



PROSECUTORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SUE COLORADO

Last week, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from 3 states filed a lawsuit against Colorado's Amendment 64 — marijuana legalization. The societal costs are staggering while the expected tax revenues "are falling woefully short."

BACKGROUND

LEGAL CHALLENGE TO COLORADO AMENDMENT 64

The "State" of Colorado re Marijuana

- (1) **Marijuana Use in Colorado is 42 percent higher than the national average** (12.70 percent of those aged 12 and older in Colorado in 2012-13 versus 7.40 percent nationally).
- (2) **Marijuana Use in Colorado is third highest in the nation** — and rising (as of 2012-13) (Kansas, by contrast, is 50th highest — 4.41 percent versus Colorado's 12.70 percent).
- (3) **29.5 percent of Coloradans aged 18-to-25 are current marijuana users** (4th highest and rising).
- (4) **11.6 percent of Colorado youth aged 12-17** are current marijuana users. National average — 7.15 percent. What does this say about access? 12-17 — 11.6 percent... 18 and up 12.86 percent (negligible difference).
- (5) **"Exported marijuana"**
 - 58 percent of marijuana buyers in Colorado are from out-of-state.
 - Seized Colorado-sourced marijuana was headed for more than 40 states.
 - As much as 200,000 pounds of Colorado-sourced marijuana already has been distributed to other states.
- (6) **Poison Centers calls for marijuana increased 147 percent** from 2012 to 2014 in Colorado.
- (7) **Use by high-school-aged youth in Colorado is 56 percent above the national average.** Aged 12-17 youth marijuana use increased seven percent from 2012 to 2013.
- (8) **Use by college-aged youth in Colorado is 54 percent above the national average.** Aged 18-25 use of marijuana rose eight percent from 2012 to 2013.

- (9) **Explosions from THC extraction labs** (making high THC content hash oil) increased from 0 in 2012 to 12 in 2013 to 32 in 2014 with injuries of zero in 2012, to 18 in 2013, to 32 in 2014.
- (10) **Emergency-Room admissions for marijuana increased 38 percent** from 2012 to 2013. In the first six months of 2014, ER marijuana-related admissions in Colorado exceeded the 2013 total admissions.
- (11) **Colorado drugged-driving incidents are increasingly marijuana-related**. As reported by the Colorado State Patrol in 2014, 77 percent of those tested were positive with marijuana and with alcohol or other drugs and 40 percent of all tested for DUI were positive for marijuana alone.
- (12) **Children have access to marijuana**. Colorado Amendment 64 says that no one can use marijuana under the age of 21, but 4th-graders were buying and selling marijuana in elementary school (Greeley Elementary School — April 2014), and drug incidents and referrals to law enforcement have increased significantly in Colorado schools.
- (13) **Hospitalizations (as compared to ER admissions) related to marijuana increased 20 percent** from 2012 to 2013.
- (14) **Sales of edibles are huge**. There were 5.59 million units of edible and non-edible marijuana-infused products and retail marijuana products sold in 2014 in Colorado.
- (15) **Tax revenues are falling woefully short**. The Colorado Governor's office estimated that marijuana would bring in \$134 million in tax revenue. The state is currently looking at \$30.6 million in tax revenue due to the massive amount of black-market distribution.
- (16) **Marijuana is being shipped illegally**. U.S. Mail interceptions, with Colorado marijuana destined for 33 other states, increased 1,280 percent from 2010 to 2013.
- (17) **Infant exposure skyrocketing due to marketing of marijuana as candy and cookies**. Marijuana-related exposures for children ages 0-5 have increased 268 percent from 2006-2009 to 2010-2013 within the State of Colorado.
- (18) **Emergency-Room visits for children rising rapidly**. Children's Hospital of Colorado reported two marijuana ingestions among children under 12 in 2009, compared to 14 in the first six months of 2014.
- (19) **School suspensions and expulsions increasing**. Drug-related school suspensions/expulsions increased 32 percent from 2008-2009 through 2012-2013. The vast majority of these were for marijuana violations. ■

OPPOSE the Decriminalization of Marijuana SB 753 & HB 218

