



HEALTH FACTS

Public Health Should be Priority #1: **Health over High**

Higher Potency:

- The average THC of marijuana confiscated in law enforcement operations (Black Market) in 2002 was 7.3% (Source: *Mehmedic et al., 2010*). A March 2015 report that reviewed 600 samples of Colorado marijuana found the average THC content to be 18.7% THC and it was common “to see samples in the high 20’s” said the president of the lab who did the testing (*NBCNews.com March 23, 2015 Colorado Marijuana Study Finds Legal Weed Contains Potent THC Levels*).

Hospitalizations/Emergency Room visits:

- **Nearly half of the newborns born** in the month of March 2016 alone at St. Mary-Corwin who were drug tested, tested positive for marijuana, (according to St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center in Pueblo)
- "The emergency department has seen increased visits for primary care needs, breathing problems related to inhalation of marijuana, including **asthma, bronchitis, upper respiratory tract infections, as well as psychiatric needs, accidental or intentional overdoses** and, unfortunately, increased pediatric patients with issues related to marijuana," said Karen Randall, MD, a physician with Southern Colorado Emergency Medical Associates, who treats patients at Parkview Medical Center's Emergency Department. (according to Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo)
- Since the retail commercialization of marijuana in November 2012, St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center has seen an **alarming 88% increase in overall cannabis encounters**. Among the level I or level II trauma activations seen in its emergency department since the passing of Amendment 64 where toxicology reports were available, the medical center has seen nearly a **32% increase in patients testing positive for THC**. (Pueblo Chieftain, Hospital sees rise in pot-related visits 7/25/16)
- “We saw a dramatic increase in patients who smoked or ingested marijuana since it became legal,” said Kevin Weber, who has been an emergency room doctor at the hospital since 1993. From January to late June, physicians at St. Mary-Corwin saw at least **43 people under the age of 18 with marijuana in their system**, according to statistics. In 2015, 50 were seen, and in 2014, there were 48. “Before it was legal, I can’t remember any kids coming in with marijuana in their system,” Weber said. “One day a couple of weeks ago, we had a **10-month-old baby that had altered mental status because of marijuana. The same day, we had an 8-year-old come in totally spaced out. The 8-year-old got a hold of a marijuana brownie and ate it.**” (Pueblo Chieftain, Hospital sees rise in pot-related visits 7/25/16)

Driving Fatalities and Driving under the Influence:

- Fatalities with THC-only or THC-in-combination positive drivers increased 44%, from 2013 to 2014 in Colorado (*Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, March, 2016*)
- The Colorado State patrol DUID (Driving Under the Influence of Drugs) program began in 2014. Of the 874 people pulled over for DUID in 2014 – 77% tested positive for marijuana and other drugs and 41% tested positive for marijuana only. (*source: Colorado State patrol DUID Program – Rocky Mountain HIDTA Legalization of Marijuana – the Impact Volume 3, September 2015*)

Edibles Products

- Colorado has over 300 edible infused products – everything from granola to cupcakes and sodas.
- **Highly potent, pure THC** concentrates widely accessible and available in stores. Easily accessible by kids.

Marijuana Health Impact:

- An Australian and New Zealand Teen study done over more than 15 years found teens under age 17 who use marijuana daily are...
- **60% less likely to graduate from high school**, compared with their peers who never used
- 18 times more likely to become dependent on the drug, 7 times more likely to attempt suicide
- 8 times more likely to use other illicit drugs later in life

(Source: The Lancet Psychiatry, September, 2014. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(14\)70307-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(14)70307-4/abstract))

New Zealand's 25 year Study shows early and persistent marijuana users showed significant drop in IQ, up to 8 points between from childhood to midlife

- Followed 1,037 individuals from birth to age 38 (Tested for marijuana use multiple times, as well as IQ)
- Those using pot weekly before age 18 years old dropped IQ points proportional to the frequency of use. Quitting or cutting back did not bring back the IQ. (Source: Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2014 CDPHE *Madeline H. Meier et al 2012 *** Hall & Degenhardt 2012)

Marijuana Use Rates Among Youth and Adults - Highest in the Nation

- According to the 2014 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, **Pueblo County has the highest youth use rates in the state** — even higher than Denver. Approximately **1 in every 3 high school students** and **1 out of every 5 middle schoolers** in Pueblo self-reported using marijuana in the last 30 days of the survey.
- The 2013/2014 National Survey on Drug Use found **Colorado now has the highest marijuana use rates for 12-17 year-olds, 18-25 year olds, and those over 25 in the country.** Colorado's 18-25 year old use rate in Colorado is 31%

Our Pueblo County and City ballot measures will do the following:

- Prohibit retail marijuana – retail stores, manufacturing, testing facilities, growing operations.

What it does not impact:

- Personal use, home grows, hemp grows, and medical marijuana businesses.
- Retail marijuana is a failed approach. Pueblo should be about reducing, not promoting, marijuana use. **We believe voters will agree.**

We are a coalition of leaders in business, public health, law enforcement, grandparents, parents, families, and citizens. We believe the health and safety of our community is more important than the marijuana industry. Pueblo is not safer or healthier with a growing marijuana industry promoting and selling a harmful drug.