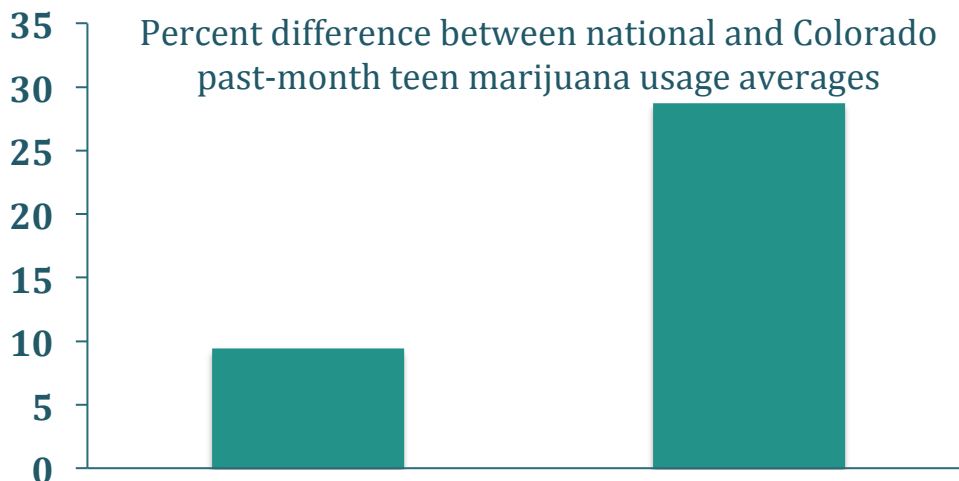
Source: HHS  
(NSDUH)

» **29%** of Denver high school students used pot in the last month

» If Denver were a **state**, it would have the **highest** public high school past-month use rates in the **country**

Source: Healthy Kids Colorado, 2012

Percent difference between national and Colorado past-month teen marijuana usage averages



Source: HHS (NSDUH)

2006

2011

» **29%** above national average in 2011

» **9%** above national average in 2006

**74%** of Denver-area teens in **treatment** said they used **somebody else's** medical marijuana an average of **50 times**



Source: Salomonsen-Sautel et al., 2012

MJ-related ER visits for **children under five** rose by **200%** between 2006 and 2012

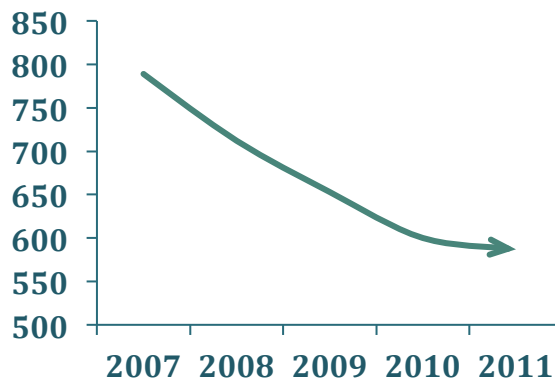


Source: Thurstone, 2013

Traffic fatalities involving drugged drivers rose from **7.1%** in 2008 to **13%** in 2011



While the **total** number of car crashes **declined** between 2007 and 2011....



...the number of fatal car crashers with **drivers testing positive for MJ** rose sharply during those same years.

Source: CO Dept of Transportation

