



Recreational Marijuana Public Safety Impact

“Honor-Integrity-Service”



Driving Under the Influence



Colorado

- 76% of the driving under the influence of drugs cases involved marijuana (Colorado State Patrol, 2017).

Washington

- Drugged driving fatalities has doubled since legalizing marijuana (Johnson, 2016).

Oregon

- 50% of drivers assessed by Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) in 2015 tested positive for THC (Oregon Liquor Control Commission, 2015).



Driving Under the Influence

- Significant costs related training officers to become Drug Recognition Experts
 - Three-phase training that can take up to a year to complete
 - » Requires a pre-school exam to ensure officer is qualified for the course
 - » School teaches officers how to conduct 12-step evaluation of a drugged-impaired driver
 - » Certification phase can take up to six months after the classroom training is complete
 - Must be re-certified every two years
 - Small number of officers available to conduct evaluations on the street

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Proficiency of Officers to Detect Cannabis



- Currently no reliable device to allow officers to test whether drivers are impaired by marijuana
- Discussions about re-training K9 Officers to disregard the smell (sniff) of cannabis
- Significant costs related training officers about the regulations of the new law
- Additional training required for officers to learn how to detect marijuana impairment



Public Safety



Increased Crime Rate

- Crime rates in Colorado have increased since legalizing marijuana (Colorado Bureau of Investigation, 2017).
 - 8.3% increase in property crimes
 - 18.6% increase in violent crimes
- Alaska misdemeanor crimes and vehicle thefts have dramatically increased since legalization (Alaska Dept. of Public Safety, 2016).
 - Moved from 16th to 2nd on the national ranking for larceny
 - Moved from 16th to 5th on the national ranking for vehicle theft

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Public Safety



Key Points to Consider

- The density of marijuana dispensaries was linked to increased property crimes and violent crimes
- Although “pot is legal” many are unaware public use is not legal
- The projected cost to purchase cannabis at a dispensary is estimated to cost more than what people have been paying on the street
 - Potential for cartels to continue operations in Illinois
 - Corresponding crimes in other states included robberies, shootings, and other violent crimes