



Florida Police Chiefs Association

Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

Medical Marijuana: Bad for Your Community Fact Sheet

1. Regardless of any state laws, recreational marijuana use is still illegal on the federal level.

- The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration has classified marijuana as a Schedule 1 controlled substance because of its high potential for abuse and the fact that there is no currently accepted national standard for use as a medical treatment.

2. The expansion of marijuana use has a negative impact on surrounding business communities.

- Marijuana use and criminal involvement (other than drug use) are highly related.¹
- Medical marijuana is often sold by storefront dispensaries, not in medically controlled circumstances, and is not monitored by physicians. In other states, the storefront dispensaries have become magnets for crime and increase law enforcement costs.²
- Common byproducts related to dispensaries include drug dealing, sales to minors, loitering, heavy vehicle and foot traffic in retail areas, increased noise, robberies of customers near the facilities and the loss of other commercial businesses that do not want to be located in the vicinity of marijuana dispensaries.³
- According to statistics provided by the city's Department of Safety, Denver recorded 7,000 reported crimes within 1,000 feet of dispensaries in the first six months of both 2012 and 2013.⁴
- A study found employees who tested positive for marijuana have 55 percent more industrial accidents and 85 percent more injuries than non-users, and 78 percent have higher absentee rates than non-users.⁵
- Drug-using employees have been shown to have up to 300 percent higher medical costs, which increase insurance rates for employers and employees.⁶

¹ Source: Kerry M. Green, Elaine E. Doherty, Elizabeth A. Stuart, Margaret E. Ensminger, *Does heavy adolescent marijuana use lead to criminal involvement in adulthood? Evidence from a multiwave longitudinal study of urban African Americans*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, Volume 112, Issues 1–2, 1 November 2010, Pages 117–125, ISSN 0376-8716, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2010.05.018>.

² Source: www.rethinkpot.org

³ Source: www.rethinkpot.org

⁴ Source: www.denvergov.org/Safety

⁵ Drug Free America, Source: http://dfaf.org/assets/docs/What_to_say_about_marijuana_and_the_workplace.pdf

⁶ Source: SmithKline Beecham Healthcare Services. "Substance Abuse in the Workplace II." *Balanced Health Report*. 12-96. Vol. 4., No. 3



Florida Police Chiefs Association

Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

3. Permitting establishments to sell marijuana for medical treatment purposes may impact residential and commercial property values.

- Colorado's Northwest Region, where sales of marijuana are permitted in some counties, had a fifth consecutive quarter of increased new listings over previous years, meaning more people are trying to move away from the region. The region's sales dropped two percent, one of only two regions in the state showing a decline⁷, indicating fewer people want to purchase homes in the area.
- People are moving from Colorado's Metro Region to counties in other regions such as the Northeast, where recreational sales of marijuana are prohibited; sales of homes in the Northeast Region have increased 19 percent.⁸

4. Expanding the use of marijuana, even for medical treatment purposes, may still have negative impacts on the health and safety of the community.

- After marijuana was legalized in Colorado, several fourth-graders were disciplined for selling and swapping marijuana legally purchased by family members. The students were trading and selling the marijuana at their elementary school.⁹
- There are more than 120 ER visits related to marijuana use for every 100,000 people in the United States.¹⁰
- Studies have shown that marijuana plays a significant role in car accidents.¹¹
- Between 2006 and 2010, the Colorado Department of Highway Safety reported that at least 183 people were killed by drivers who tested positive for cannabis, after Colorado legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes.¹²

⁷ Source: Colorado REALTORS/ Home Statistics 2013, <http://www.coloradorealtors.com/will-recreational-marijuana-affect-real-estate/>

⁸ Source: Colorado REALTORS/ Home Statistics 2013 <http://www.coloradorealtors.com/will-recreational-marijuana-affect-real-estate/>

⁹ Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/04/24/colorado-fourth-graders-sell-and-swap-grandparents-pot-at-school/>

¹⁰ Source: Michael Archambault, Elizabeth McNeilly, Pat Roe, Benefit-Cost Analysis of Initiative 502: Legalization of Marijuana in Washington, University of Washington Research

¹¹ Source: *The Impact of Marijuana on Society 2005*, September 2002

¹² Source: <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/alcohol-and-impaired-driving/druggeddriving/drugged-driving-statistics.html>