



Marijuana Facts and Statistics: Public Safety

Did you know?

1. There is a 200% increased risk of being involved in a car accident after using marijuana.¹
2. A driver under the influence of both marijuana and alcohol may have more than twenty times greater risk of a fatal car accident than a sober driver.²
3. Since recreational legalization in Washington state, fatalities in marijuana related DUI accidents have doubled.³
4. From 2010-2014, Colorado experienced a 92% increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths.⁴
5. 75% of high school students who drive mistakenly believe they drive better under the influence of marijuana or that it has no effect on their driving.⁵
6. Marijuana impairs one's vigilance, lane tracking, reaction time, motor coordination, and time/distance perception.⁶
7. A driver under the influence of both marijuana and alcohol may have more than twenty times greater risk of a fatal car accident than a sober driver.⁷
8. Under recreational sales legalization in Colorado, marijuana arrest rates for African-American and Latino youth have **risen** between 20% - 50%.⁸
9. Legalizing marijuana would not diminish the power of drug cartels. In Colorado, drug cartels still thrive using legal marijuana to launder money and disguise other drug distributions, such as cocaine and heroin, as well as human trafficking.⁹
10. Marijuana is five times or more potent than it was 30 years ago.¹⁰

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11. In Colorado and Washington, most marijuana users drive high on a regular basis.¹¹
12. Communities of color and low-income areas have seen a disproportionate share of marijuana businesses open since recreational sales were approved.¹²

What About Prop 64?

Prop 64 allows heroin and meth dealers with felony convictions to legally get into the marijuana business.

Licenses may be denied for convictions of offenses “substantially related” to the business, including serious and violent felonies, felonies involving fraud or deceit, felonies for employment of a minor in controlled substance offenses. Except in rare cases, a prior conviction for a controlled substance offense may not in itself be the sole grounds for rejecting a license (26057(b)5). This is a departure from recent legislation reforming medical marijuana, which makes past controlled substance offenses valid grounds for license denial.

Prop 64 allows each adult to grow 6 plants (no matter if the grower lives next to a school or park) and local governments are not allowed to ban these grows.

Prop 64 only prohibits advertising within 1,000 feet of a “school,” which is defined as grades K-12 (Section 26152(g)). According to the UCSF Study on Prop 64 – “Even though the initiative makes it illegal to use or sell to anyone under 21, the definition of “school” does not include community colleges or universities where a substantial fraction of the students are under age 21. A more consistent rule with the stated intent of AUMA to prevent underage initiation would be to prohibit all advertising within 1,000 feet of a school, community college, or university, recreational center or facility, public park, library, or game arcade, malls, movie theaters, or in a public transit vehicle or public transit shelter; and on or in a publicly owned or operated property, similar to Washington State’s advertising restrictions.”

Prop 64 could lead to more problems in poorer communities.

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They Got It Wrong, Again

The UCSF Study also highlighted that there are “no provisions that will require new marijuana retailers be located a minimum distance from other retail stores or that will limit the number of marijuana retailers in a specific geographic unit (i.e., county, city, town).” This is an emerging issue in Colorado’s minority, mostly Latino, neighborhoods with retail marijuana. The study notes that “it is likely that marijuana retail stores and marijuana cultivation sites will be over-concentrated in low-income communities and communities of color.”

¹ Volkow, Nora D., et. al, “Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use,” The New England Journal of Medicine 370;23, June 5, 2014

² <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/04/25/teens-drunken-driving-impaired-survey/2106325/>

³ <http://newsroom.aaa.com/2016/05/fatal-road-crashes-involving-marijuana-double-state-legalizes-drug/>

⁴ Source: Volume 3, The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact

⁵ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/04/25/teens-drunken-driving-impaired-survey/2106325/>

⁶ http://ghsa.org/html/files/pubs/GHSA_DruggedDrivingt2015_R5_LoResInteractive.pdf

⁷ Columbia Magazine Interview with Guohua Li, M.D.,Dr. PH, professor epidemiology and anesthesiology, and director, Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention, Columbia University, New York. Spring 2014.

⁸ <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/29/483954157/as-adults-legally-smoke-pot-in-colorado-more-minority-kids-arrested-for-it>

⁹ <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/marijuana/mexican-drug-cartels-are-taking-full-advantage-of-colorados-marijuana-laws>

¹⁰ Columbia Magazine Interview with Guohua Li, M.D.,Dr. PH, professor epidemiology and anesthesiology, and director, Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention, Columbia University, New York. Spring 2014.

¹¹ http://ghsa.org/html/files/pubs/GHSA_DruggedDrivingt2015_R5_LoResInteractive.pdf

¹² Migoya D, Baca R. Denver’s pot businesses mostly in low-income, minority neighborhoods. *Denver Post*. January 3, 2016. http://www.denverpost.com/marijuana/ci_29336993/denvers-pot-businesses-mostly-low-income-minority-neighborhoods.

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