

# QUICK FACTS ON MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

## MORE NEW AND DAILY USERS

While first time use of almost every other substance is trending downward, In 2019 there were 9,529 new marijuana users each day; roughly 1,200 more than there were in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

**Not only are new users increasing, but daily use is increasing.<sup>2</sup>**

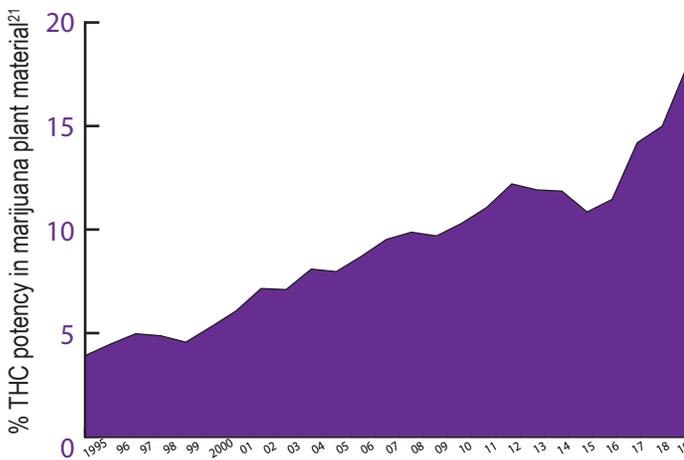
6,200,000

daily users in 2009

13,800,000

daily users in 2019

## INCREASING THC POTENCY

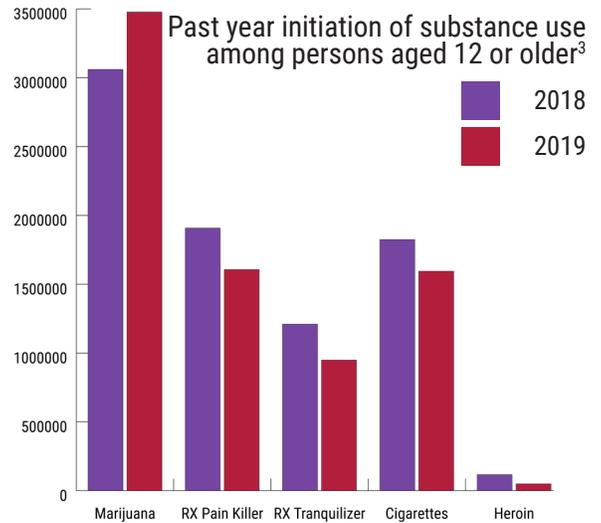


THC potency in plant material has increased from 1–3% THC in the 1970s<sup>4</sup> to 18-23% today while increasingly popular THC concentrate potency can reach 90-95%.<sup>5</sup>

**“Concentrates are as close to the cannabis plant as strawberries are to frosted strawberry Pop Tarts.”<sup>20</sup>**



THC candy, shatter, and crumble



### ILLICIT MARKET

Legalization has led to greater black-market activity than ever before.<sup>8</sup> The illicit market cannot be regulated away; it **hinders** existing law enforcement efforts to curtail illicit drug trafficking.



### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Even though Black and white people use marijuana at similar rates, a Black person is almost **four times** as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white person.<sup>6</sup>



### BUDGETARY IMPACTS

Funds generated from marijuana tax revenue are not enough to fix budget shortfalls. In Colorado, for every \$1 of tax revenue, the state spends \$4.50 counteracting legalization's effects.<sup>7</sup>



### DRUGGED DRIVING

Marijuana is now involved in more than one of every four road deaths in Colorado.<sup>10</sup> A 2020 study found that nationwide legalization would be associated with 6,800 excess roadway deaths annually.<sup>11</sup>

**Contrary to popular belief, marijuana is a harmful drug. There are over 20,000 peer-reviewed research articles linking marijuana use to severe mental health outcomes, as well as consequences for physical health.<sup>9</sup>**

**EXPERTS:  
MARIJUANA IS  
ADDICTIVE AND  
HARMFUL**

American Medical Association<sup>12</sup>, World Health Organization (2016), National Academy of Sciences (2017), National Institutes of Health<sup>13</sup>, American Society for Addiction Health<sup>14</sup>, American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>15</sup>, American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry<sup>16</sup>, United Nations Drug Control Programme<sup>17</sup>, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention<sup>18</sup>, and Marijuana Anonymous<sup>19</sup>.

**SAM** Smart Approaches to Marijuana  
preventing another big tobacco

## Endnotes

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