

## Executive Summary

For every dollar gained in tax revenue, Coloradans spend approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization. Costs related to the healthcare system and from high school drop-outs are the largest cost contributors, but many other costs were included as well. Costs of marijuana ranged from accidental poisonings and traffic fatalities to increased court costs for impaired drivers, juvenile use, and employer related costs.

While only 2017 costs were tabulated for this report<sup>1</sup>, whenever possible, the longitudinal data were presented. It is too early for trends to be analyzed; however, as more time passes, more costs are likely to be realized. It is worth noting that this report took a conservative approach to calculating the costs and fees associated with increased marijuana use. When a range of costs or numbers of individuals were presented, the lower value was used.

This study was limited in that longitudinal data and research were not available for items such as educational remediation for those with heavy marijuana use or the long-term impacts on employee productivity. For other items –such as toxicity to pets from ingesting marijuana products –data are simply not available.

There are other costs that could not be calculated. For example, the cost to the environment of the single-use plastics and the stickers that are used by pot-shops for product sales and distribution are not biodegradable and will impact our landfills and oceans.



<sup>1</sup> When 2017 data were not available, the most recent available year's data were used.



## Costs Summary

Amount	Section	Notes
<b>Costs</b>		
(\$381,915,043)	Health	Hospitalizations
(\$31,448,906)	Health	Treatment for cannabis use disorder
(\$593,924)	Health	Burn treatments
(\$697,036)	Health	Low weight babies
(\$54,833,218)	Health	Cost of physical inactivity
(\$3,782,625)	Productivity	Cost of businesses for policy development
(\$3,401,300)	Productivity	Cost to employer for rehabilitation
(\$481,600)	Productivity	Employees costs for rehabilitation
(\$423,362,337)	Productivity	K-12 drop-outs
(\$7,194,600)	Crime	Arrests
(\$18,565,226)	Crime	DUI court-costs
(\$1,170,126)	Crime	Juvenile court filings
(\$3,484,282)	Crime	Adult court filings
(\$3,111,114)	Crime	Denver-only marijuana-related crime
(\$87,014,326)	Crime	Probationers going back for THC violation
(\$5,362,620)	Traffic	Fatal car accidents
(\$18,565,226)	Traffic	DUIs
(\$83,732,717)	Traffic	Car accidents from impaired drivers
(\$1,837,500)	Housing	Evictions due to pot, cost to landlord
(\$130,500)	Tourism	Arrests crossing the border to Colorado
(\$1,130,684,226)		Total
<b>Benefits</b>		
\$247,368,473	Tax Revenue	2017 only
\$127,452,000	Housing	Increased value of homes in areas with legalized marijuana
<b>Amount Spent on Marijuana</b>		
\$1,444,524,486		Collective income spent on marijuana
<b>Lives Lost</b>		
-139	Traffic	Fatal accidents caused by a driver using THC
-180	Health	Suicides where victim had THC in system†

†Marijuana cannot be determined to be the sole cause of lives lost, especially for suicides as there are many contributing factors including mental illness and depression. THC was found in the bloodstream of these victims and can be considered a contributing factor. Data from Reed (2018).

