

# Marijuana Legalization- Risks and Costs



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# Current Marijuana Policy in Florida

## Local Decriminalization

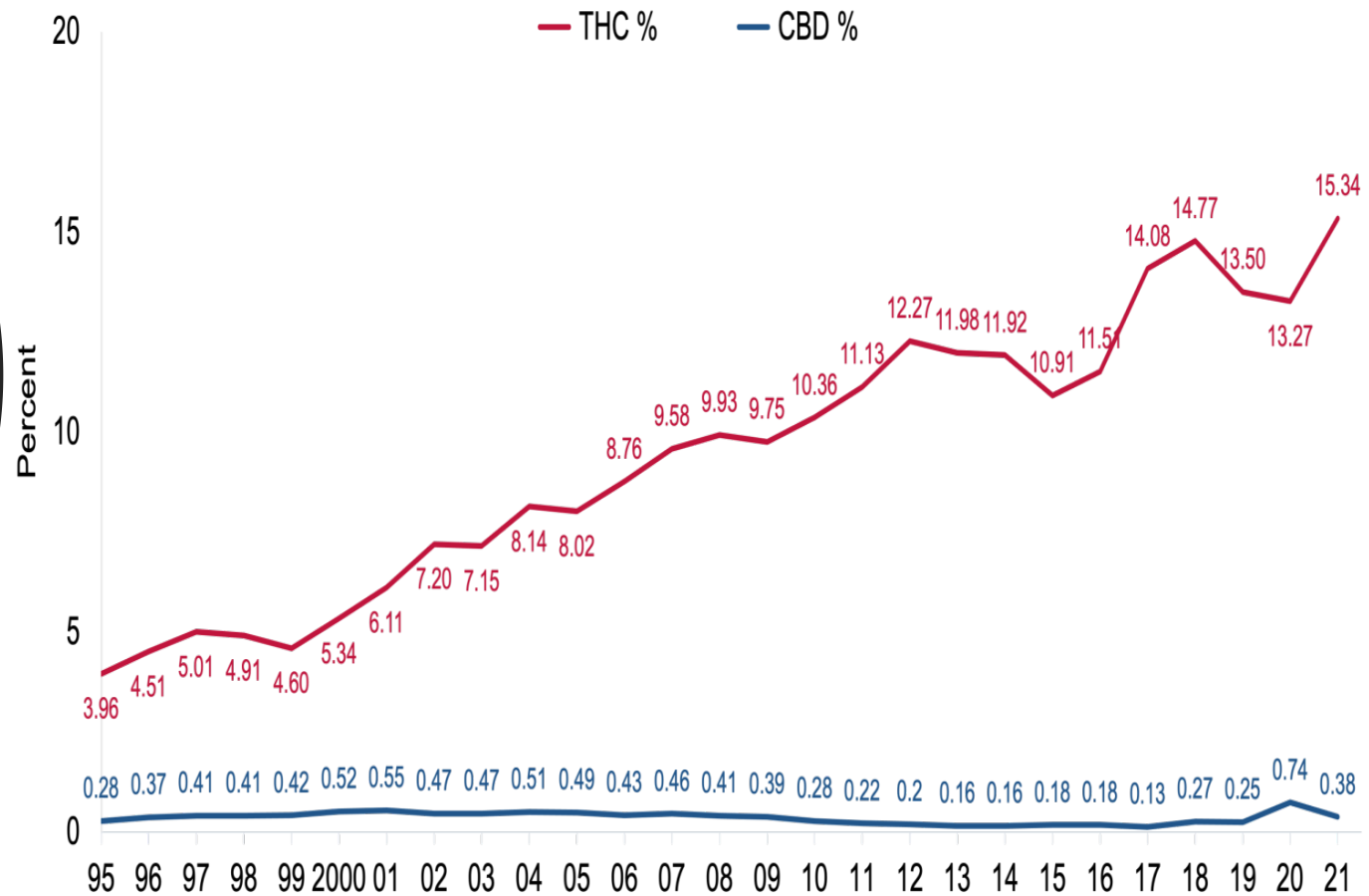
- Local jurisdictions that have enacted municipal laws or resolutions either fully or partially decriminalizing minor possession offenses

## Medical Marijuana

- Amendment 2 passed in 2016 and implementation legislation passed in 2017

# Percentage of THC and CBD in Cannabis Samples Seized by the DEA, 1995-2021

21<sup>st</sup>  
Century  
Marijuana  
-Potency



SOURCE: U Miss, Potency Monitoring Project

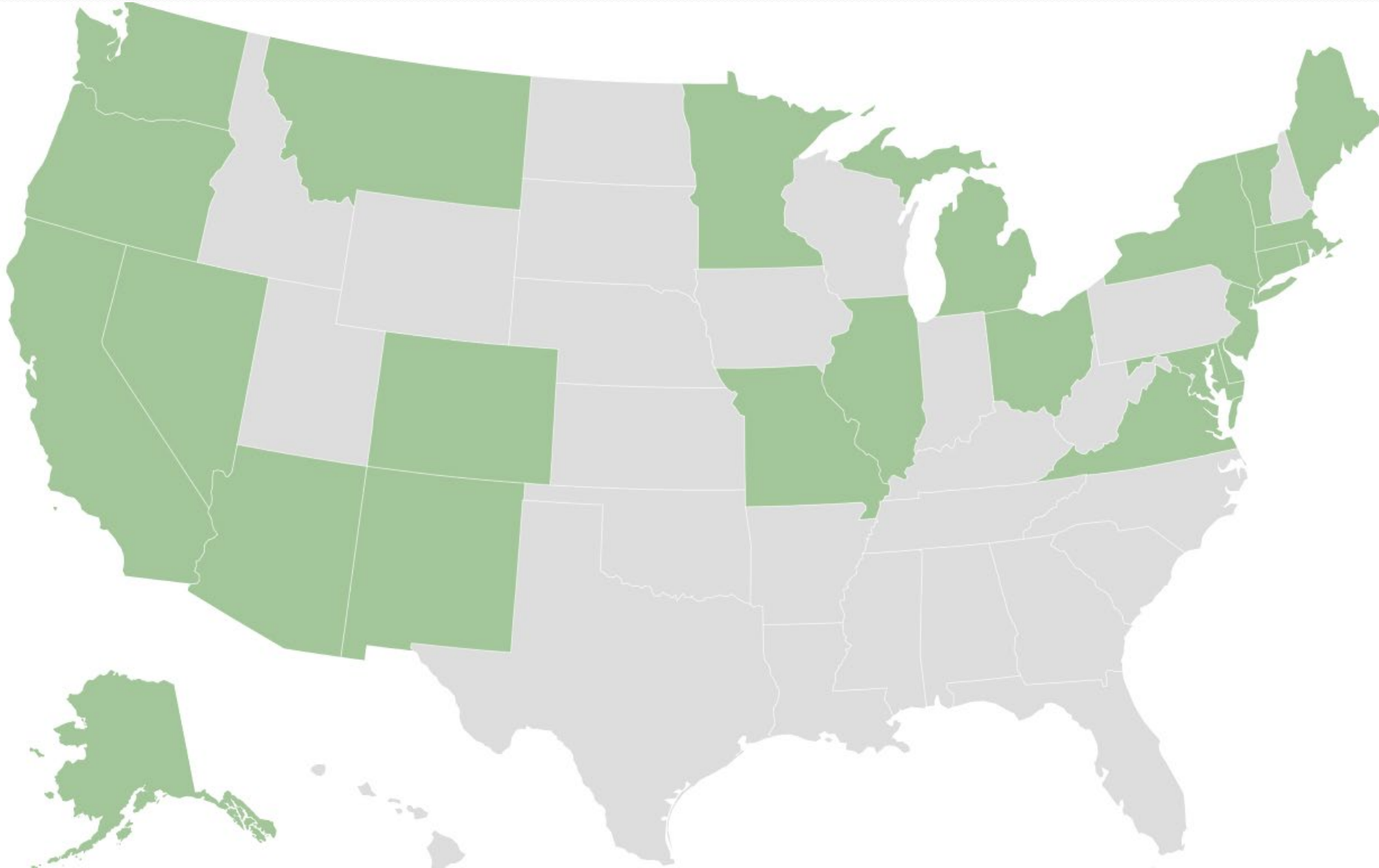




# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Marijuana Products



# 24 Legal Recreational Marijuana States



# Amendment 3 Ballot Summary

- Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date



# Officials and Organizations Opposing A 3



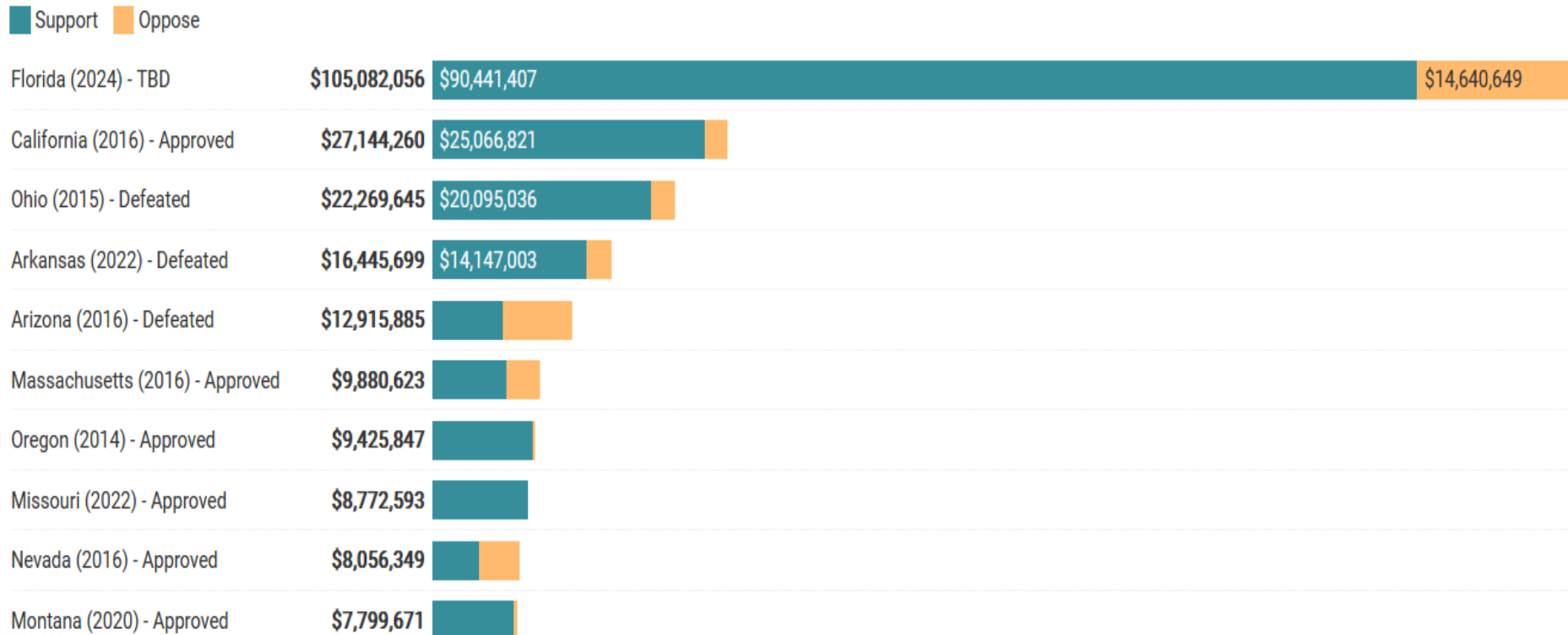
- Florida Baptist Convention, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Drug Free America Foundation, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, Republican Party of Florida, Collier County Commission, Hialeah City Council

# MJ Ballot Measure Campaign Finance

## Marijuana legalization ballot measure campaign finance comparison

The following chart shows campaign finance contributions to support and opposition campaigns for the top ten most expensive marijuana legalization measures.

Contributions to campaigns for and against marijuana legalization measures, top 10 most expensive





# Amendment 3 Political Contributions

- **Vote Yes on 3 “Smart and Safe Florida”**  
**\$90,000,000**; vast majority from medical marijuana giant Trulieve (\$85,000,000)
- **Vote No on 3 PAC: \$14,000,000**



# Amendment 3 Loopholes

- Does *not* prohibit public smoking of recreational marijuana
- Marijuana businesses granted criminal and civil immunity
- Only medical marijuana corporations (22 MMTC currently licensed) can sell recreational marijuana - with no competition from small businesses and **no home grows allowed**
- Creates Big Marijuana monopoly 'Corporate Greed'

# Amendment 3 Talking Points

- Read the entire amendment (4 pages)- not just the ballot summary
- Right to use and sell marijuana should *not* be enshrined in our State Constitution
- Amendments bypass legislative process
- No time, place or manner restrictions are written in amendment language- **public smoking IS allowed**
- Does not allow competition from small businesses or home grows- NOT “freedom”

# Amendment 3 Talking Points

- **Fentanyl-laced street weed is a scare tactic- no** FDLE confirmed cases
- High THC marijuana sold in dispensaries is *not* safe
- Today's marijuana is super-potent, high THC- Addictive and impairing
- Marijuana tax revenue allocations not specified- Revenue *not* allocated to schools and police
- **NO ONE is in prison in Florida for simple marijuana possession**



# Florida Could be Pot Capitol of the US

- Amendment 3 allows **possession of 3 oz of marijuana (85 grams) = drug dealer quantity (150 joints)**
- *Encourages black market*
- **3 ounces is the most allowed for personal possession in the entire country. 3X more than California (1 ounce)**



# A 3: Public Smoking Allowed



# Lessons Learned from State Marijuana Legalization

**THC-involved driving fatalities are skyrocketing**

**Oregon**  
50% of drivers  
assessed  
tested positive

**Washington**  
more than  
doubled

**Colorado**  
138% increase  
since  
legalization

**1 IN 4**

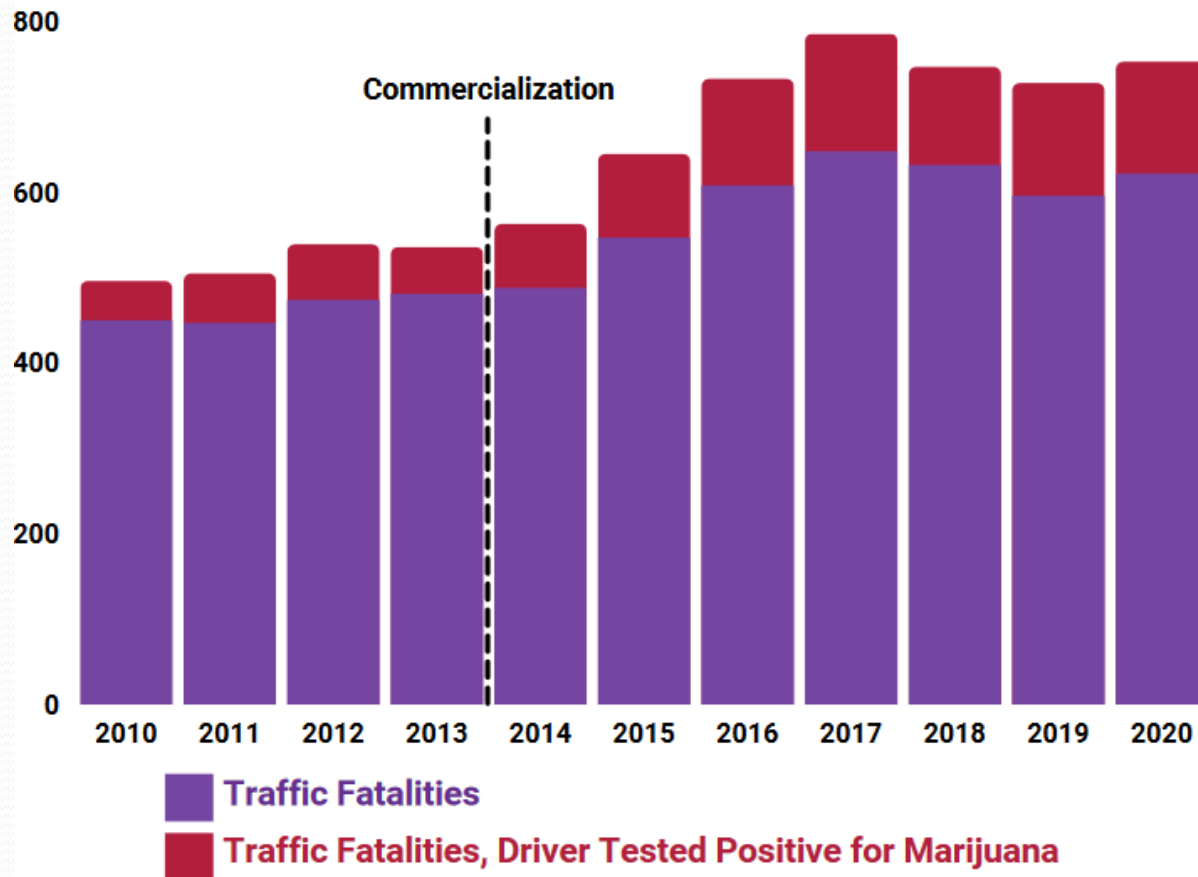
**ROAD DEATHS IN COLORADO  
INVOLVE MARIJUANA**

COLORADO DIVISION OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 2020.



# Colorado Traffic Fatalities

## Colorado Traffic Fatalities where the Driver Tested Positive for Marijuana



Reference: [learnaboutsam.org/resources](https://learnaboutsam.org/resources)



# Colorado or *Crimerado*?

## Crime Rate ↑ Since Legalization in 2014

### Violent crime rate in Colorado and the US

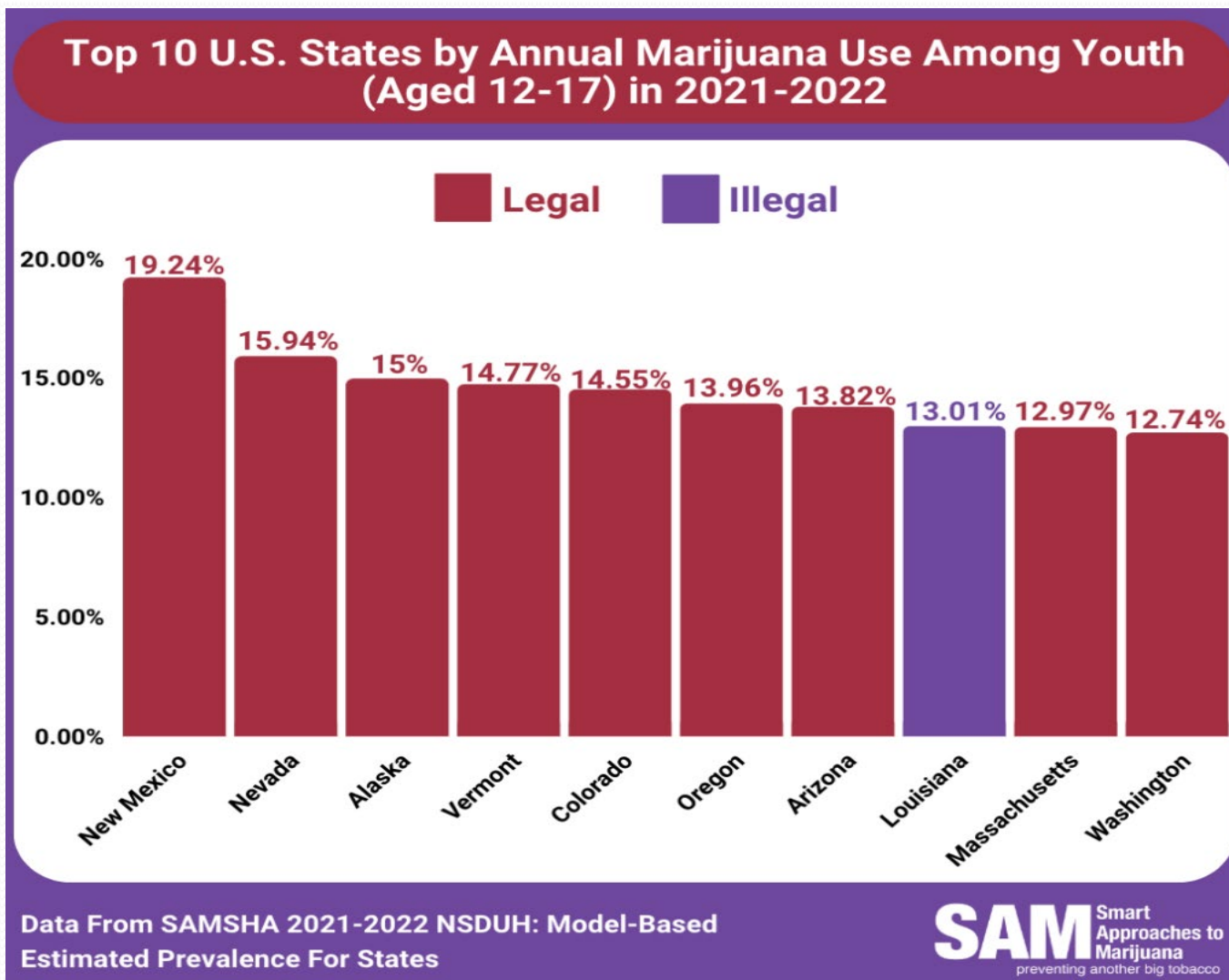
**Rate of Violent Crime Offenses**  
Rate per 100,000 people



 A Flourish chart

Reference: <https://kdvr.com/news/colorado/is-violent-crime-going-up-in-colorado-new-fbi-data-explains/>

# Youth Marijuana Use in Legal States



# Marijuana & Developing Brains

**Marijuana use is harmful to developing brains and is associated with poor mental health outcomes; heavy, frequent use is associated with the greatest risk.**

Use produces changes in gray matter volume in young users, indicating marijuana use may impact the way the adolescent brain develops. (7)

Youth who initiate marijuana use before age 15 are at a greater risk of short and long-term memory deficits. (8)



Adolescent marijuana use is associated with an increased risk for depression, suicide, schizophrenia, and psychosis. (8)

Chronic use is associated with cognitive impairment, IQ loss (9), and reduced educational performance and outcomes. (10)

# Legalization & Black Market

**MYTH: LEGALIZING MARIJUANA WILL ELIMINATE THE ILLICIT MARKET FOR MARIJUANA.**



No state has eliminated or even reduced the illicit market.

Between 70-80% of marijuana sold in California legal pot shops was produced and grown illegally. (*NBC News*, 2022)

Reference: SAM [https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/10-23-SAM-myths-facts\\_GENERAL.pdf](https://learnaboutsam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/10-23-SAM-myths-facts_GENERAL.pdf)



# Costs of Marijuana Legalization



## Economic and Social Costs of Legalized Marijuana

*For every dollar gained in tax revenue, Coloradans spent approximately **\$4.50** to mitigate the effects of legalization*

# Health Risks of Daily Marijuana Use

**Daily  
Marijuana  
Use Leads  
To:**

**3-5x**

higher chance of  
developing head and  
neck cancers

**8x**

higher risk of  
laryngeal cancer

**3x**

more ammonia and higher  
levels of toxic metals in the  
air than tobacco smoke

**3.5x**

more indoor air pollution  
than tobacco smoke

Source: JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery & Atmospheric Environment: X

**SAM** Smart  
Approaches to  
Marijuana  
preventing another big tobacco

# Amendment 3 Resources

- **Vote No on 3 (PAC)** <https://no-on3.com/> is active on social media, now has TV ads and yard signs. Director of Advocacy Jessica Spencer speaks to community groups, debates and gives media interviews
- **Don't Let Florida Go To Pot** <https://www.dontletfloridagotopot.org/> grassroots organizations educating the public on negative outcomes of marijuana legalization in other states as well as current research on health and safety issues
- **Teresa Miller/ No 2 Pot** [rethinkpot.org/amendment-3](http://rethinkpot.org/amendment-3) has resources including handouts and educational business cards
- **Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)** [learnaboutSAM.org](http://learnaboutSAM.org)