

# The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: *The Impact*

**Latest Results for Colorado** 

## Youth and Adult Marijuana Use

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH INTENSITY
DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA
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#### 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).

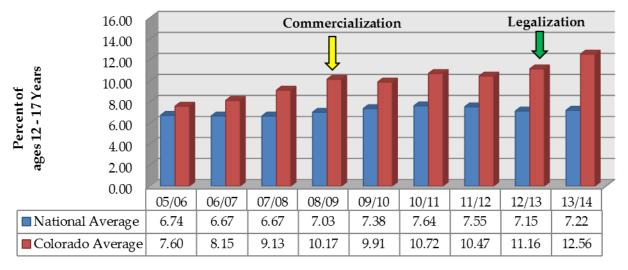
#### **Youth Findings**

#### 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.

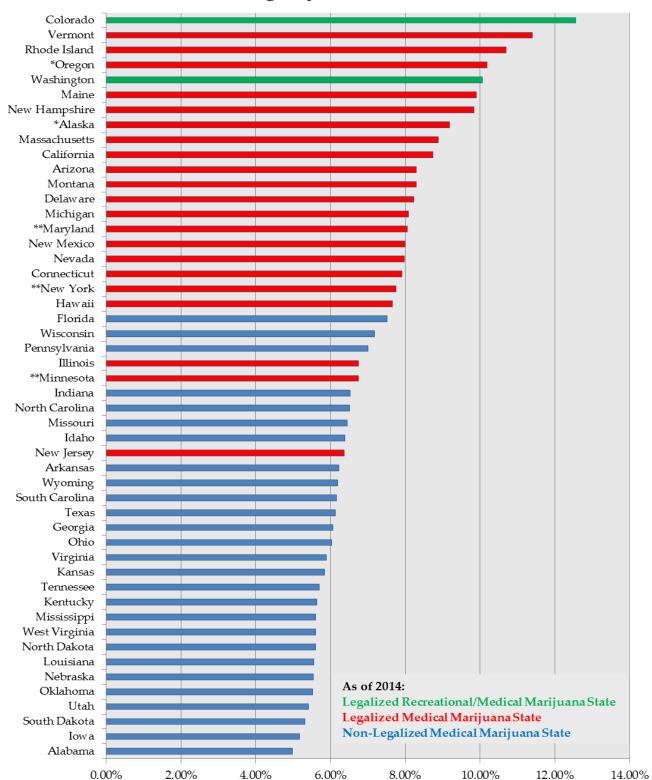
#### **Youth Data**

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



Annual Averages of Data Collection

#### Past Month Usage by 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014



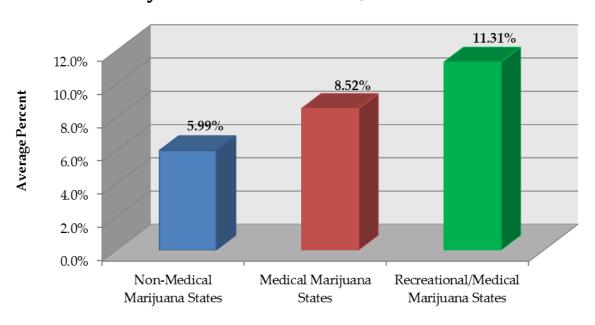
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

#### NOTE:

<sup>\*</sup>Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014

<sup>\*\*</sup>States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

#### Average Past Month Use by 12 to 17 Years Old, 2013/2014



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

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

<u>Top 10</u>	<u>Bottom 10</u>					
(Medical/Recreational Sta	ntes) (Non-Medical or Recreational States)					
National Rate = 7.22%						
1. Colorado – 12.56%	41. Mississippi – 5.60%					
2. Vermont – 11.40%	42. West Virginia – 5.60%					
3. Rhode Island – 10.69%	43. North Dakota – 5.60%					
4. Oregon – 10.19%	44. Louisiana – 5.55%					
5. Washington – 10.06%	45. Nebraska – 5.54%					
6. Maine – 9.90%	46. Oklahoma – 5.52%					
7. New Hampshire – 9.83%	47. Utah – 5.42%					
8. Alaska – 9.19%	48. South Dakota – 5.32%					
9. Massachusetts – 8.88%	49. Iowa – 5.17%					
10. California – 8.74%	50. Alabama – 4.98%					

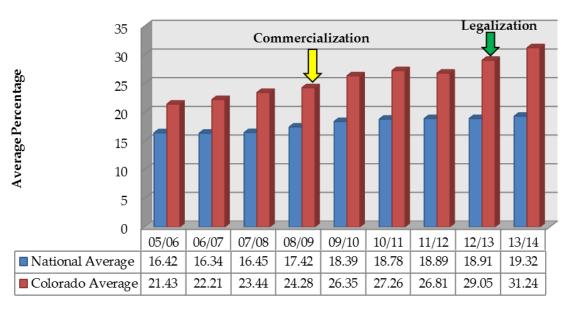
#### **College Age Findings**

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

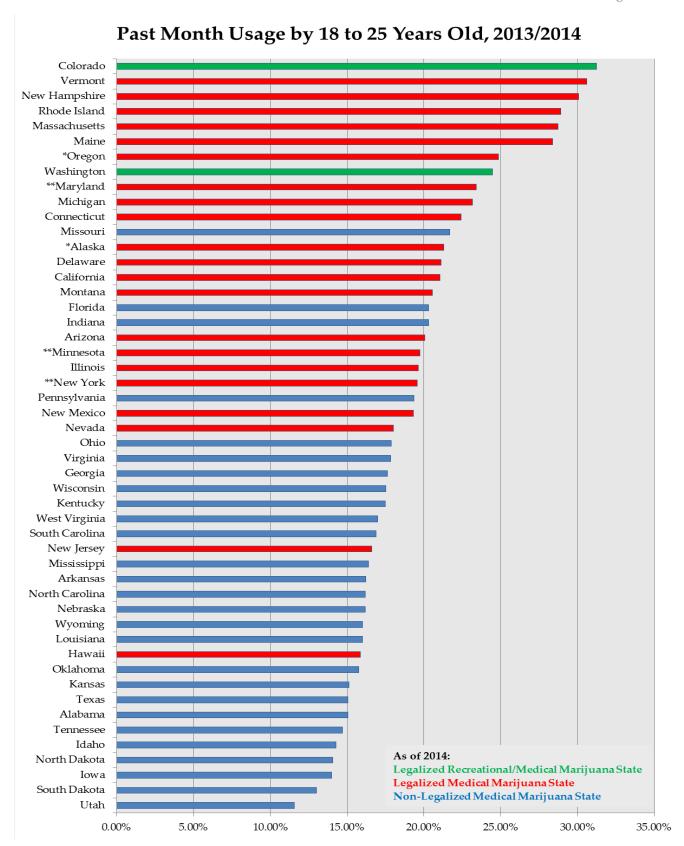
- In the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, college age past month marijuana use **increased 17 percent** compared to the two year average prior to legalization (2011/2012).
  - Nationally college age past month marijuana use increased 2 percent during the same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



Annual Averages of Data Collection



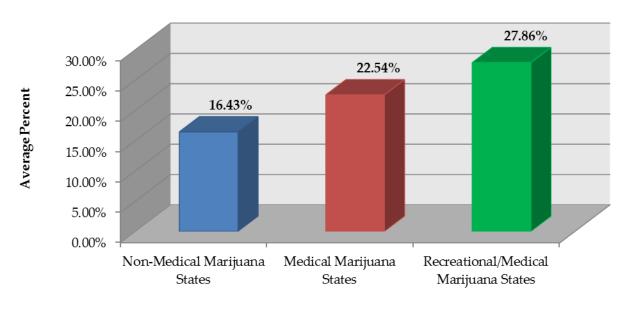
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

#### NOTE:

<sup>\*</sup>Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014

<sup>\*\*</sup>States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

## Average Past Month Use by 18 to 25 Years Old, 2013/2014



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

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

<u>Top 10</u>	Bottom 10				
(Medical/Recreational States)	(Non-Medical or Recreational States)				
National Rate = 19.32%					
1. Colorado – 31.24%	41. Oklahoma – 15.76%				
2. Vermont – 30.60%	42. Kansas – 15.11%				
3. New Hampshire – 30.09%	43. Texas – 15.06%				
4. Rhode Island – 28.90%	44. Alabama – 15.04%				
5. Massachusetts – 28.74%	45. Tennessee – 14.72%				
6. Maine – 28.38%	46. Idaho – 14.28%				
7. Oregon – 24.85%	47. North Dakota – 14.05%				
8. Washington – 24.47%	48. Iowa – 14.01%				
9. Maryland – 23.42%	49. South Dakota – 13.02%				
10. Michigan – 23.17%	50. Utah – 11.55%				

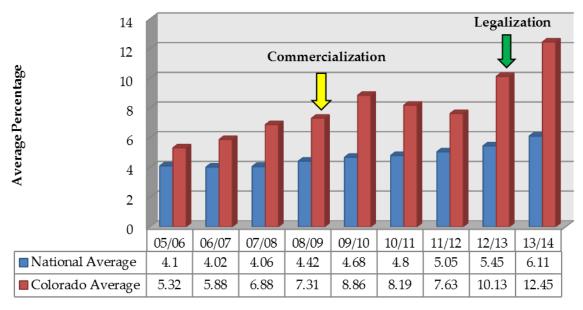
#### **Adult Findings**

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

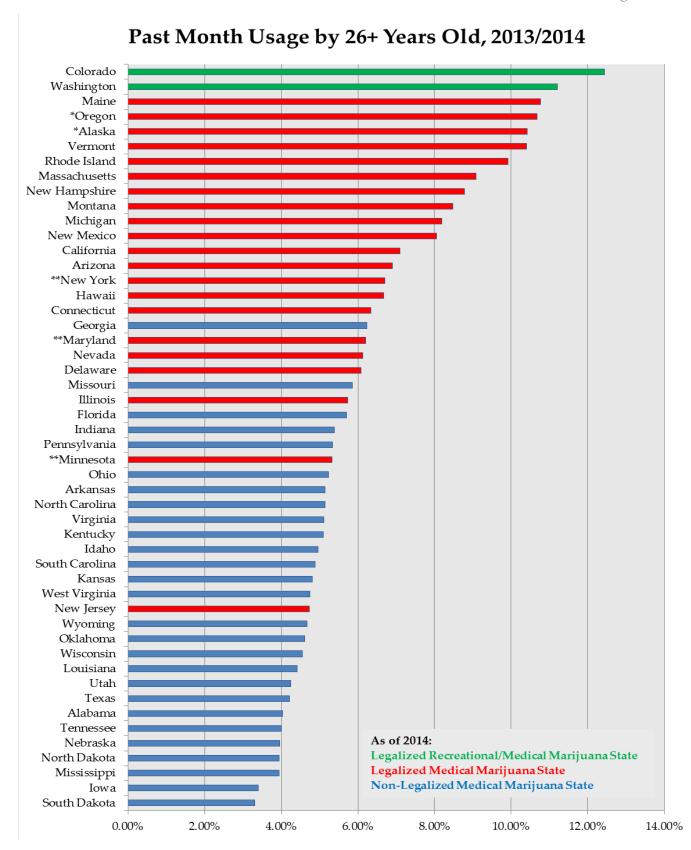
- In the two year average (2013/2014) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, adult past month marijuana use **increased 63 percent** compared to the two year average prior to legalization (2011/2012).
  - Nationally adult past month marijuana use increased 21 percent during the same time.
- 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



Annual Averages of Data Collection



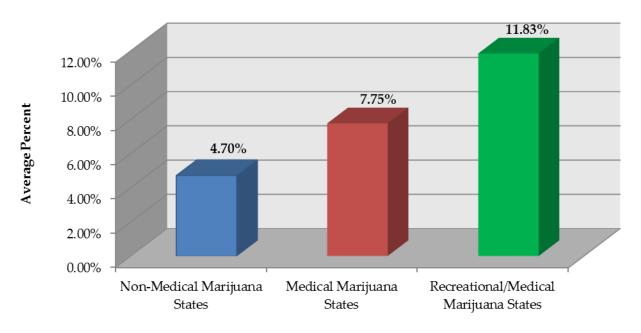
SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

#### NOTE:

<sup>\*</sup>Oregon and Alaska voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2014

<sup>\*\*</sup>States that had legislation for medical marijuana signed into effect during 2014

## Average Past Month Use by 26+ Years Old, 2013/2014



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

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

<u>Top 10</u>	Bottom 10				
(Medical/Recreational States)	(Non-Medical or Recreational States)				
National Rate = 6.11%					
1. Colorado – 12.45%	41. Louisiana – 4.42%				
2. Washington – 11.21%	42. Utah – 4.25%				
3. Maine – 10.77%	43. Texas – 4.21%				
4. Oregon – 10.68%	44. Alabama – 4.03%				
5. Alaska – 10.42%	45. Tennessee – 4.01%				
6. Vermont – 10.42%	46. Nebraska – 3.97%				
7. Rhode Island – 9.92%	47. North Dakota – 3.95%				
8. Massachusetts – 9.08%	48. Mississippi – 3.95%				
9. New Hampshire – 8.78%	49. Iowa – 3.40%				
10. Montana – 8.49%	50. South Dakota – 3.30%				