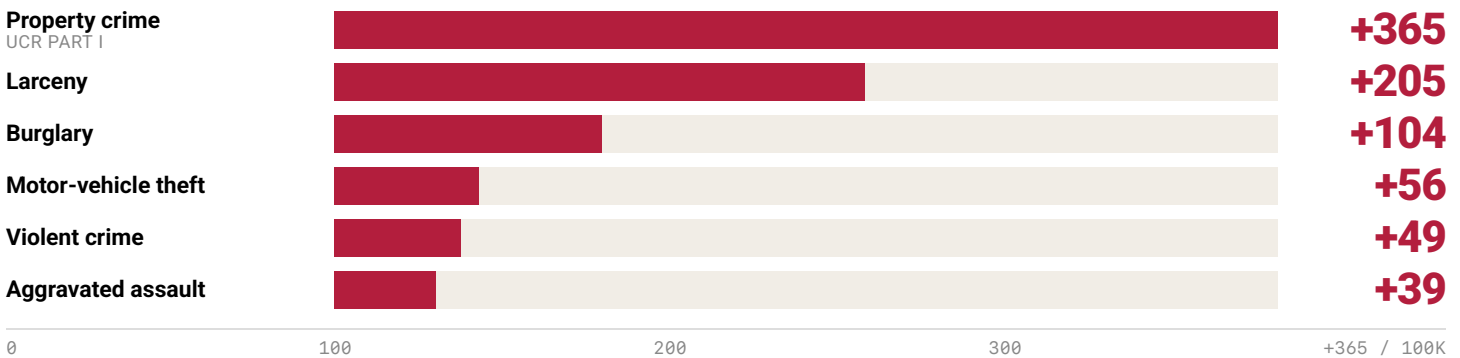


Marijuana & Crime.

Legalization was sold as a public-safety win. The peer-reviewed record and federal data tell a different story: arrests for **violent and property crime climb after legalization**, dispensaries cluster crime around them, and the U.S. is now the world's largest illegal marijuana market — run by Chinese transnational criminal organizations operating inside "legal" states.

POST-LEGALIZATION OREGON · PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

Six categories of crime climbed in Oregon vs. non-legalized states.¹



COLORADO · A DECADE OF STATE DATA^{2,3}

Crime grew faster than the rest of the country.



Colorado's 2016 crime rate grew **~11x faster** than the 30 largest U.S. cities.³

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY⁴

Crime-related arrests rose in legalizing states.



Staggered diff-in-diff across treated states found legalization associated with rising violent and property crime arrests.

DISPENSARY PROXIMITY^{5,6,7}

+30%

Crime within 500 meters of a Chicago dispensary opening.

Each new Chicago recreational dispensary opening lifted crime in its 500-m halo. Denver neighborhoods adjacent to marijuana businesses saw **+84.8 property crimes per year** vs. those without one.^{6,7}

USERS, PARTNERS & VICTIMS^{8,9}

~2x

The violent-behavior rate among daily users vs. non-users (ages 18–34).

Daily marijuana users 18–34 show nearly double the violent-behavior rate of non-users.⁸ A separate peer-reviewed study linked legalization to a **20% increase in intimate-partner violence.**⁹

U.S. IS NOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST ILLEGAL MARIJUANA MARKET — RUN FROM INSIDE "LEGAL" STATES^{10,11,12}

66%

of all DEA-seized illegal marijuana in 2024 came from **Oklahoma alone.**¹⁰

900K+

illegal plants pulled from **855 California sites in 12 weeks.**¹⁰

~80%

of 3,000+ illegal Oklahoma grows tied to foreign organized crime are **Chinese networks.**^{11,12}

Endnotes.

All statistics on this brief are drawn from peer-reviewed studies, federal sources (DEA, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City), and official state crime statistics. Where a single finding appears in multiple cited sources, the most rigorous primary source is named in-text.

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