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

- **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

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

- **29% above national average in 2011**
- **9% above national average in 2006**

*Source: HHS (NSDUH)*
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

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

Source: Thurstone, 2013

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

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

Source: Thurstone, 2013

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

Source: CO Dept of Transportation

www.learnaboutsam.org