The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact

Latest Results for Colorado Youth and Adult Marijuana Use

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA
www.rmhidta.org
Introduction

- This report on marijuana use in Colorado is an update of the publication *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact Volume 3.*

- This report is a summary of some of the data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- The NSDUH data reported by SAMHSA is an average of two consecutive years.

- Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in 2013 and retail marijuana businesses began operation in 2014.

- The findings are between the two-year average of full legalization (2013/2014) compared to the two-year average just prior to legalization (2011/2012).
Youth Findings

Past Month (Current) Marijuana Use for Colorado Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old:

- In the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, youth past month marijuana use increased 20 percent compared to the two year average prior to legalization (2011/2012).
  - Nationally youth past month marijuana use declined 4 percent during the same time.
- The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado youth ranked #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #4 in 2011/2012.
- Colorado youth past month marijuana use for 2013/2014 was 74 percent higher than the national average compared to 39 percent higher in 2011/2012.

Youth Data

Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old
Past Month Marijuana Use
National vs. Colorado

Annual Averages of Data Collection

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
**NOTE:**
*Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014
**States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

**SOURCE:** SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
Average Past Month Use by 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014

States for Past Month Marijuana Use Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014

Top 10 (Medical/Recreational States)

1. Colorado – 12.56%
2. Vermont – 11.40%
3. Rhode Island – 10.69%
4. Oregon – 10.19%
5. Washington – 10.06%
6. Maine – 9.90%
7. New Hampshire – 9.83%
8. Alaska – 9.19%
9. Massachusetts – 8.88%
10. California – 8.74%

Bottom 10 (Non-Medical or Recreational States)

41. Mississippi – 5.60%
42. West Virginia – 5.60%
43. North Dakota – 5.60%
44. Louisiana – 5.55%
45. Nebraska – 5.54%
46. Oklahoma – 5.52%
47. Utah – 5.42%
48. South Dakota – 5.32%
49. Iowa – 5.17%
50. Alabama – 4.98%

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
**College Age Findings**

Past Month (Current) Marijuana Use for Colorado College Age Adults Ages 18 to 25 Years Old:

- In the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, college age past month marijuana use increased 17 percent compared to the two year average prior to legalization (2011/2012).
  - Nationally college age past month marijuana use increased 2 percent during the same time.

- The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado college age adults ranked #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #3 in 2011/2012.

- Colorado college age past month marijuana use for 2013/2014 was 62 percent higher than the national average compared to 42 percent higher in 2011/2012.

**College Age Data**

**College Age (18 to 25 Years Old)**
**Past Month Marijuana Use**

![Bar Chart](image)

**Annual Averages of Data Collection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Average</th>
<th>Colorado Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>16.42</td>
<td>21.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/07</td>
<td>16.34</td>
<td>22.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/08</td>
<td>16.45</td>
<td>23.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/09</td>
<td>17.42</td>
<td>24.28</td>
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<td>09/10</td>
<td>18.39</td>
<td>26.35</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>18.78</td>
<td>27.26</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>18.89</td>
<td>26.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>18.91</td>
<td>29.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/14</td>
<td>19.32</td>
<td>31.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
NOTE:
*Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014
**States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
Average Past Month Use by 18 to 25 Years Old, 2013/2014

States for Past Month Marijuana Use
College Age Adults 18 to 25 Years Old, 2013/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 (Medical/Recreational States)</th>
<th>Bottom 10 (Non-Medical or Recreational States)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Vermont – 30.60%</td>
<td>42. Kansas – 15.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. New Hampshire – 30.09%</td>
<td>43. Texas – 15.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rhode Island – 28.90%</td>
<td>44. Alabama – 15.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Massachusetts – 28.74%</td>
<td>45. Tennessee – 14.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Oregon – 24.85%</td>
<td>47. North Dakota – 14.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Maryland – 23.42%</td>
<td>49. South Dakota – 13.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Michigan – 23.17%</td>
<td>50. Utah – 11.55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
Adult Findings

Past Month (Current) Marijuana Use for Colorado Adults Ages 26+ Years Old:

- In the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, adult past month marijuana use increased 63 percent compared to the two year average prior to legalization (2011/2012).
  - Nationally adult past month marijuana use increased 21 percent during the same time.
- The latest 2013/2014 results show Colorado adults ranked #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, up from #7 in 2011/2012.
- Colorado adult past month marijuana use for 2013/2014 was 104 percent higher than the national average compared to 51 percent higher in 2011/2012.

Adult Data

Adult (26+ Years Old)
Past Month Marijuana Use

[Bar graph showing annual averages for Colorado and national averages from 2005/2006 to 2013/2014]

National Average: 4.1 4.02 4.06 4.42 4.68 4.8 5.05 5.45 6.11
Colorado Average: 5.32 5.88 6.88 7.31 8.86 8.19 7.63 10.13 12.45

Annual Averages of Data Collection

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
NOTE:
*Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014
**States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014
Average Past Month Use by 26+ Years Old, 2013/2014

States for Past Month Marijuana Use
Adults Ages 26+ Years Old, 2013/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 (Medical/Recreational States)</th>
<th>Bottom 10 (Non-Medical or Recreational States)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Colorado – 12.45%</td>
<td>41. Louisiana – 4.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Washington – 11.21%</td>
<td>42. Utah – 4.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Maine – 10.77%</td>
<td>43. Texas – 4.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Oregon – 10.68%</td>
<td>44. Alabama – 4.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Alaska – 10.42%</td>
<td>45. Tennessee – 4.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Vermont – 10.42%</td>
<td>46. Nebraska – 3.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Rhode Island – 9.92%</td>
<td>47. North Dakota – 3.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Massachusetts – 9.08%</td>
<td>48. Mississippi – 3.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. New Hampshire – 8.78%</td>
<td>49. Iowa – 3.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Montana – 8.49%</td>
<td>50. South Dakota – 3.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Rate = 6.11%

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014