

Information and Talking Points with Citations Related to Legalizing Cannabis

1. **1 in 6 teens who try marijuana become addicted.** (Wang, Edwards, Anderson, Minkjoff, Hurd)
A 2012 Duke University study demonstrated an average 6-8 point permanent drop in IQ among teens who use marijuana 3-5 times per week (Meier, M.H., et al., 2012;)

2. **More than half of high school students who use marijuana reported they dab marijuana to get high. Dabs are marijuana concentrates with up to 95% THC**
More than 20% of youth marijuana users reported getting their marijuana from an adult
(Healthy Kids Colorado Survey August 2020)

3. **Support for Legalization Drops as much as 20% When Voters Have Multiple Choices vs. Yes/No**

2 polls in New York:

Question: Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal for adults aged 21 and older? **Yes: 60%**

Question: Knowing that personal marijuana possession is already decriminalized and medicalized in New York, which one of the following marijuana policies do you prefer?

Keep current policy: 26%

Keep medical, repeal decriminalization: 22%

Legalize marijuana: 40%

- New York State Emerson Poll: 40% support legalization, down from 60%, when given choices.
- Nationwide Emerson Poll: 43% support for legalization when given choices.
- Nationwide Mason-Dixon Poll: 49% support for legalization when given choices; also found 50% support for federal laws if individual users aren't targeted (only 43% opposed)
- Illinois Mason-Dixon Poll: 23% support for legalization when given choices.

4. **In the 2020 election cycle, 17 state non-medical marijuana laws failed while only five passed. This continues a trend seen over the last 10 years.** *Smart Approaches to Marijuana*

5. **The Dollars Don't Make Sense, Even in Connecticut**

CT's OFA high estimate projects 113.6 million in revenue in the third year of retail sales. Conservative estimates of associated costs of legalizing marijuana for the third year are 216 million. (*The Projected Costs of Marijuana Legalization in Connecticut, 2018. SAM Report*)

6. **A conservative estimate on the costs of legalization of cannabis to businesses in CT include 68 million dollars in additional absenteeism and 20 million o in additional workplace injuries.** (*The Projected Costs of Marijuana Legalization in Connecticut, 2018. SAM Report*)

7. **In CO, almost 70 percent of marijuana users admitted to driving while high** (*CO Dept. of transportation*)
8. **\$200 is the average increase Colorado residents saw in their yearly auto premiums the year after they legalized retail sales of marijuana**
On average, states saw a 10% increase in auto insurance premiums the year they legalized and a 16% increase the following year. (*National Association of Insurance Commissioners (2018)*)
9. **71% of teen visits to the emergency department for marijuana related issues in Colorado are for psychiatric events** (*Kenneth Finn, MD, editor of Cannabis in Medicine*)
10. **In Colorado, African-Americans continue to be arrested for marijuana at more than twice the rate of Whites** (*The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact vol 6, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Report*)
11. **Fewer than 2% of Cannabis Businesses are Minority owned** (*Lessons Learned From State Marijuana Legalization, SAM, 2020-2021 Edition*)
12. **Past year marijuana use was significantly associated with an increase in reporting opioid dependence and past year non-medical use of opioids** (*Journal of Addictive Diseases, September 16, 2020*)
13. **Drug overdoses significantly increased in Colorado after marijuana commercialization** (*Colorado Health Institute*)
14. **Today's cannabis is not natural. "Natural" cannabis had 1% or less THC**