

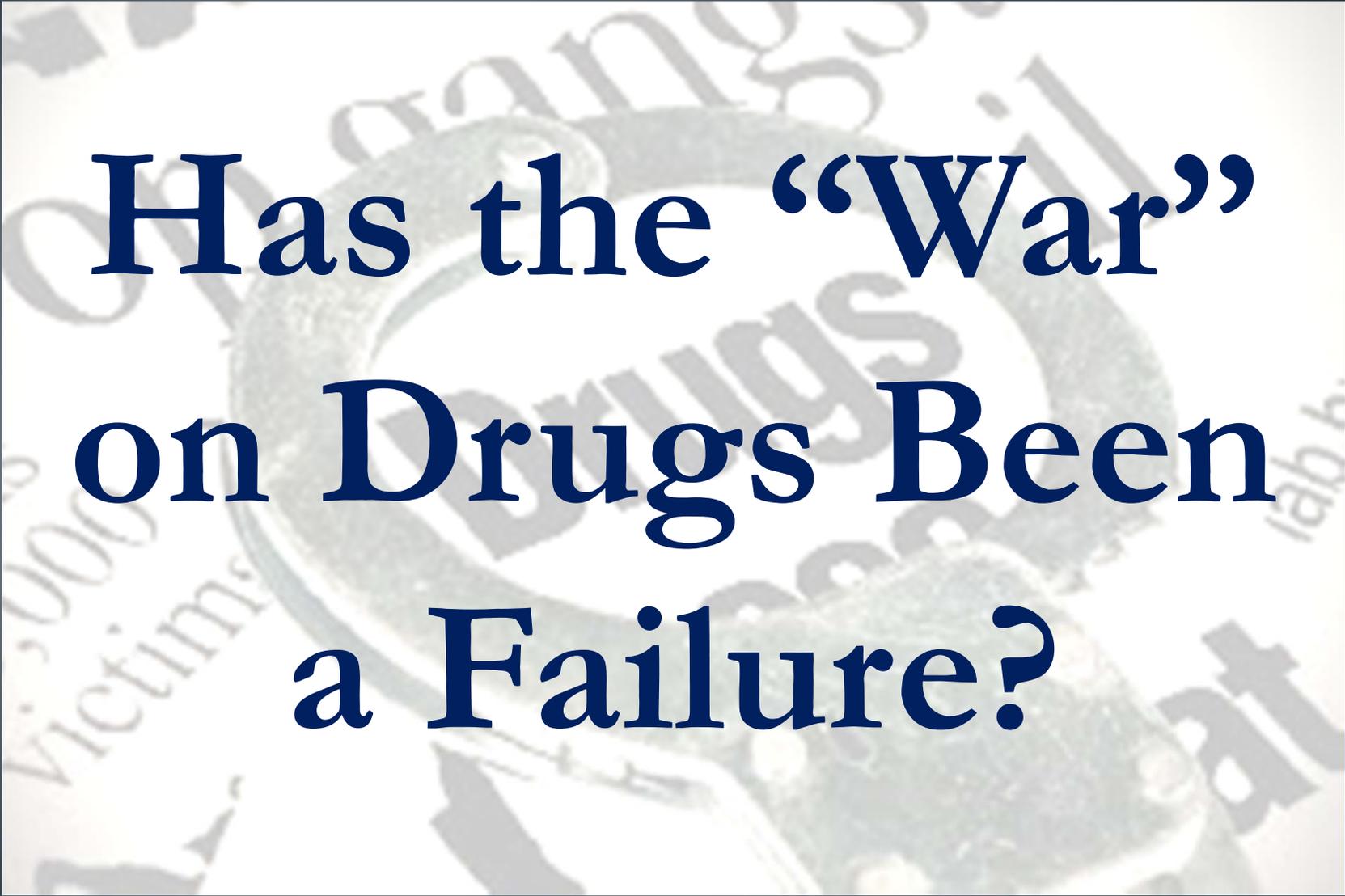
# *Drug Policy and Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado*

Thomas J. Gorman, Director  
Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
[www.rmhidta.org](http://www.rmhidta.org)  
2017



# Drug Policy





**Has the “War”  
on Drugs Been  
a Failure?**

# Question

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What is the purpose of  
drug policy?

# Answer

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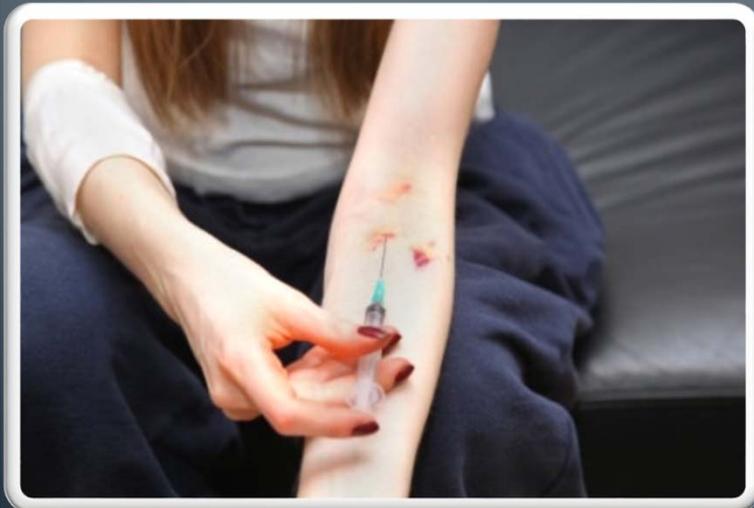
- Purpose of drug policy
  - Limit the number of people using drugs

# Question

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Isn't drug  
use a victimless  
crime?



# Answer

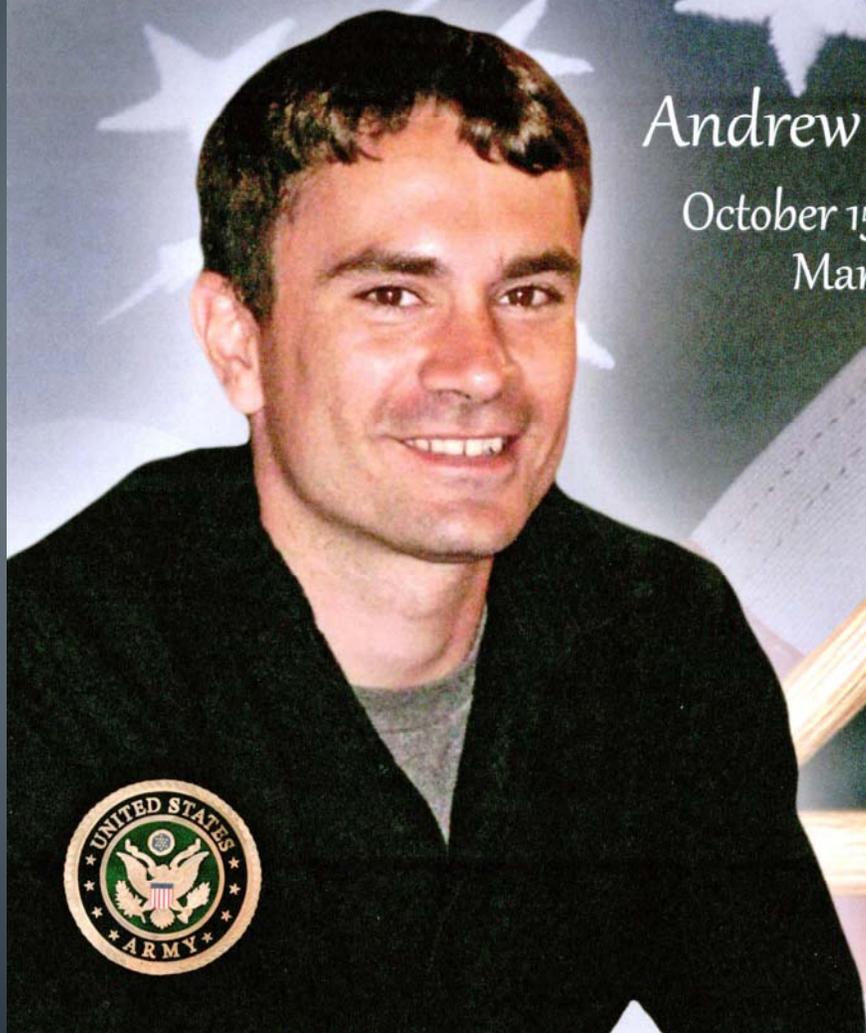
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- Victimless crime?
  - Four classes of victim:
    1. User
    2. Family/Friends
    3. Victim of Crime
    4. Taxpayers

# REMEMBERED ALWAYS

Andrew Steven Zorn

October 15th, 1982 -  
March 1st, 2014



# Question

---

What are the factors that affect the rate of drug use?



# Answer

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- Factors Affecting Rate of Drug Use
  - Four primary factors:
    1. Price
    2. Availability
    3. Perception of Risk
    4. Public Attitude

---

# Drug “War” a Failure

Question...

What would it take for you to consider our drug policy successful?

# 2014 and 2015 National Survey on Drug Use

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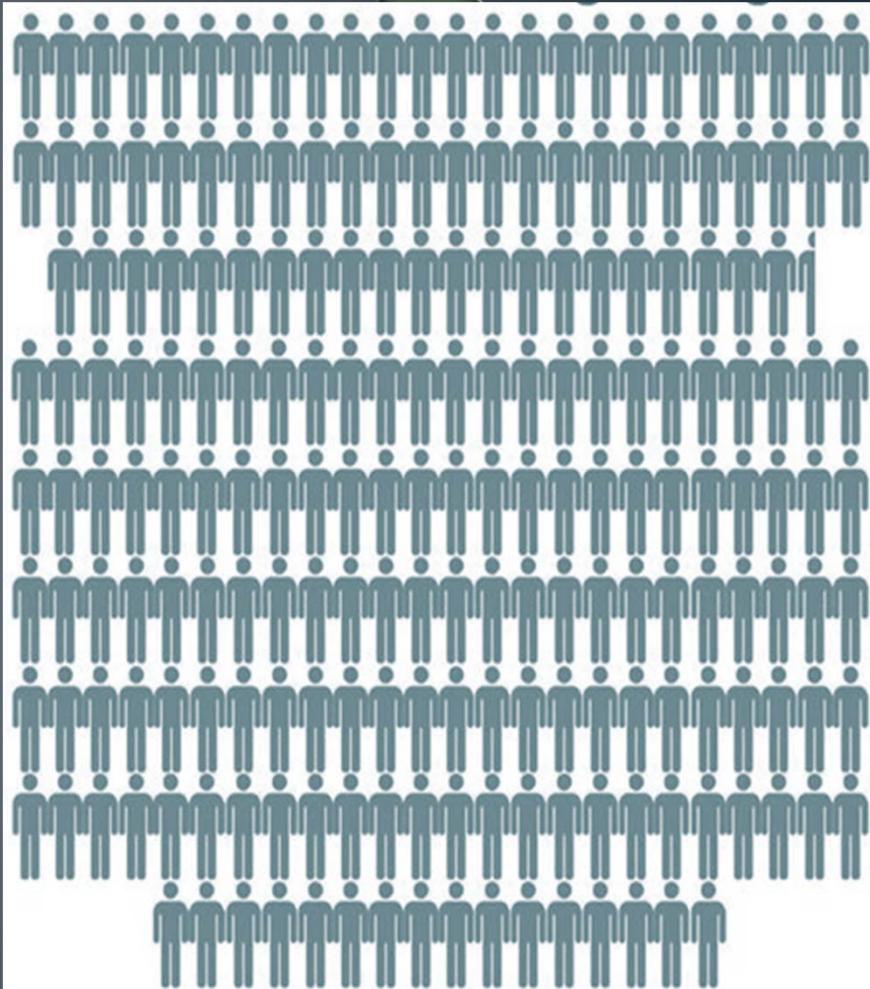
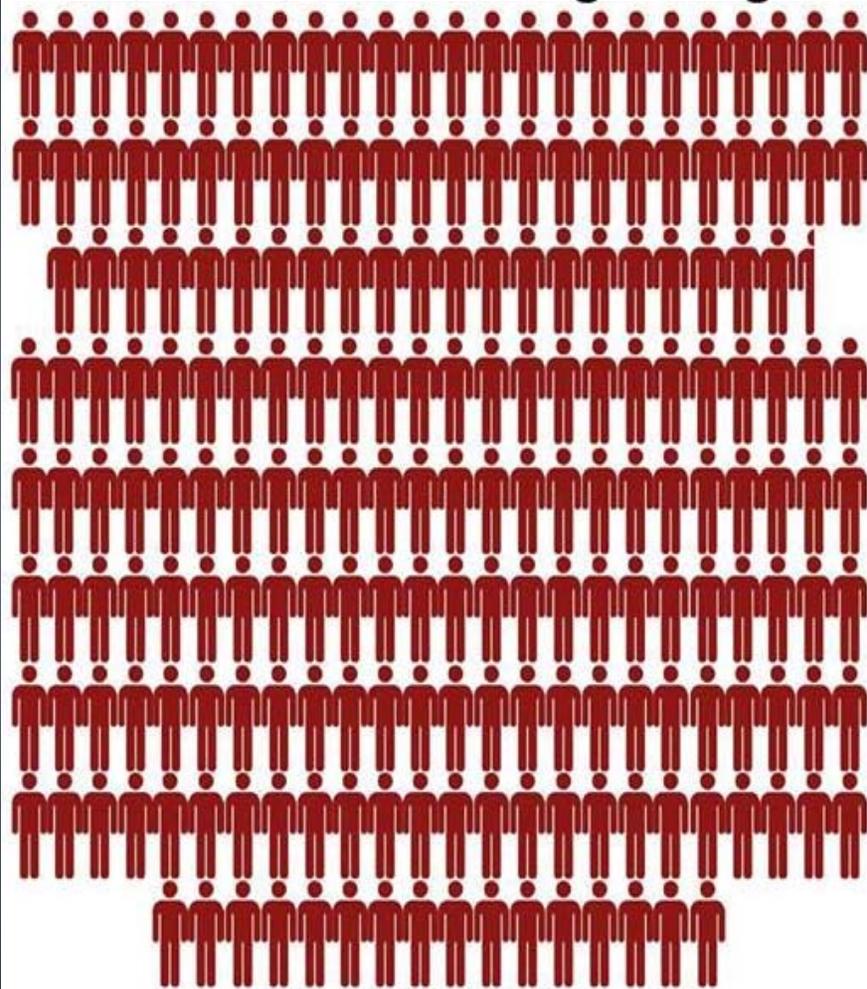
- Americans age 12 and older (past month):
  - ✓ 10% used any illegal drug
  - ✓ 24% used tobacco
  - ✓ 52% used alcohol

---

90% of Americans  
do NOT use  
illegal drugs

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014 and 2015

# Alcohol and Tobacco



---

# Destruction of the USA

You don't have to build your nuclear arsenal to defeat America. Just get them to legalize drugs and they will destroy themselves from within.

## Which of These Words:

- Stoned
- Wasted
- High
- Tuned Out
- Baked
- Ripped
- Sh\*\* Faced
- Toasted
- Out of It
- Blitzed

## Is Consistent With:

- Strong National Defense
- Ready Military
- Public Safety
- Quality Education
- Productive Work Force
- Public Health
- Strong Communities
- Healthy Family Environment
- Safe Highways

# What's Happening in Colorado?



# Licensed Marijuana Businesses

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## Medical Marijuana (June 2017)

- 513 licensed centers
- 770 marijuana cultivation facilities
- 251 infused products (edibles) businesses

## Recreational Marijuana (June 2017)

- 491 licensed marijuana retail stores
- 684 licensed marijuana cultivation facilities
- 263 licenses for infused product (edibles) businesses

# Perspective

- Colorado Business Profile, June 2017



2016	Colorado
Starbucks	392
McDonalds	208
Medical Marijuana Centers	513
Recreational Marijuana Shops	491

# Denver: The Mile HIGH City



210 Licensed Medical  
Marijuana Centers

108 Pharmacies



# April 2017- 420 Event

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SOURCE: The Denver Post, Photos taken by RJ Sangosti and Joe Amon

April 20,  
2014



A New York resident, center, and hundreds of others participate in the 4/20 marijuana rally at Civic Center Park across from the state capitol building in downtown Denver.

# April 2017- 420 Event

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SOURCE: The Denver Post, Photos taken by RJ Sangosti and Joe Amon

# April 2017- 420 Event



SOURCE: The Denver Post, Photos taken by RJ Sangosti and Joe Amon

# Full-page ads *Westword*

WORLD FAMOUS WEED, AWARD WINNING CONCENTRATES  
 MED 18+ REC 21+



IN-STATE MED/REC SPECIAL  
**50% OFF**  
 YOUR 1ST PURCHASE  
 MAXIMUM \$50 OFF. CO RESIDENTS ONLY. RESTRICTIONS APPLY. EXPIRES 7/15/17

**2017 ROOSTER CUP AWARDS**



**The Grow-Off** 1ST PLACE POTENCY & 1ST PLACE FLAVOR 2017

985 S. Logan St. Denver, CO | 303.777.WEED | TheHerbalCure.net  
 Open: Mon-Sat (9am-10pm), Sun (9am-8pm).

 /TheHerbalCureDenver  @TheHerbalCure  TheHerbalCure

GRAB SUMMER  
 BY THE  
*Shortys*




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CANNABIS (DANK) THC  
 4G 5  
 10MG PER MINI

ONLY AT  
**native roots**  
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Fresh-rolled minis in a pocket-sized pack.  
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OPEN UNTIL 10PM EVERY DAY\*  
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Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and a logo icon are shown as small blue icons.

Presented by **Westword** RSS Feed | Register | Log In

**TOKE DAILY DEALS** Denver Today's Deal Past Deals F.A.Q.

Email me deals for  Email  Zip

**TODAY'S DENVER DEAL**  
**One Gram Caviar or One Gram Hash You choose: ONLY \$10**

Regular Price <b>\$30</b>	You Save <b>67%</b>
Purchased <b>31</b>	Time Remaining <b>13:34:54</b>

**Company Info**  
**Pot is Us**  
 (480) 555-1324  
[Website >](#)



**Locations**

Daily Westword deals and coupons online

SOURCE: [www.westword.com/marijuana](http://www.westword.com/marijuana)

print ✕

**10% College Student Disc... Leafbuyer™**

**10% College Student Discount EVERYDAY!!!** (Must present current student ID & active medical marijuana card)

Must show coupon. While supplies last. Other restrictions may apply.

No expiration 602 W Colorado Ave, Colorado Springs, CO | [719-203-5156](tel:719-203-5156)

**Medical Only**

This advertisement is for customer reference only and has no value and is not intended to be exchanged for any product. Leafbuyer (Leafbuyer Technologies, Inc) is not responsible for the content of any advertisement. All advertisements are the sole responsibility of the vendor publishing the advertisement. If an advertisement is not valid, please contact the vendor directly as errors may have been made in the creation of the advertisement. This advertisement is only intended to be viewed by those of legal age and in the state/local area where the product is legally open for sale. Additionally, all state and local laws and restrictions apply to all advertisements. Void where prohibited.

**Herbal Healing**

Herbal Healing - W Colorado  
[View all our deals on Leafbuyer.com](http://www.leafbuyer.com)

# “Legal pot blamed for some of influx of homeless in Denver this summer”

*The Denver Post, July 25, 2014*

- Haven of Hope: 500% rise over normal in homeless in summer 2014 (50 to 300)
  - “They have an attitude”
- Salvation Army: 33% rise since 2014 compared to 2013
  - “30% relocated for pot”



# “Legal pot blamed for some of influx of homeless in Denver this summer”

*The Denver Post, July 25, 2014*

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- Urban Peak: 152% increase
  - “Majority of new kids here because of weed.”
- St. Francis: 50 more people a day
  - “Marijuana only trails looking for work as reason.”

# Impact

---

- **Urban Travelers: Intimidating and harassing downtown Denver visitors.**
  - Young, carefree lifestyle, no desire to work.
  - Arrive around April 20<sup>th</sup> (celebrate pot) and stay during warmer weather.
  - Denver Mayor: “This is one of the results of the legal marijuana industry in Denver and we’re going to have to deal with it.”
- **Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau Report: As of 2014, nearly half of meeting event planners were negative on Denver, citing: homeless – youth – panhandling – safety – cleanliness – drugs, including public consumption of marijuana.**

# Impact

---

- Comments from convention attendees and planners:
  - Denver seems less safe now that pot is legalized.
  - What a depressing downtown area.
  - Poor area, lots of crime.
  - I would never consider putting attendees in danger by holding a convention in your city. Public streets reek of weed.
  - Didn't feel safe at 2 p.m.; i.e. drunks – weed smell noted in open – disgusting.

# Marijuana Edibles

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# Marijuana Edibles Deaths



Kristine Kirk



Levy Thamba Pongi



Luke Goodman

# The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact



The  
Legalization of  
Marijuana in  
Colorado:  
*The Impact*

Volume 5  
October 2017

Rocky Mountain High Intensity  
Drug Trafficking Area  
[www.rmhidta.org](http://www.rmhidta.org)



To get a copy of the  
entire report:

[www.rmhidta.org](http://www.rmhidta.org)

“Reports” Tab

# Forecast

---

## Support Marijuana Legalization

- Significant Revenue
- Less DUIs and Fatalities – Safer Drivers
- Little Increase in Use
- Lower Access by Youth
- Lower Alcohol Use

## Oppose Marijuana Legalization

- Societal Cost Outweighs Revenue
- More DUIs and Fatalities
- Substantial Increase in Use
- Greater Access and Use by Youth
- Little Impact on Alcohol Use

# Forecast

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## Support Marijuana Legalization

- Safe
- Stop Drug Cartels
- Eliminate Black Market
- Free-Up Police Resources

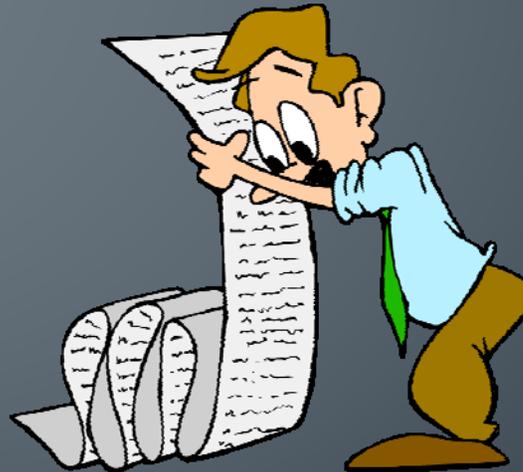
## Oppose Marijuana Legalization

- Harmful and Increased ER Visits
- Little Impact on Drug Cartels
- Become the Black Market
- Increased Policing

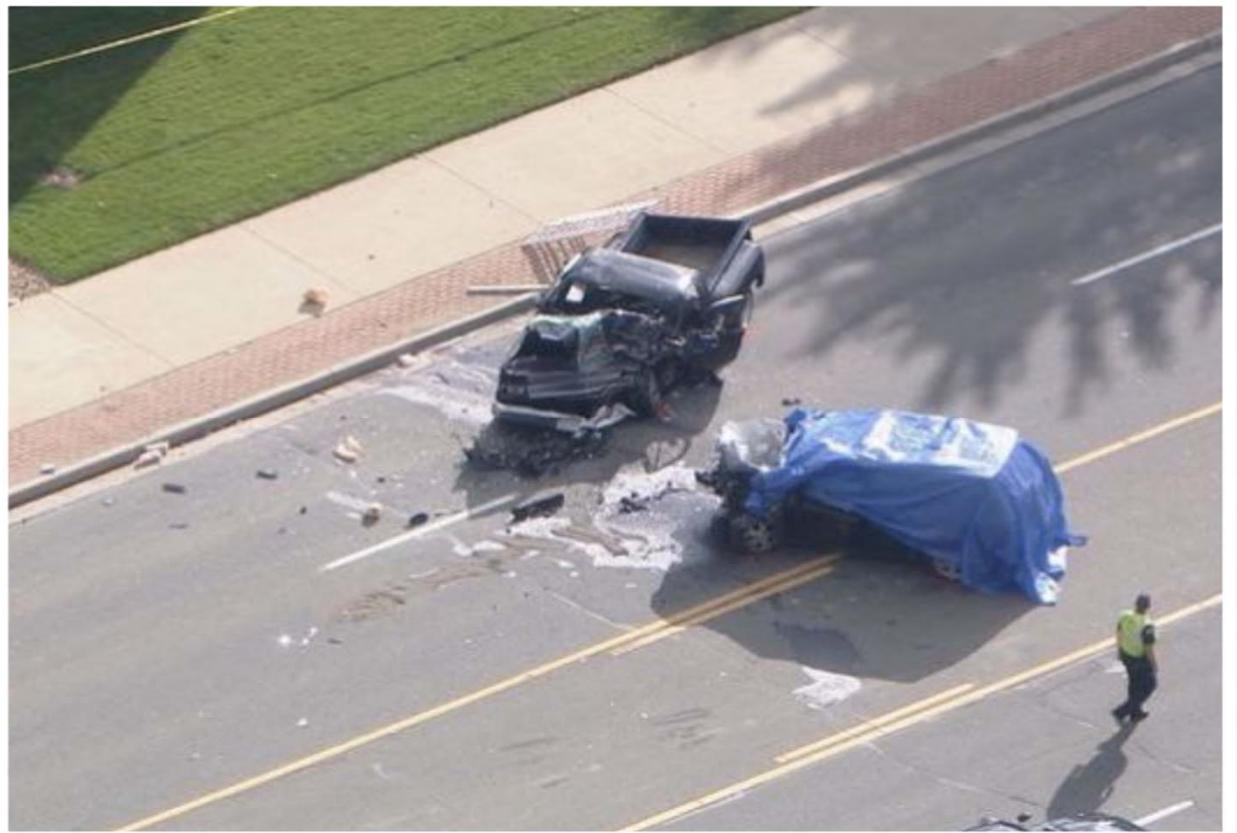
# Forecast

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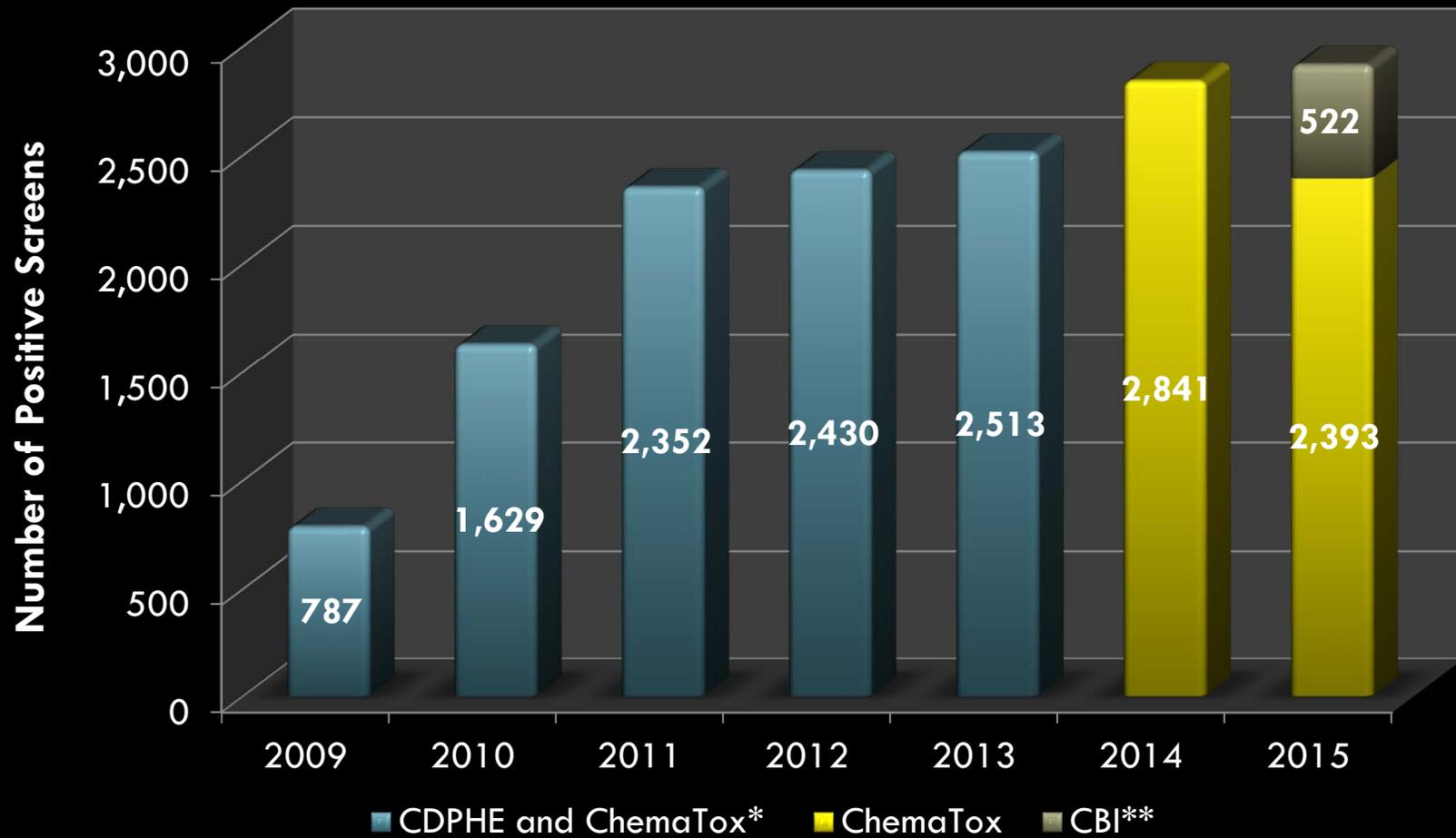
What Does the Data and Trends Show?



# Marijuana and Impaired Driving



## Number of Positive Cannabinoid Screens



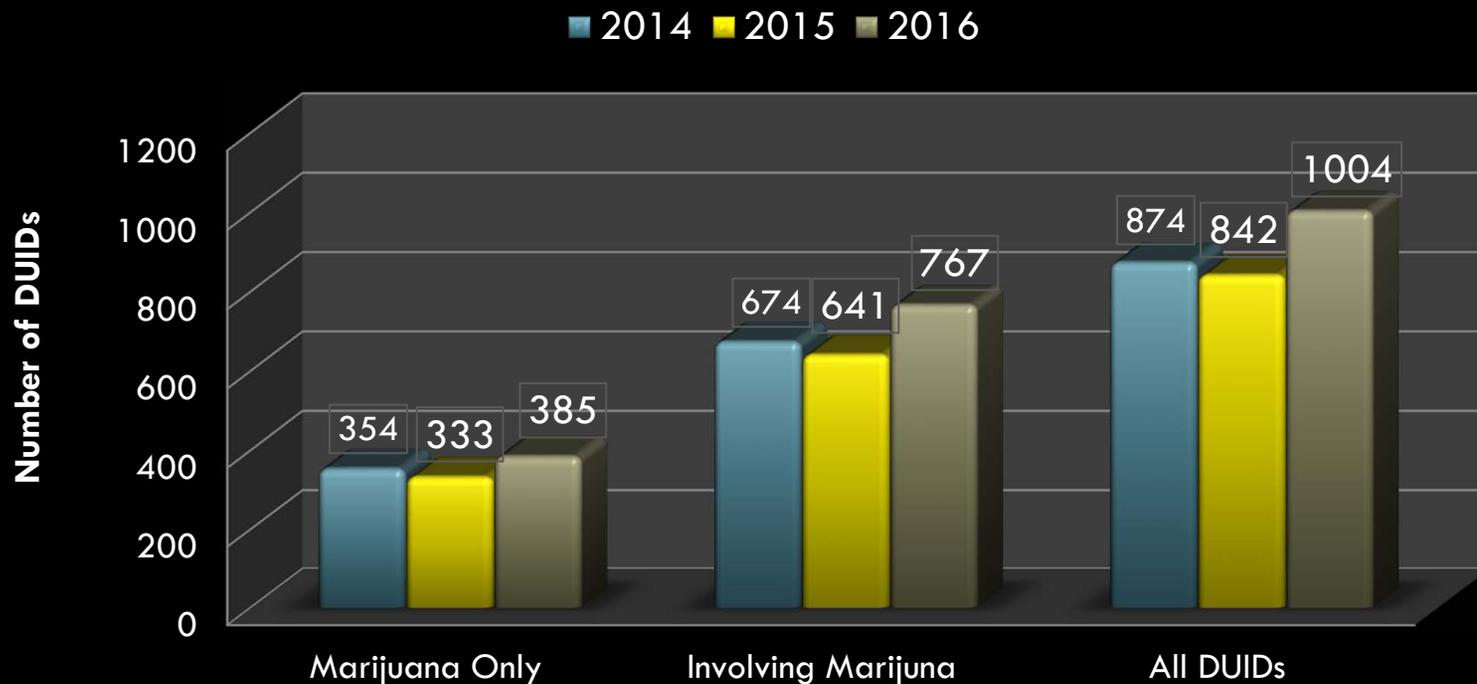
\*Data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was merged with ChemaTox data from 2009 to 2013

\*\*The Colorado Bureau of Investigation state lab began operating on July 1, 2015. There were a total of 723 9\*Data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was merged with ChemaTox data from 2009 to 2013

SOURCE: ChemaTox Laboratory and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

# Number of DUIDs, 2016

## Colorado State Patrol Number of DUIDs\*

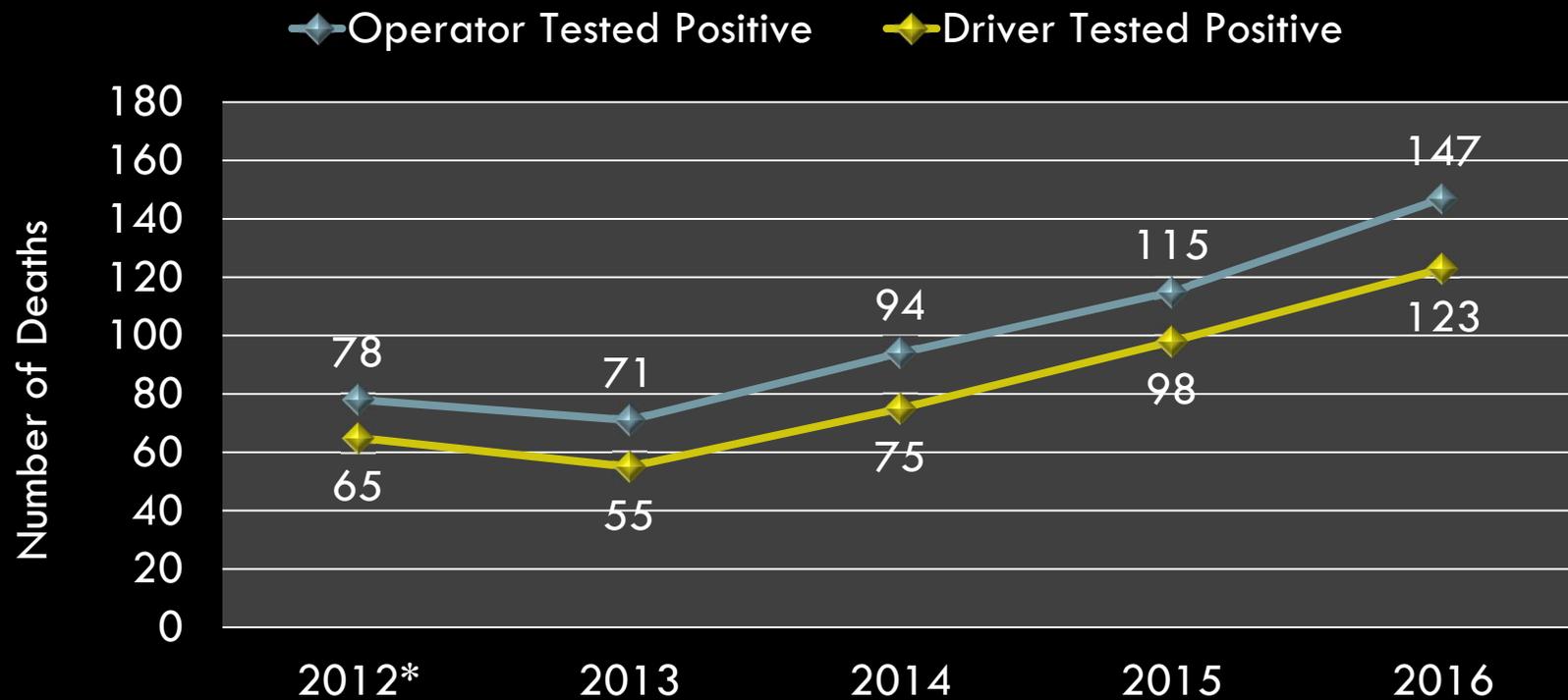


\*Driving Under the Influence of Drugs

SOURCE: Colorado State Patrol

# Marijuana and Traffic Fatalities

## Colorado Traffic Deaths, where an Operator or Driver Tested Positive for Marijuana

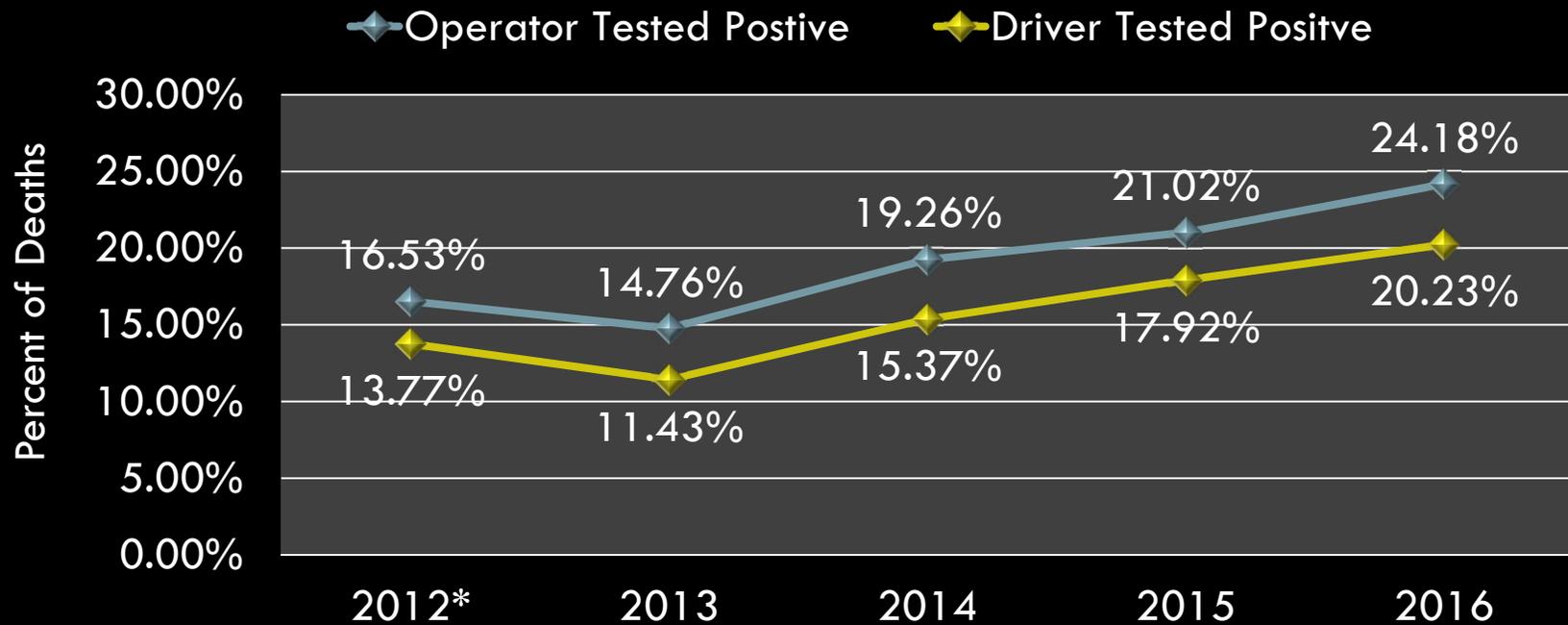


\*2012 is the first year with complete fatality data

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation

# Marijuana and Traffic Fatalities

**Percent of All Traffic Deaths, when an Operator or Driver Tested Positive for Marijuana**

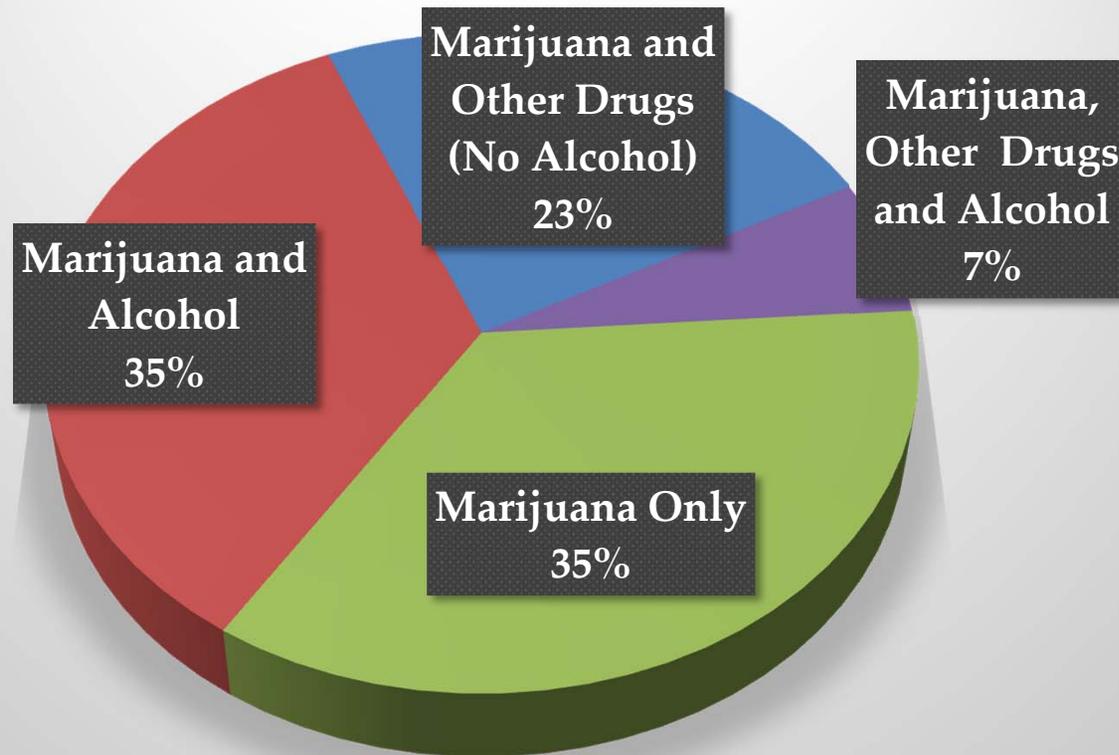


\*2012 is the first year with complete fatality data

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation

# Operators Positive for Marijuana

Drug Combinations for  
Operators Positive for Marijuana\*, 2016



\*Toxicology results for all substances present in individuals who tested positive for marijuana

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation 2015



# Marijuana Use in Youth



# Teens and Marijuana

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

# THE DENVER POST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 DRIZZLE, CLEARING ▲52° ▼25° »16A • © THE DENVER POST • \$1.50 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER ★

**DP** BE THERE: Follow Denver Post reporters, breaking news and more on Twitter. »denverpost.com/twitter

**Marijuana in Colorado**

## High times in schools

**“Since legalization, reports of pot in middle and high schools soar.”** ↔

Since legalization, reports of pot in middle and high schools soar.

By Nancy Lofholm  
The Denver Post

# Marijuana Use in Youth

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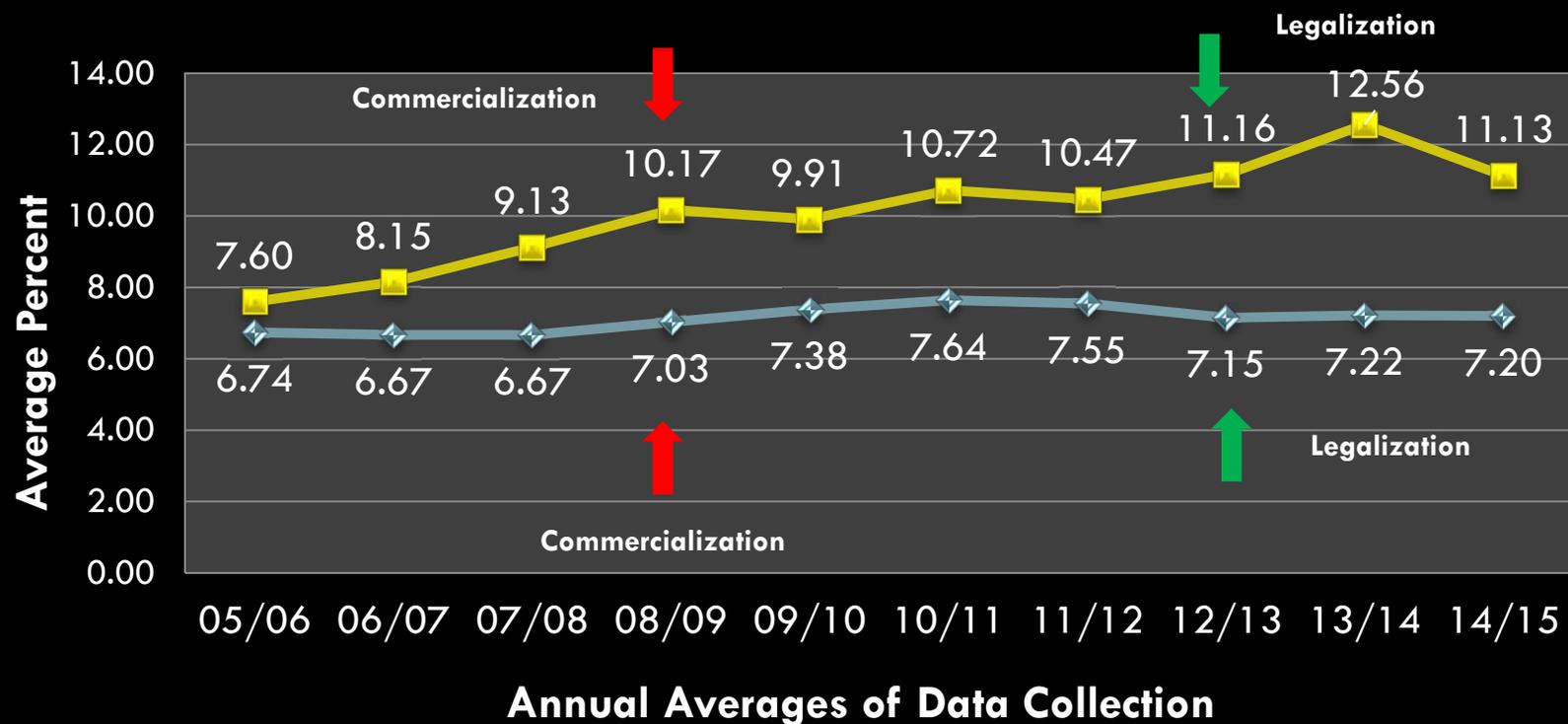
## Youth (ages 12 to 17 years) Current Marijuana Use 2014/2015

- Colorado ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation for current marijuana use among youth
  - ✓ Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2012/2013
  - ✓ Ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in 2006/2007
- Colorado youth use is 55 percent higher than the national average
- 2014/2015 Colorado youth use increased 6 percent compared to pre-legalization years 2011/2012. Nationally a decline of 5 percent.

# Marijuana Use in Youth

## Past Month Marijuana Use Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old

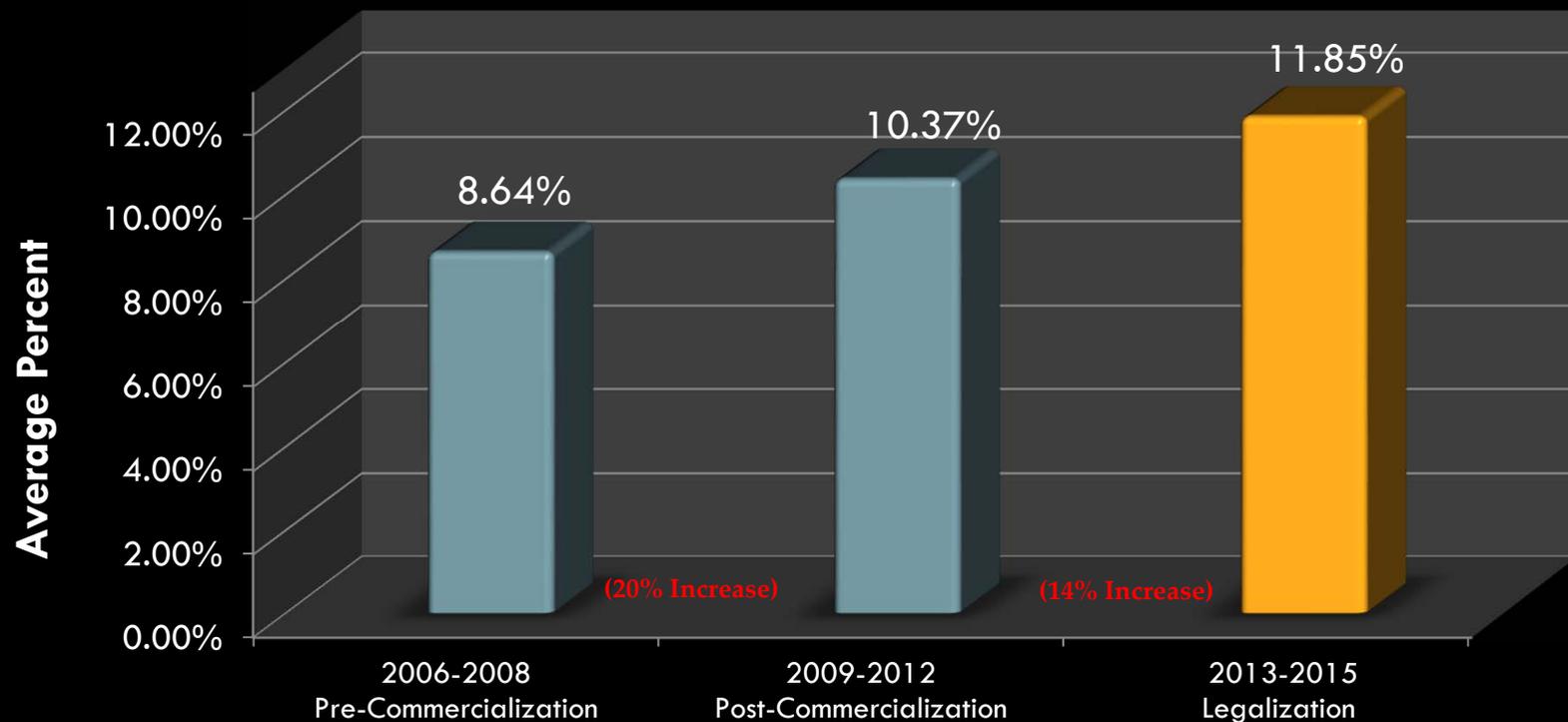
◆ National Average    ■ Colorado Average



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2014 and 2015

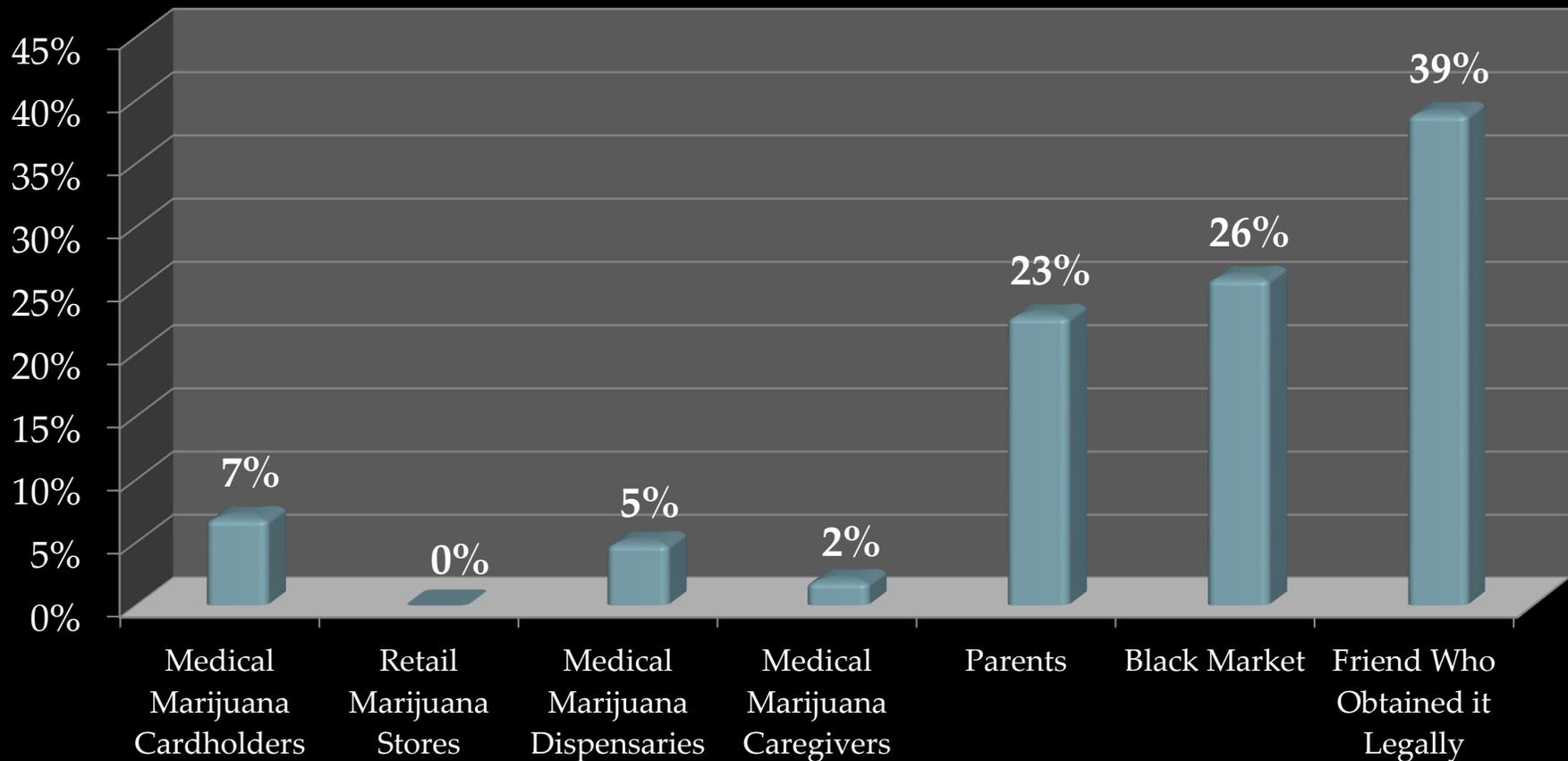
# Marijuana Use in Youth

**Colorado Average Past Month Use of Marijuana Ages 12 to 17 Years Old**



SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005 - 2015

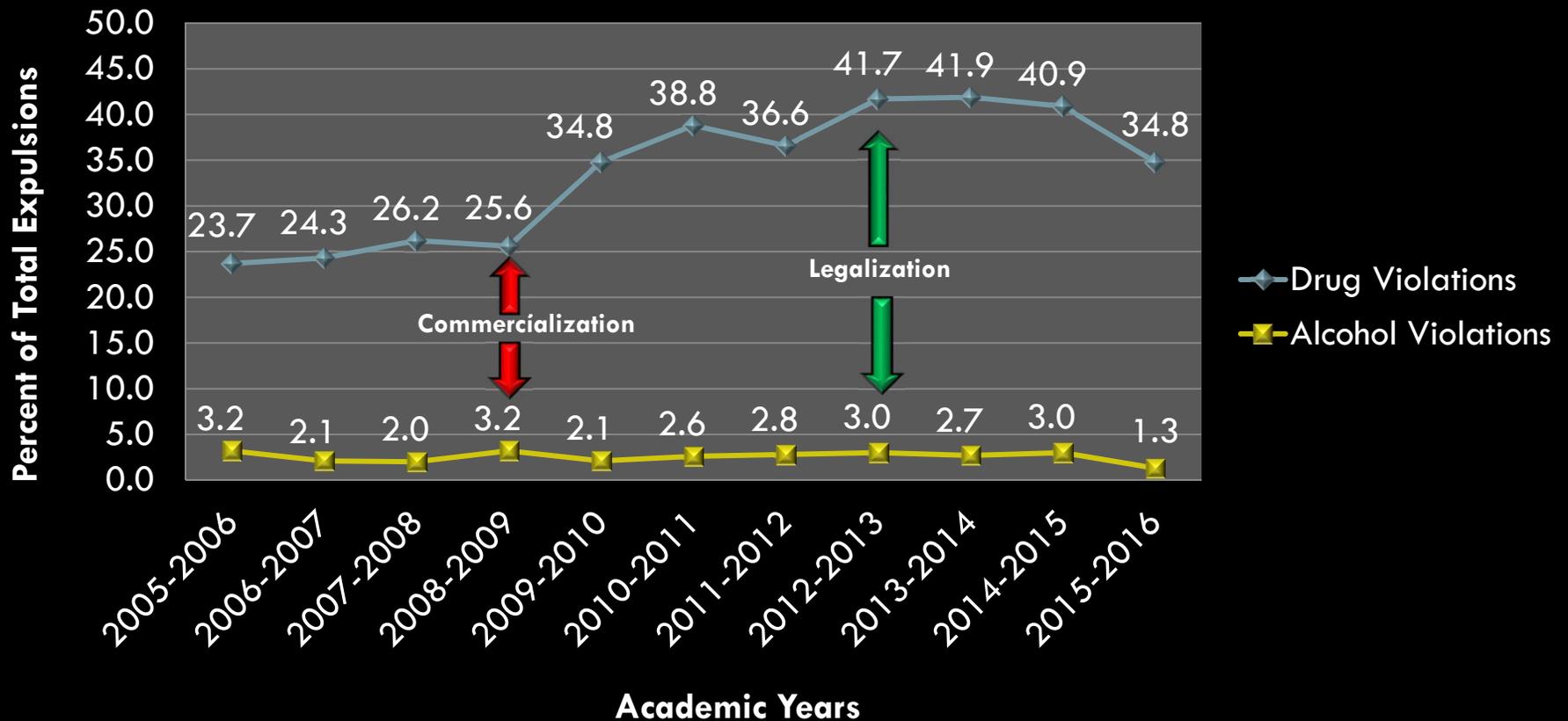
# Student Marijuana Sources, 2017



SOURCE: Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) and Rocky Mountain HIDTA, 2017

# High School Discipline

## Percent of Total Expulsions in Colorado



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data: State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

# Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)

While headlines in *The Denver Post* said this....

NEWS > MARIJUANA > MARIJUANA COLORADO

## Marijuana use remains flat among Colorado teens, survey finds

One in five Colorado teens said they used marijuana in the past month

By JOHN INGOLD | [jingold@denverpost.com](mailto:jingold@denverpost.com)

PUBLISHED: June 20, 2016 at 2:14 pm | UPDATED: July 18, 2016 at 5:43 pm

OPINION > EDITORIALS

## Colorado's good news on teen pot use



Denver Post file

A marijuana plant.

By THE DENVER POST EDITORIAL BOARD

PUBLISHED: June 22, 2016 at 5:22 pm | UPDATED: June 24, 2016 at 9:55 am

# Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)

## The data showed this....

---

- 8% increase in ALL high school grades from 2013 to 2015
  - ✓ 14% increase in seniors
  - ✓ 19% increase in juniors
  - ✓ 96% increase in 7<sup>th</sup> graders
  - ✓ 144% increase in 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- 1 out of 3 Denver juniors and seniors are marijuana users
- Colorado Mountain towns - 90% increase in seniors
- Boulder/Broomfield juniors and seniors increased 50%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest school districts too low participation

# College-Age Marijuana Use



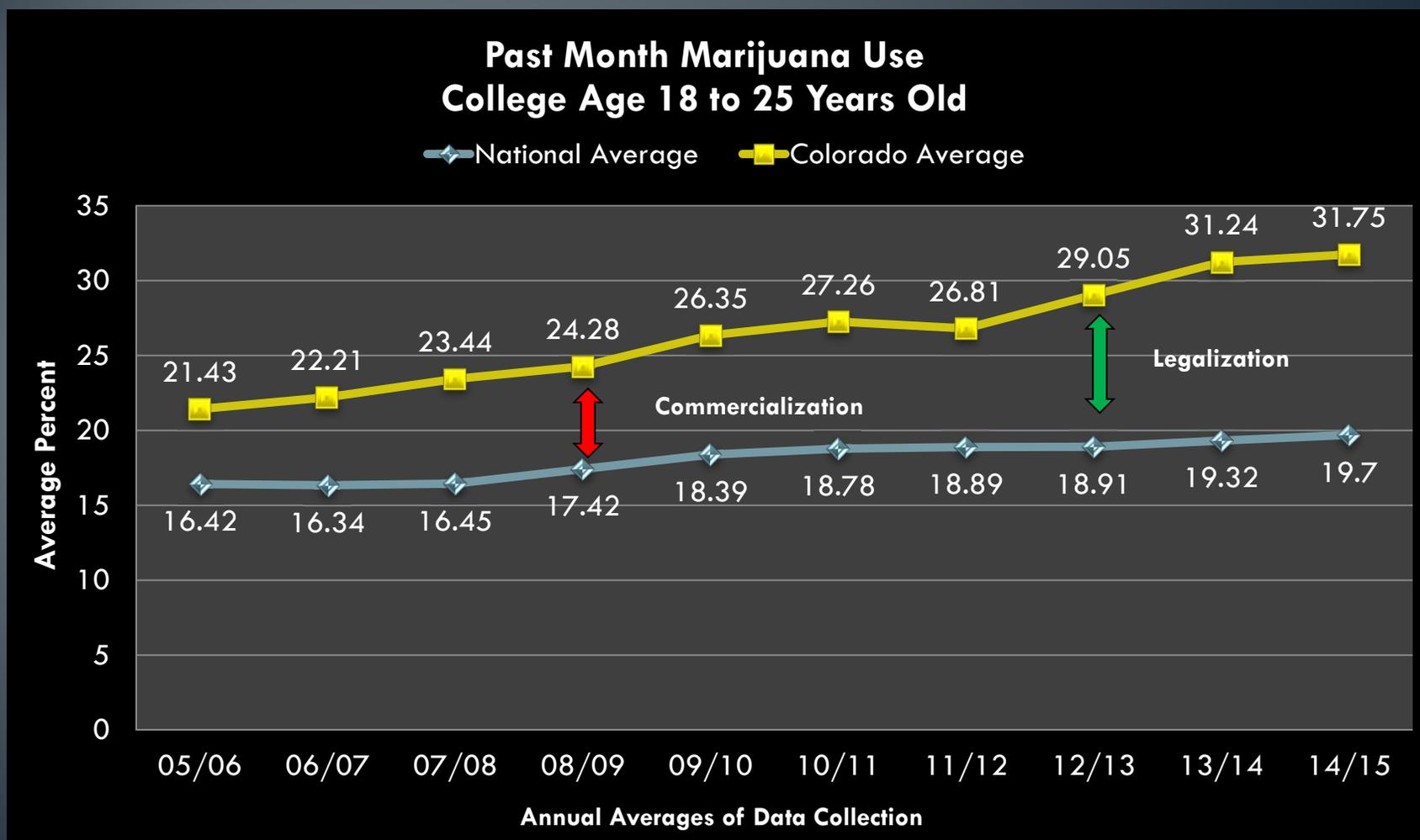
# College-Age Marijuana Use

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## College-Age Adults (ages 18 to 25 years) Current Marijuana Use 2014/2015

- Colorado ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for current marijuana use among college-age adults
  - ✓ Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2012/2013
  - ✓ Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in 2006/2007
- Colorado college-age use is 61 percent higher than the national average
- 2014/2015 college-age use increased 18 percent compared to pre-legalization years 2011/2012. Nationally a 4 percent increase.

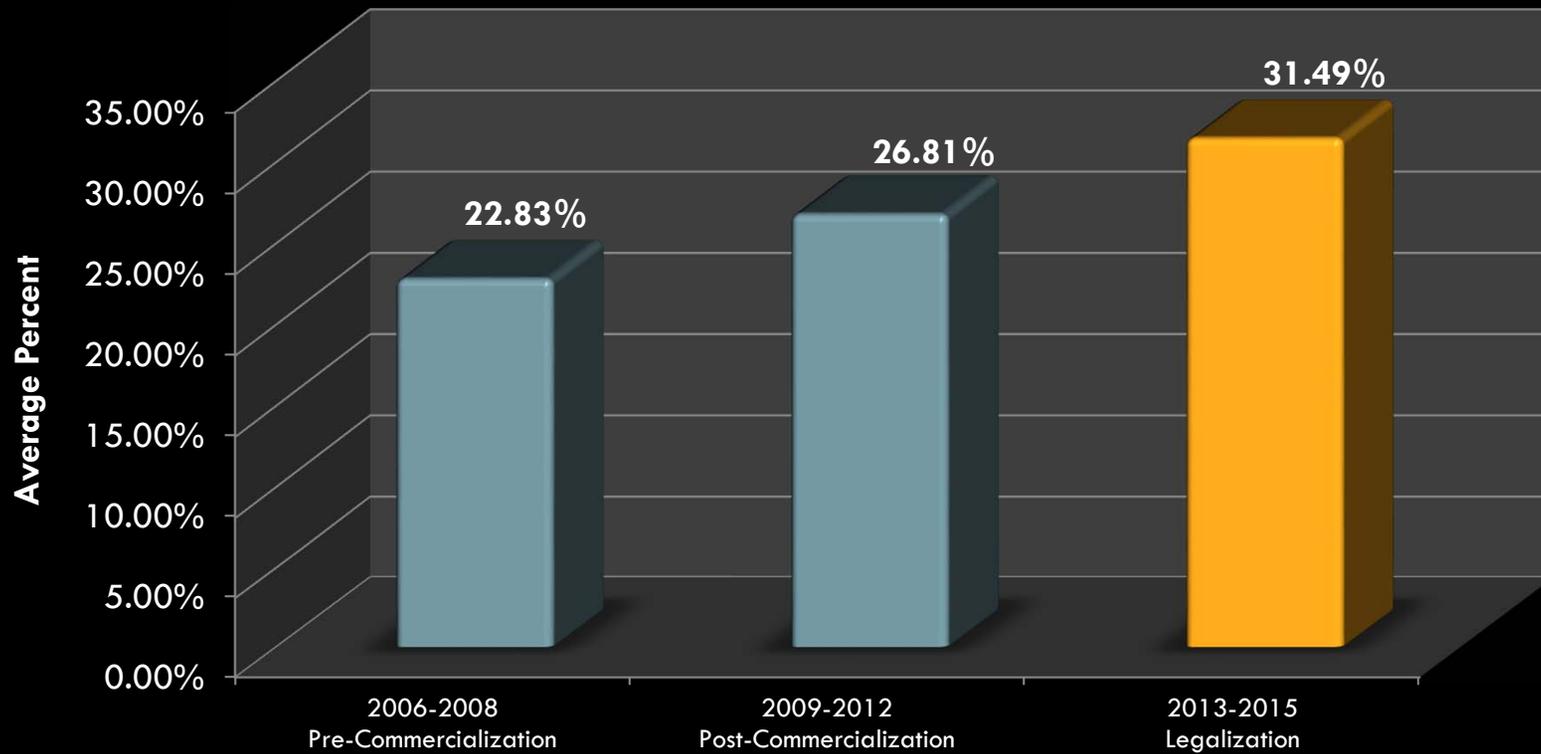
# College-Age Marijuana Use



SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014 and 2015

# College-Age Marijuana Use

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



SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006 - 2015

# Adult Marijuana Use

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# Adult Marijuana Use

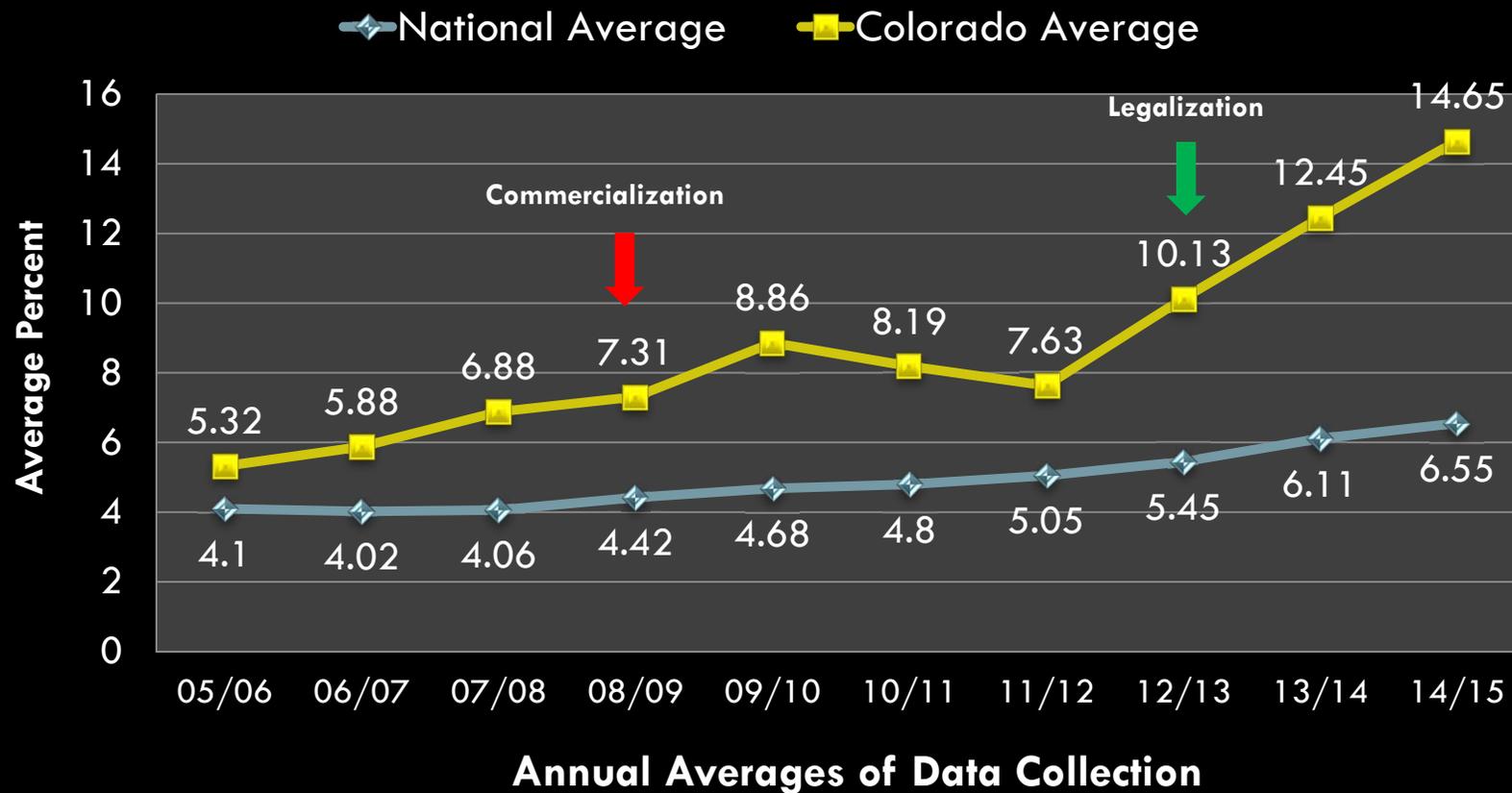
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## Adults (ages 26+ years) Current Marijuana Use 2014/2015

- Colorado ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation for current marijuana use among adults
  - ✓ Ranked 5th in 2012/2013
  - ✓ Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in 2006/2007
- Colorado adult use is 124 percent higher than the national average
- 2014/2015 adult use increased 92 percent compared to pre-legalization years 2011/2012. Nationally an increase of 30 percent.

# Adult Marijuana Use

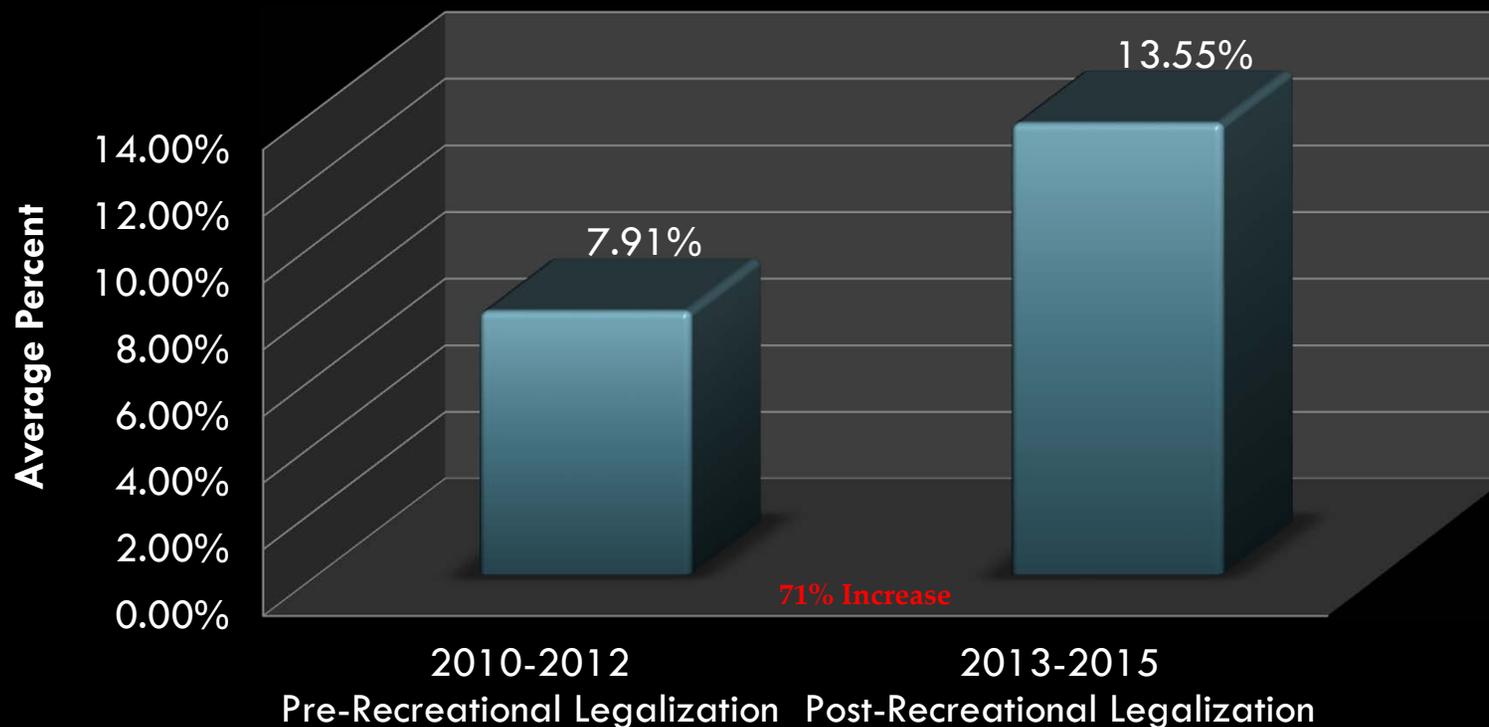
## Past Month Marijuana Use Adults Age 26+ Years Old



SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2004 and 2015

# Adult Marijuana Use

Average Past Month Use of Marijuana  
College Ages 26+ Years Old

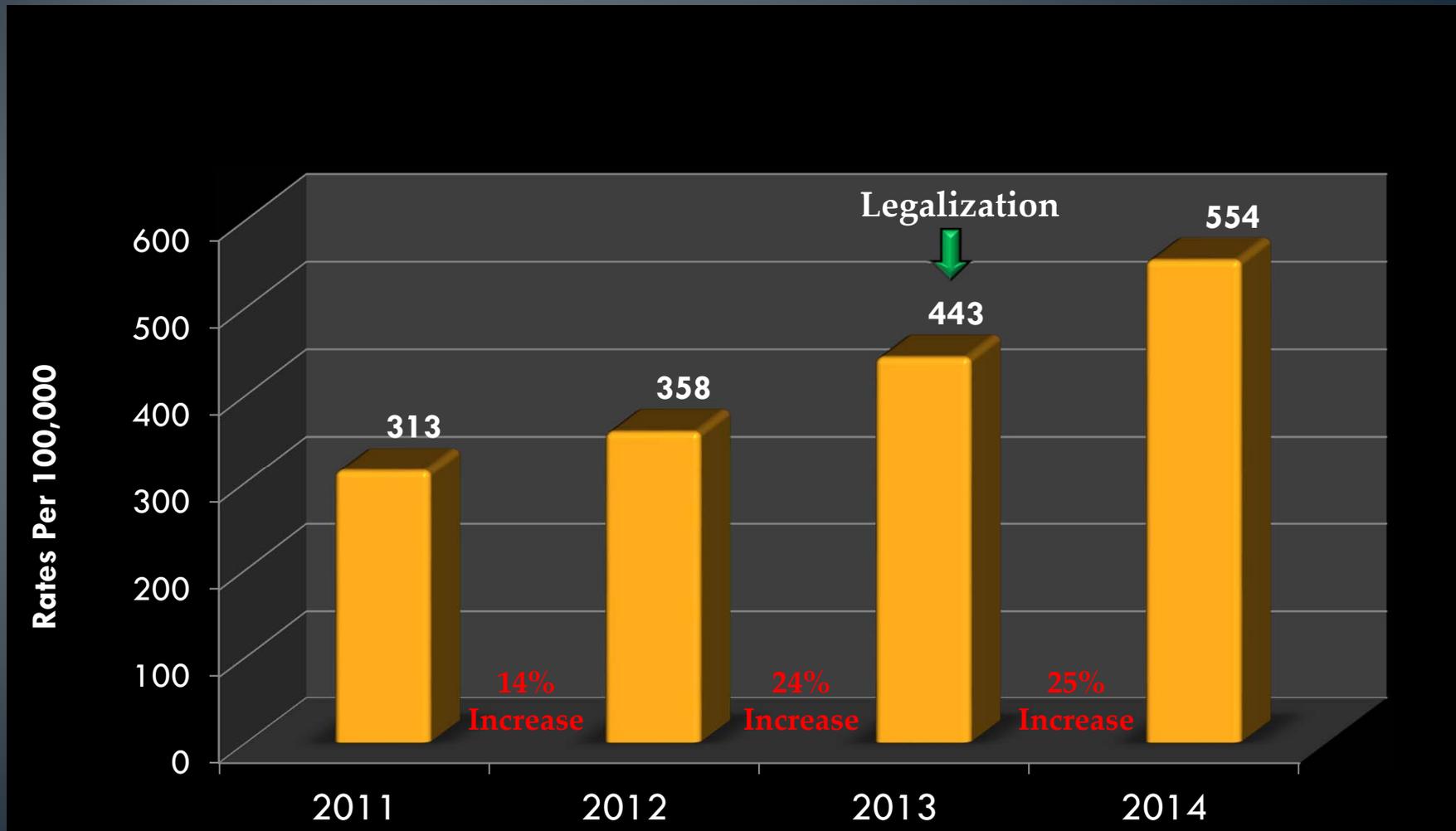


SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006-2015

# Emergency Room Visits, Hospitalizations and Marijuana



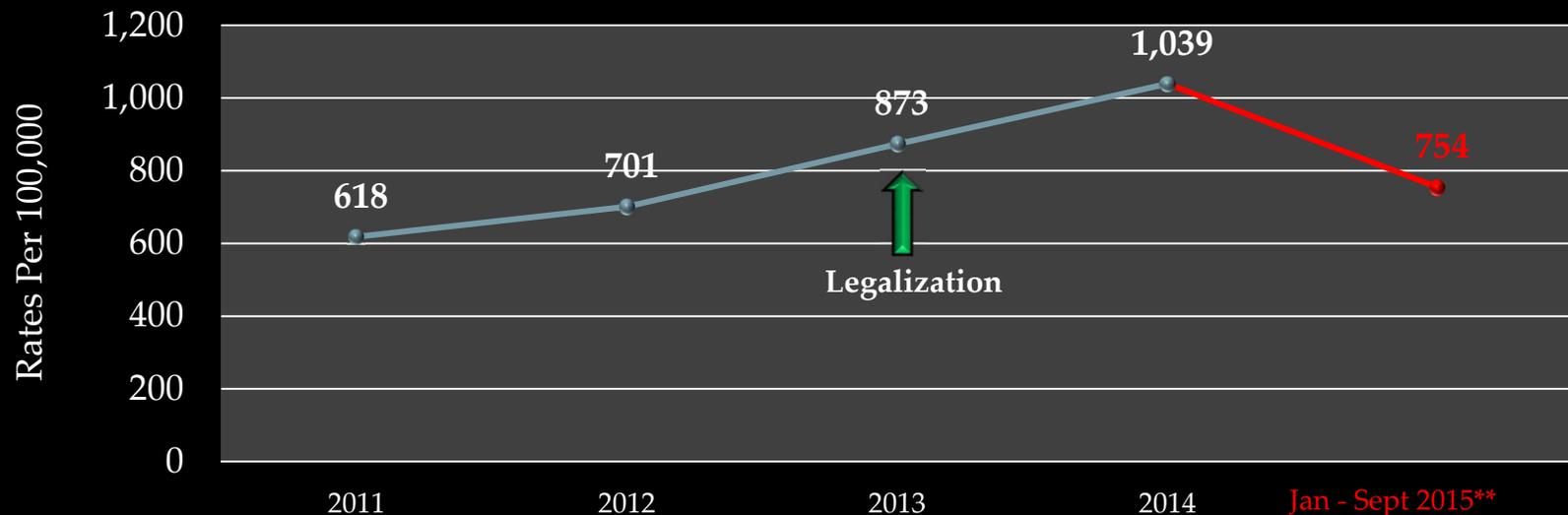
# Colorado Emergency Department Rates Likely Related to Marijuana



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Colorado Emergency Department Rates That Could be Related to Marijuana

## Colorado Emergency Department Rates that Could be Related to Marijuana\*

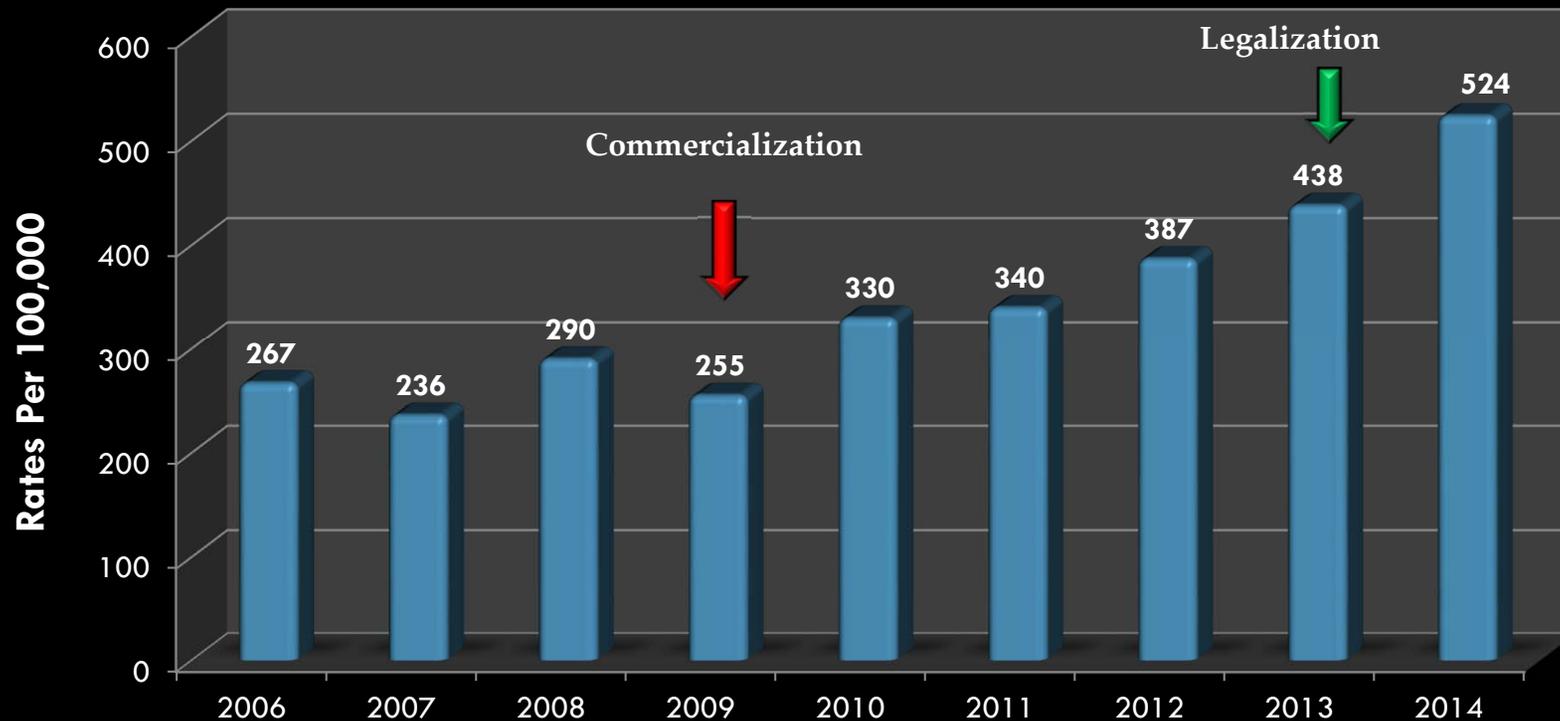


\*Rates of Emergency Department (ED) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes per 100,000 ED Visits by Year in Colorado

\*\*Only 9 months of comparable 2015 data is available

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Monitoring Health Concerns Related to Marijuana in Colorado: 2016

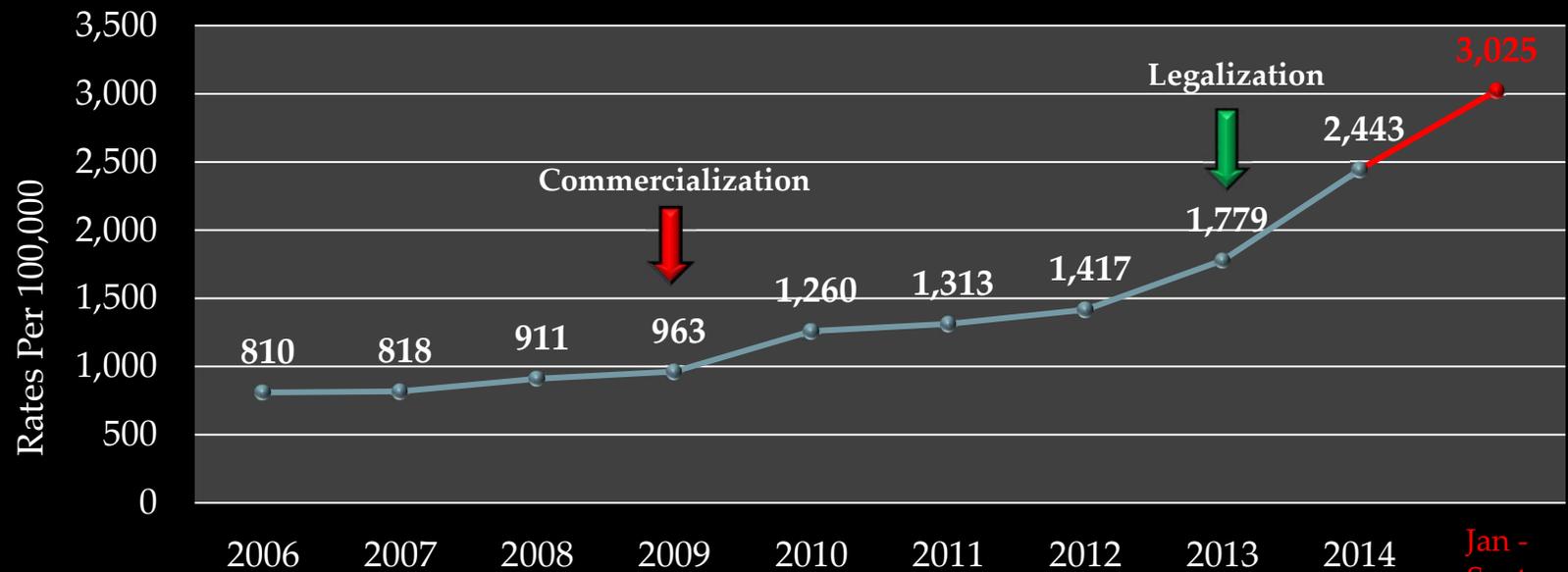
# Colorado Hospitalization Rates Likely Related to Marijuana



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Colorado Hospitalization Rates That Could be Related to Marijuana

## Colorado Hospitalization Rates that Could be Related to Marijuana\*

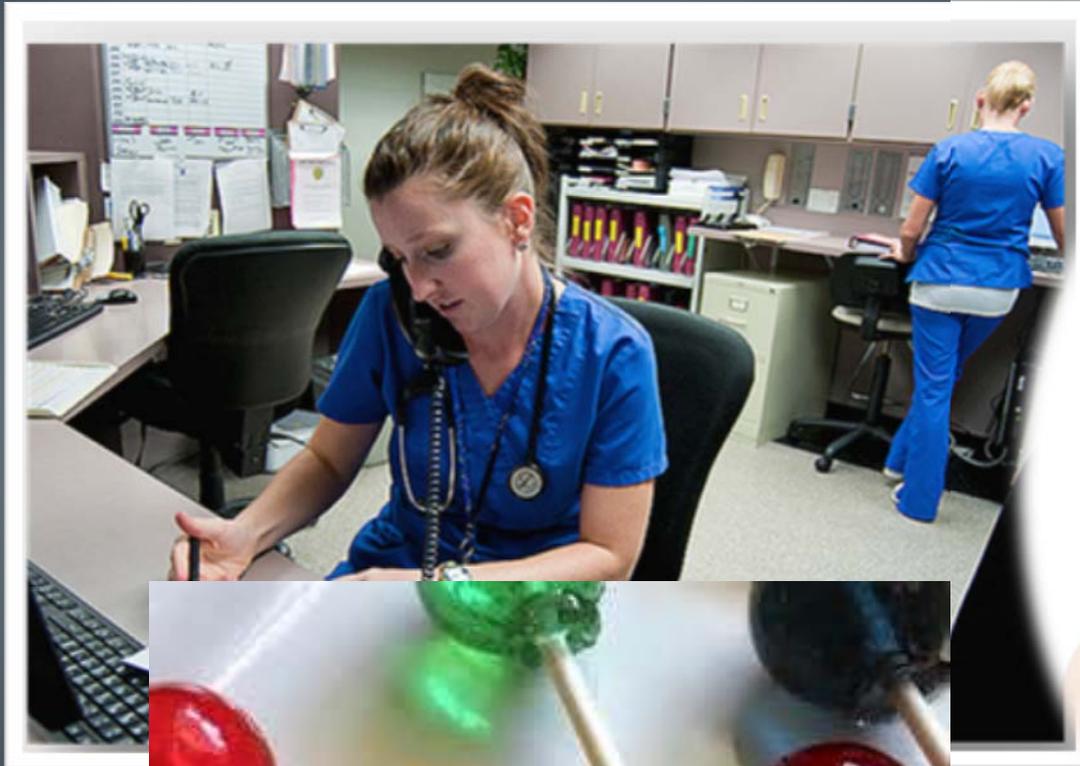


\*Rates of Hospitalization (HD) Visits with Possible Marijuana Exposures, Diagnoses, or Billing Codes per 100,000 HD Visits by Year in Colorado

\*\*Only 9 months of comparable 2015 data is available

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Marijuana and Poison Control Cases



# Rocky Mountain Poison Center

## Number of Marijuana Only\* Exposures Reported

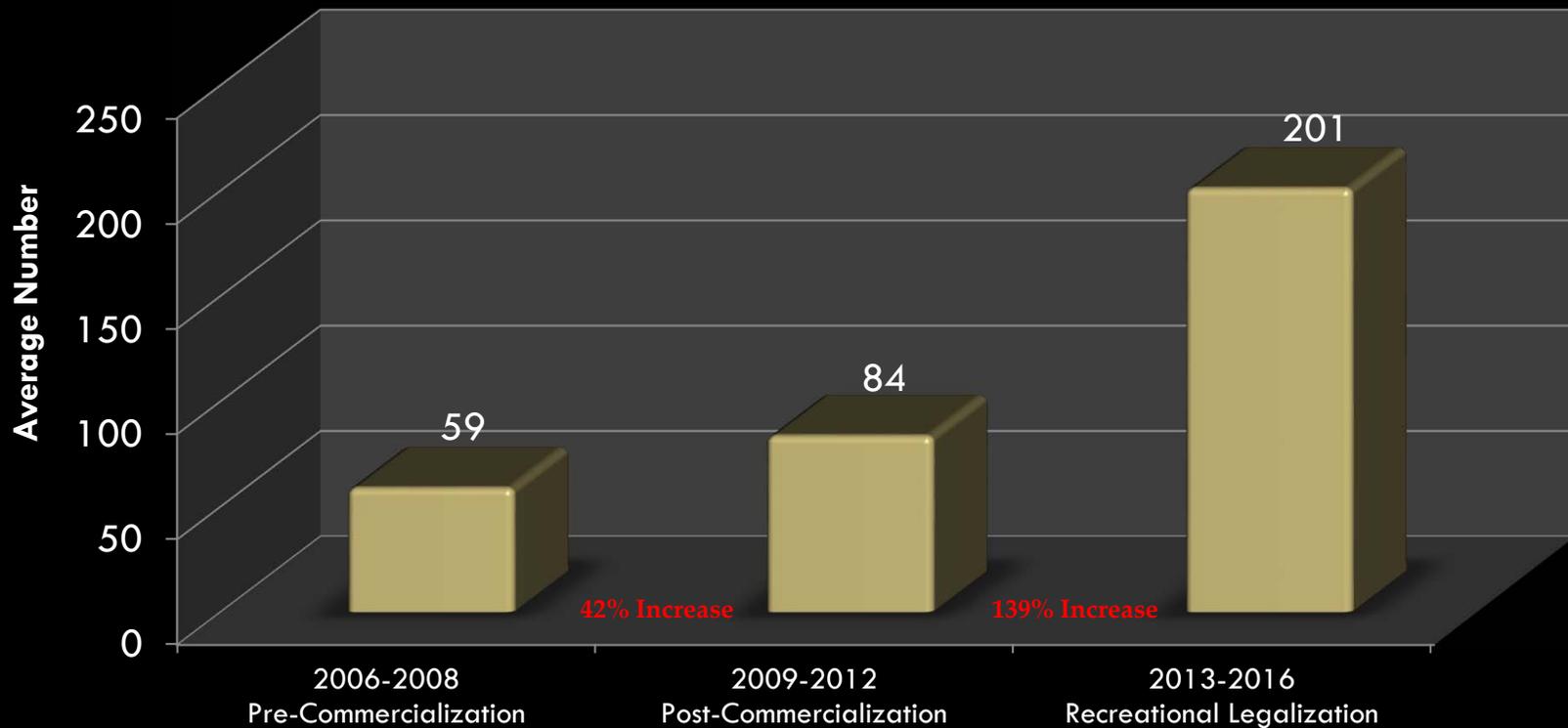


\*Marijuana was the only substance referenced in the call to the poison control center

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment/RMPDC

# Rocky Mountain Poison Center

## Average Number of Marijuana-Related Exposures, All Ages



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

# Marijuana Diversion

## THE DENVER POST

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

CHANCE OF RAIN ▲95° ▼63° 18A • © THE DENVER POST • \$1.50 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER

★★

**DP** ONLINE: Complete Denver Broncos coverage ahead of Thursday night's season opener. »denverpost.com

**Black-Market Marijuana**

# Pot spilling out of state

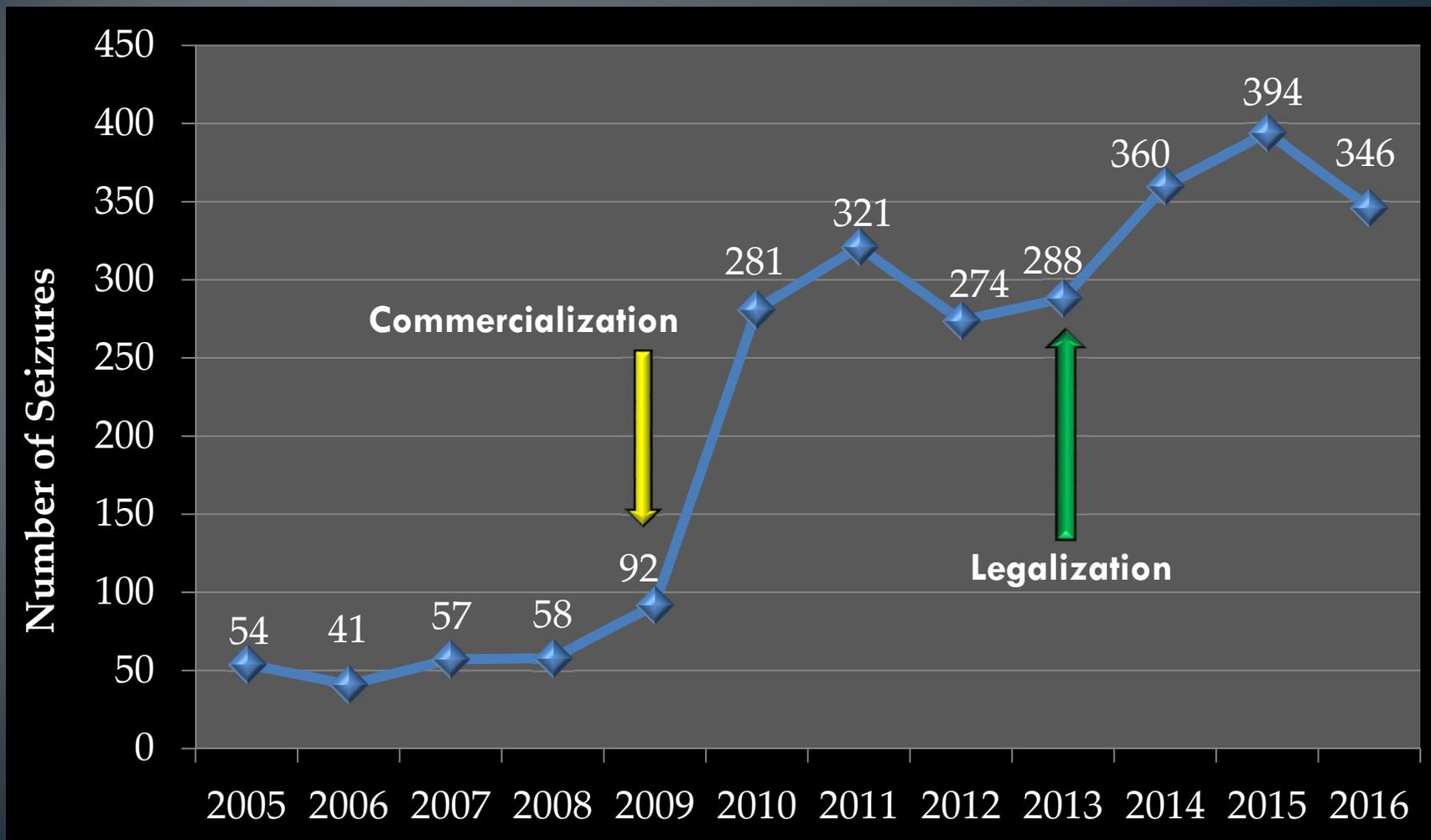
# Marijuana Investigations, 2016

---

## Rocky Mountain HIDTA Colorado drug task forces -

- Completed 163 investigations of individuals or organizations involved in illegally selling Colorado marijuana both in and out of state. These led to:
  - ✓ 252 felony arrests
  - ✓ 7,116 pounds of marijuana seized (3.5 tons)
  - ✓ 47,108 marijuana plants seized
  - ✓ 2,111 marijuana edibles seized
  - ✓ 232 pounds of concentrate seized
  - ✓ 29 different states to which marijuana was destined

# Diversions – By Motor Vehicles



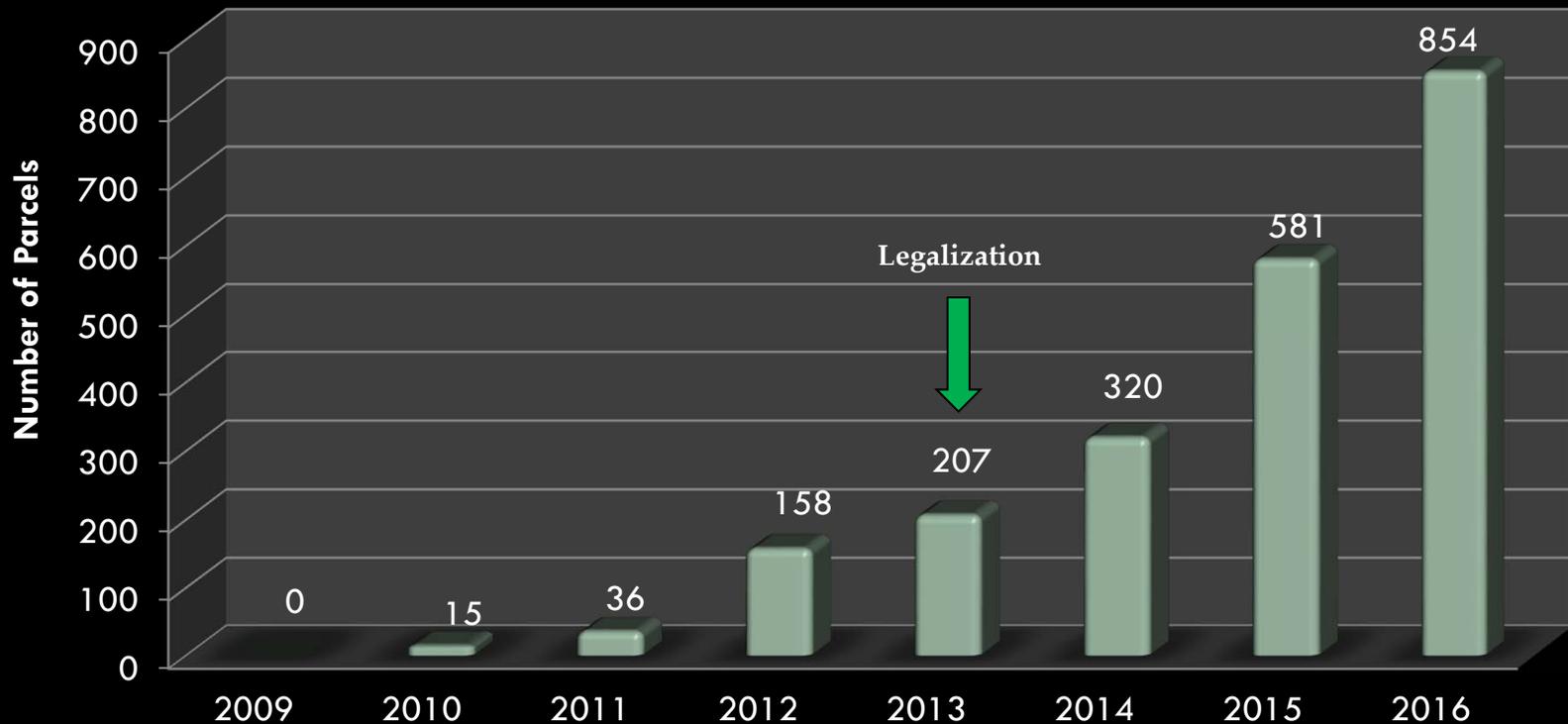
SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System, as of August 15, 2016

# States to Which Colorado Marijuana Was Destined (2016)



# Diversions – By U.S. Postal Service Packages

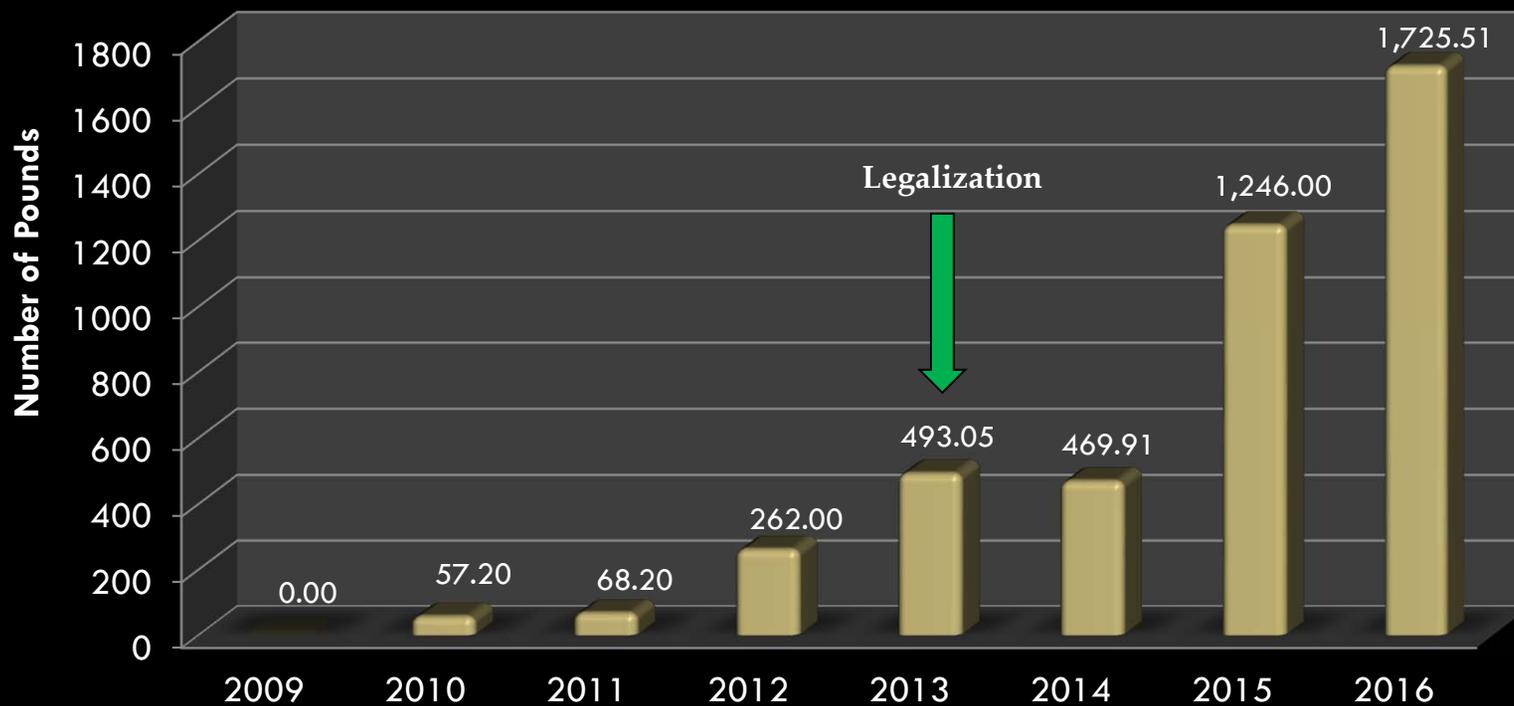
## Parcels Containing Marijuana Mailed from Colorado to Another State



SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service – Prohibited Mailing of Narcotics

# Diversions – By U.S. Postal Service Packages

**Pounds of Colorado Marijuana Seized by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service**



SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service – Prohibited Mailing of Narcotics

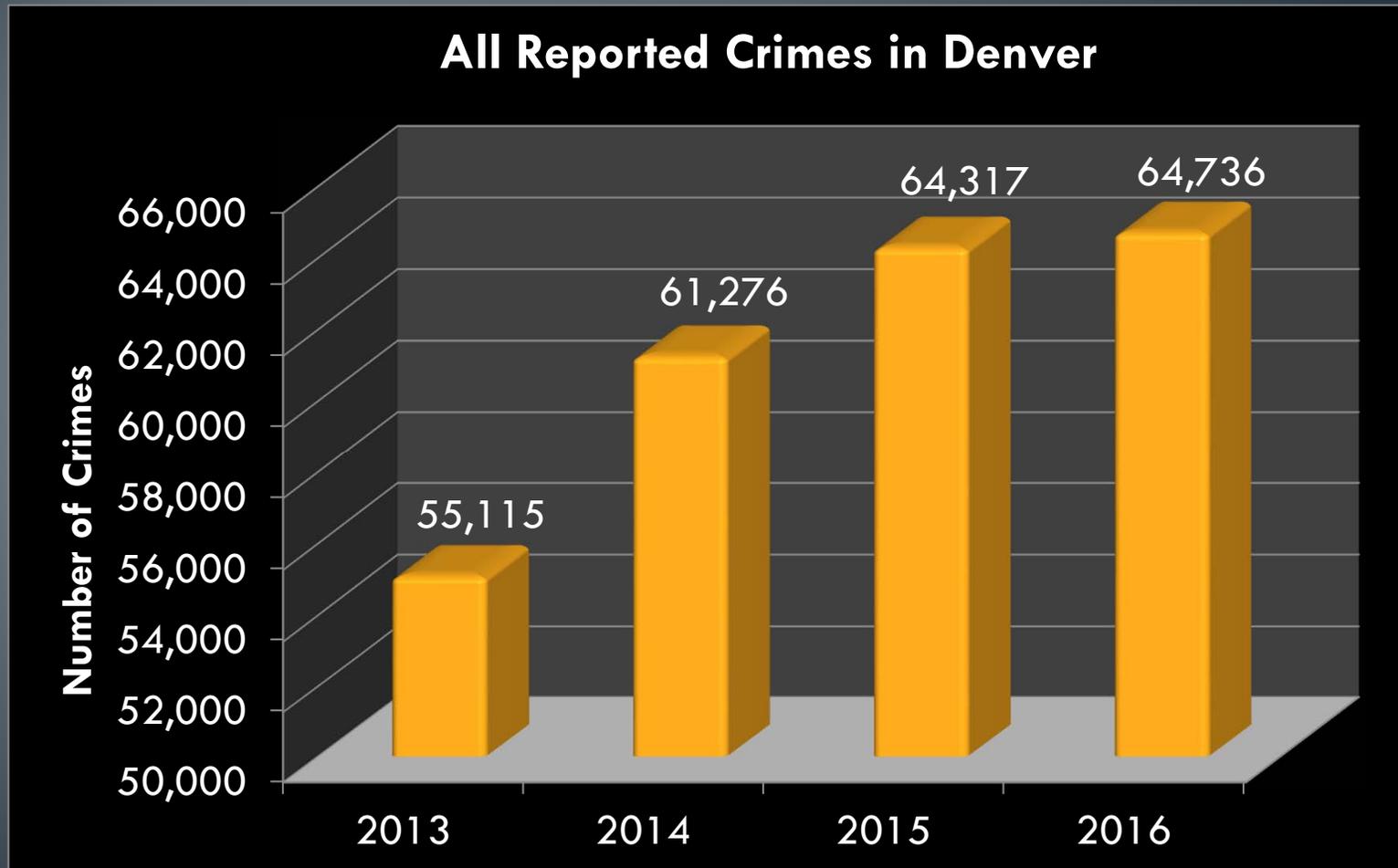
# Crime in Colorado

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Colorado Crime	2009-2012 Post- Commercialization	2013-2016 Legalization	2015-2016
<b>Property Crime</b>	Increased 4.1%	<b>Increased 8.3%</b>	Increased 5.7%
<b>Violent Crime</b>	Increased 1.2%	<b>Increased 18.6%</b>	Increased 5.0%
<b>All Crime</b>	Increased 3.4%	<b>Increased 10.8%</b>	Increased 5.5%

SOURCE: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, <http://crimenco.cbi.state.co.us/>

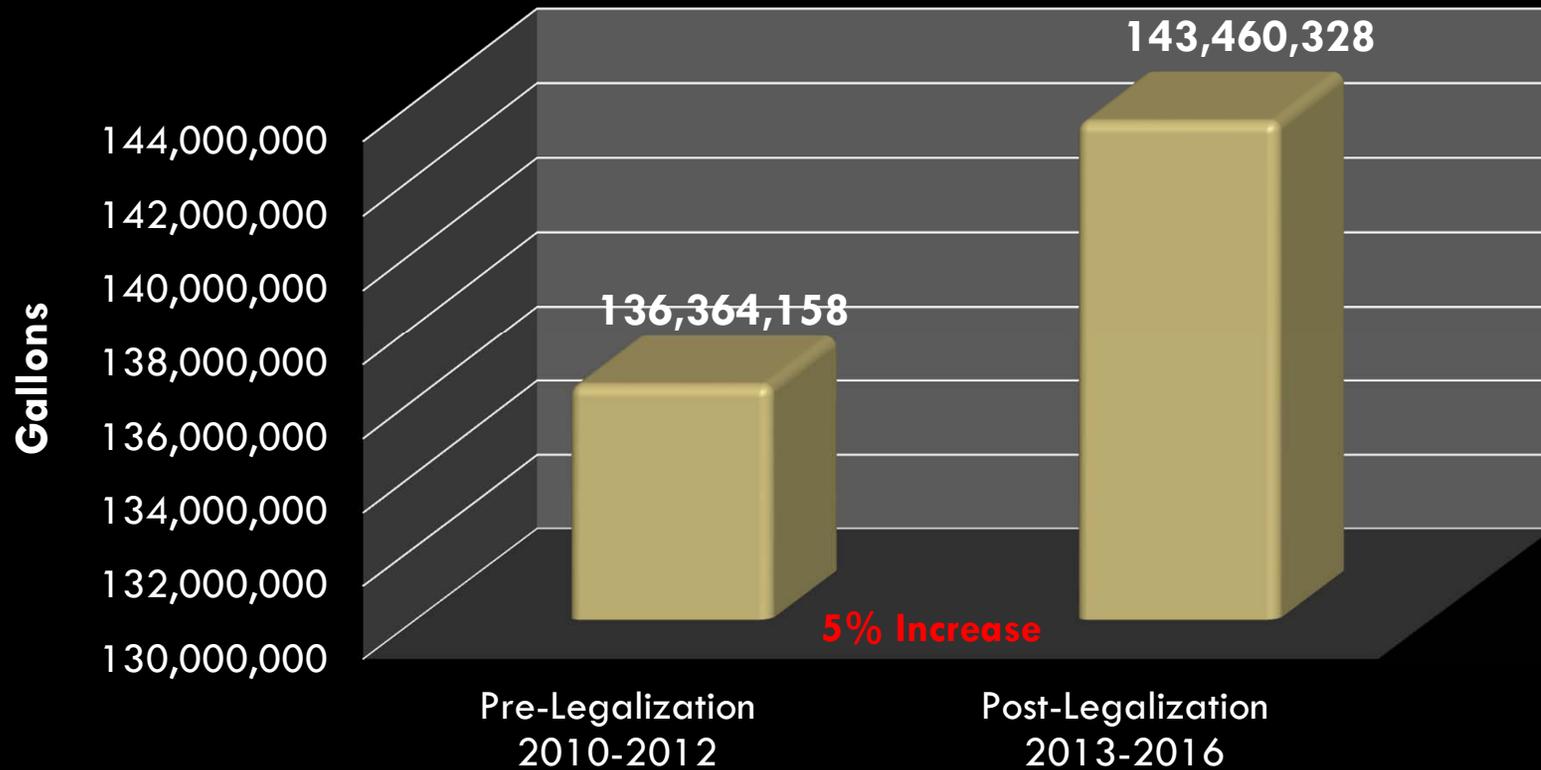
# Crime in Denver



SOURCE: City and County of Denver, March 2017

# Alcohol Consumption

Colorado Average Consumption of Alcohol

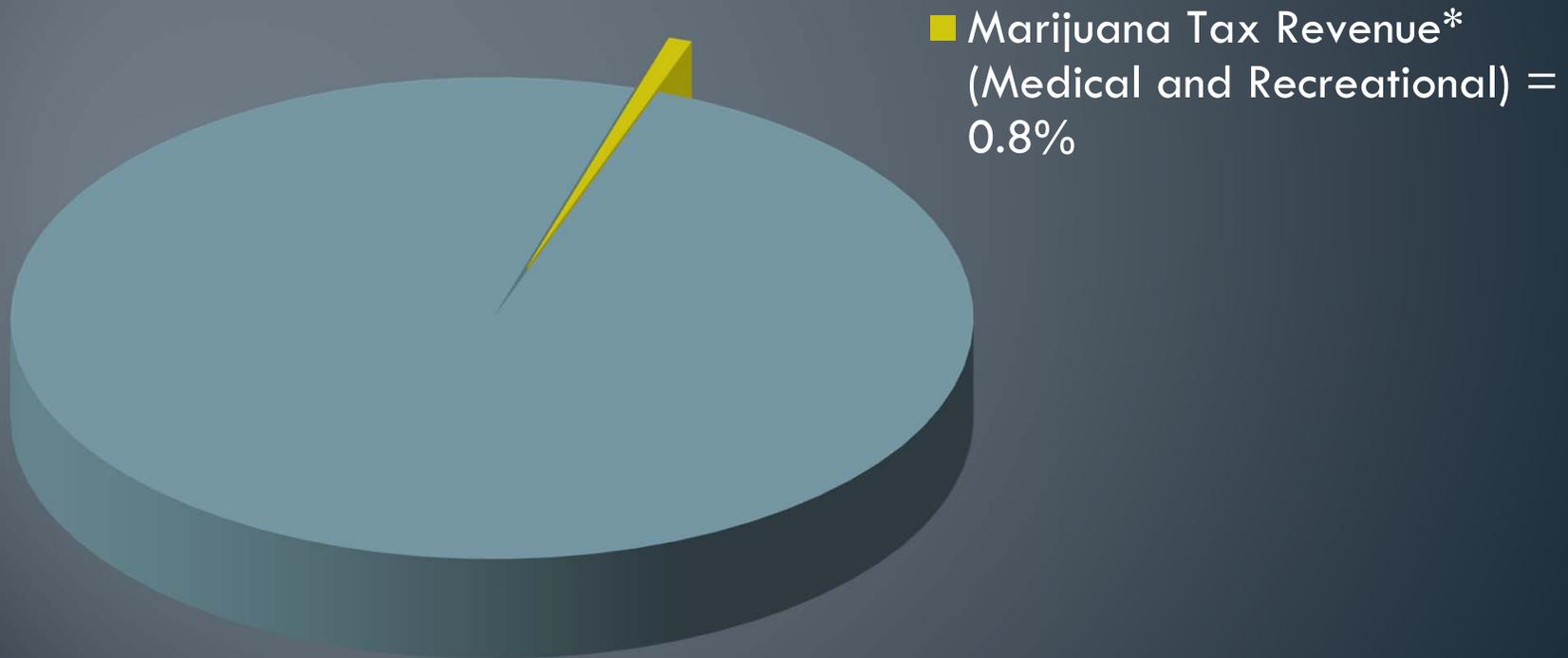


SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Colorado Liquor Excise Tax

# Colorado General Fund

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## Colorado's Statewide Budget, FY 2017



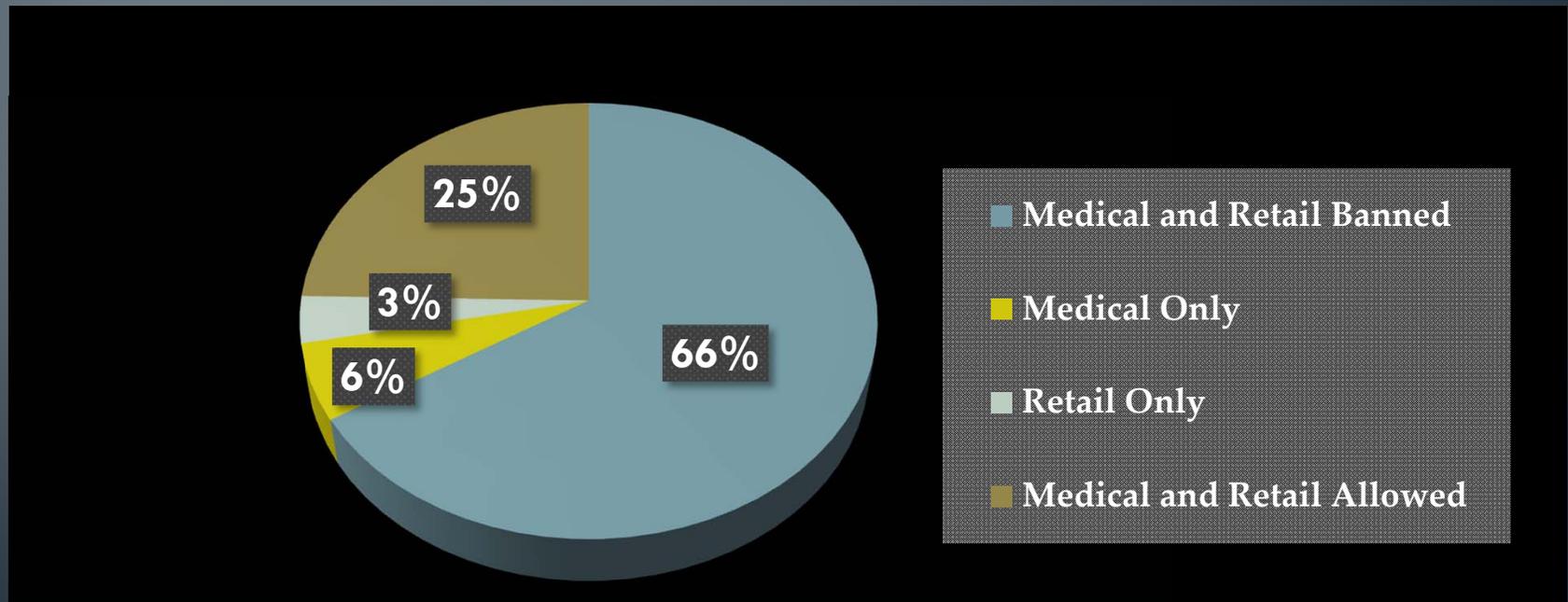
**\*Revenue from marijuana taxes as a portion of Colorado's total statewide budget**

SOURCE: Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting



# Local Response to Medical and Recreational Marijuana in Colorado

Marijuana Licensing Status as of December 31, 2016	Number of Jurisdictions
Medical and Retail Marijuana Banned	212
Medical Marijuana Licenses Only	18
Retail Marijuana Licenses Only	11
Medical and Retail Marijuana Licenses	79



SOURCE: Marijuana Enforcement Division, 2016 Annual Update

# Why We Do This

- Important to Remember with Statistics...



*Thank you for what you do.*

---

*Remember:*

**“Do the Right  
Thing”**