Denver Collaborative Model

One City’s Experience
Managing Marijuana
A Letter to Myself:

From: James of December 2019
To: James of December July 2012
A Letter to Myself:
What is about to happen

• Amendment 64 will pass and be signed into law on December 12, 2012, the Feds won’t care.

• MJ Proponents 4 steps to Legalization:
  • Step 1: Legalize it
  • Step 2: Strictly Regulate it
  • Step 3: Tax the heck out of it
  • Step 4: Forget about Steps 2 and 3

• By 2016, Denver will have more MJ Dispensaries than McDonalds, 7-Elevens, and Starbucks- COMBINED
A Letter to Myself: Adjust your Attitude

- MJ is Legal now: get over it and get to work
- Not everyone in the marijuana business is a criminal
- You are still good looking
- Prepare to be surprised
- Pesticides and Edibles are a bigger deal than you think
A Letter to Myself:
Policy Steps

• Begin building relationships with other City Agencies now: **ALL of THEM**.
• Beware of Burning Garages and Exploding Refrigerators
• Begin developing your new policies now, **Do not wait** to begin training your Officers and Employees
• Bet on the Broncos in Superbowl 50 (but never again)
• DATA Vampires will be everywhere
• All sides will spin the Data for their own purposes and they will all want **MORE DATA**.
A Letter to Myself:
Crime Impacts

- Your biggest crime issue with licensed facilities will be business burglaries
- Weed is a cash crop
- The Black market will only get bigger and much more violent
- Residential Outdoor Grows are dangerous and have a high impact on Neighborhoods
- A Drug Endangered Child doesn’t care if MJ is legal or not
Let the City of Denver be your Crystal Ball

Commander James Henning
Denver Police Department
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MARIJUANA PROCESS HAZARDS
LESSONS LEARNED, FIRE REGULATIONS THEN & NOW
FIRE DEPARTMENT BACKGROUND

• Denver Fire Department
  - 1000 uniformed
• Fire Prevention Division
  - 45 uniformed & 26 civilian
• Prevention Staff Dedicated to Marijuana
  - 1 Lieutenant
  - 4 Inspectors
  - 1 Fire Protection Engineer
  - 1 Program Coordinator
• Each marijuana occupancy inspected twice per year
AREA OF MARIJUANA FIRE CODE REGULATION

- Residential Occupancies
- CO-OPS
- Licensed Businesses
- Growing
- Sales
- Marijuana Infused Product Manufacturing
- Testing Labs
RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES

Hash Oil Explosions

• Over 30 hash oil explosions in 2014 Colorado
• Colorado Amendment 64 included “Processing”
• Police vs Fire jurisdiction
• IFC “Unsafe Conditions”
• 2014 Denver / 2016 State Legislation
IRC (Residential Code) Electrical Amendment

- Be ready for change
- Detached grow garage
- Firefighter safety
NON-COMMERCIAL MARIJUANA

Co-Ops (Community Gardens)

- Personal growing & plant counts (6/12)
- Care Givers
- Commercial Building Use
- Unpermitted occupancy / construction
- Crime
- Inspections
- Denver Zoning Code Change
  - Max 36 plant count per zone lot
INSPECTOR SAFETY

Equipment carried

• Radios
• Gas detectors
  - 5 gas (O2, LFL, CO, CO2, SO2)
  - Tracking output for personal exposure
• Grow light sun glasses, Tyvek coveralls, masks
• Vanometer
• Ipad
LPG EXTRACTIONS

LPG Extraction Rooms (2010)

• Closed loop
  = No Release of Flammable Gas?
• Non-Classified Electrical
• 1 cfm/sqft low exhaust
  = Hazardous Exhaust?
• Hydro Carbon Alarm
• Engineered extractors
FIRE CODE CHANGES NEEDED

- 2015 Meetings with industry to develop new Denver Fire Code chapter
- 2016 Denver Fire Code adopted with retroactive compliance date
- 10/1/2016 come and went
  - Cease operation orders issued
  - Temporary operation approvals
  - Engineering analysis
CO2 Enrichment:
• Fuel fired generator or compressed CO2 to elevate CO2 levels to produce greater crop yields
• Typical range is 1,500 ppm or less of CO2 in grow rooms
• OSHA 8-hour TWA limit for human occupancy in a CO2 environment is 5,000 ppm
• 40,000 ppm CO2 is the Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) by the CDC.
CO2 HAZARDS IN GROW OCCUPANCIES

CO2 Enrichment:
- Be ready for lots of questions
CO2 HAZARDS IN GROW OCCUPANCIES

CO2 Enrichment:
• CO2 industry permitting and inspections challenges
• CO2 emergency responses
  - Gas detection for all 1st responding apparatus
KEY POINTS

• Clearly communicate requirements and engage with the industry

• Be ready for change

• Necessity of fire inspections

• Codes are slowly catching up
Denver Collaborative Model

One City’s Experience
Managing Marijuana

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Legalization in the United States
2000
Colorado voters approve Amendment 20, allowing the use of medical marijuana.

Voter Results: Colorado 54-46; Denver 64-36

2005
Denver voters approve an initiated ordinance to allow possession of up to 1 oz. of marijuana. (The initiative did not affect state law.)

Voter Results: Denver 54-46

2007
Denver voters approve an initiated ordinance making the enforcement of marijuana laws against private use and possession by adults the city’s “lowest law enforcement priority.”

Voter Results: Denver 57-43

2010
Denver adopts ordinance for regulation and licensing of medical marijuana businesses

2012
Colorado voters approve Amendment 64, decriminalizing adult possession of marijuana and establishing a regulated and licensed commercial marijuana distribution system.

Voter Results: Colorado 55-45; Denver voting 66-34

2013
Denver adopts ordinance for regulation and licensing and an ordinance for taxation of retail marijuana businesses.

2014
Retail sales of marijuana begin in Denver. Office of Marijuana Policy established.

2016
Denver voters approve an initiated ordinance to allow the social use of marijuana in designated consumption areas.

Voter Results: Denver 54-46

2018
First Licensed Marijuana Consumption Establishment

2019
Turn Over a New Leaf and Cannabis Equity

Next challenges:
Delivery
Hospitality
Research and Development
Hemp
State vs. Denver Responsibilities

The State regulates matters of statewide concern
E.g., licensee requirements, operational requirements, consumer safety, advertising, packaging, labeling, testing, cultivation handling and packaging, etc.

Local municipalities regulate matters of local concern
Can provide additional requirements related to time, place, manner and number

Local municipalities can opt in or opt out
Denver opted in and added a local licensing scheme, distance requirements, public hearing process, a phase-in period, specific agency regulations, special sales tax, etc.
OMP: Coordination of Agencies

Multiple City agencies are working collaboratively on marijuana issues:

**Citywide Coordinated Marijuana Team:**
- Marijuana Policy Team
- Community Planning & Development
- Excise & Licenses
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Department of Environmental Health
  - Public Health
  - Environmental Quality
- City Attorney’s Office

**Citywide Partners:**
- Treasury Division
- Parks & Recreation
- Denver 3-1-1
- Technology Services
- Budget and Management Office
- Office of Children’s Affairs
- Office of Behavioral Health
- Denver International Airport
Denver Marijuana Landscape

• Non-licensed
  (Locations mostly unknown, not supposed to be for profit, not taxed)
  – Medical MJ Collectives
  – Retail MJ Collectives
  – Caregivers
  – Home Grows
  – Illegal Operations

Illegal collective grow
Denver currently has **1116** active marijuana business licenses. That’s **36%** of the state’s marijuana licenses. Denver is home to **13%** of the state’s population.

Denver: Marijuana Business Licenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensed Business</th>
<th># of Licenses</th>
<th># of Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grows</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stores + Centers</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIPs</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Facilities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transporters</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1116</strong></td>
<td><strong>476</strong>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some locations have several licenses and license types at one location. E.g., one location could have both medical and retail grow licenses, a MIP license and a retail and medical store license. Therefore, the total number of locations will not be a sum of the various location types.
Denver Marijuana Businesses: Path to licensing

- ZONING PERMIT PROCESS (Community Planning and Development)
- LICENSE APPLICATION (Excise and Licenses)
- PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS* (Excise and Licenses)
- INSPECTION PROCESS (Multiple agencies: Excise and Licenses, Environmental Health, Fire Prevention, Community Planning and Development)
- LICENSE ISSUANCE PROCESS (Excise and Licenses)

**Building permits are required in order to modify the premises. Building permits must be finalized before a business license can be issued. However, you may apply for building permits and a business license at the same time.

**Public hearings are only required for Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Retail Marijuana Stores.
Community Planning and Development: Zoning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marijuana Business Type</th>
<th>Corresponding Zoning Land Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivation Facilities (growing)</td>
<td>Plant Husbandry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Stores &amp; Medical Centers (selling)</td>
<td>Retail Sales, Service &amp; Repair, All Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana-Infused Products (MIP) manufacturing (making)</td>
<td>Commercial Food Preparation &amp; Sales, General Manufacturing or Heavy Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Facilities (testing)</td>
<td>Laboratory, Research, Development and Technological Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Denver Tips:

- Where in the city should those business go?
- Some cannabis business are industrial activity, some are agricultural, other retail.
- Indoor X outdoor grows – Safety X Sustainability
- Concentration of business in industrial, lower income neighborhoods.
- Distance restrictions: Schools, day care, residential areas, drug treatment facilities
- Building: Mechanical, bumbling, electrical, construction.
- Affordability
Community Planning & Development: Building

• **Building Inspections**
  - Inspects all new construction including tenant finishes
  - Construction inspectors for mechanical, plumbing, electrical and construction

• **Neighborhood Inspections**
  - Zoning and property inspections
  - Responds to complaints around things such as trash and too much signage.

*Home growing in detached garage*
Fire Department

Denver tips:

- Construction without permits.
- Improper electrical work.
- Mold, mildew.
- Pesticides, fumigation, sulfur burns.
- Air Quality.
- Impaired means of egress.
- Life safety concerns: occupants and emergency responders.
- Non compliant locks.
- Extraction processes.
- Explosions.
- CO2
- Hazmat Storage
- Closed loop systems
Public Health

Denver Tips

- Understanding production processes and health/safety concerns.
- Unapproved equipment.
- Industry sometimes lacks food safety, quality control and manufacturing expertise.
- Establishing clear policies that prioritize inspector safety.
- “Food” includes MJ concentrates if ingested.
- Odor control
- Sustainability: water and electrical use
- Product THC potency
- Mold, pesticide and microbials
- Hospitalization and overconsumption
Licenses

Denver tips:

- Regulatory signage
- “Limited Access” areas
- Alarm system
- Security surveillance
- No product visible from outside
- Advertising regulations
- Plant tagging
- Seed to sale tracking
Compliance Tools

Goal is education and voluntary compliance.

Important to consistently use enforcement tools to achieve compliance.

- Orders to Comply
- Administrative Citations
- Criminal Citations

Food disposals, recalls, facility closures, facility open but process banned, product or equipment removed.

Sanctions against license – heavy fines

Criminal charges – Sweet Leaf
A look into the future
Social Consumption

In November 2016 Denver voters approved Initiative 300, granting individuals the ability to apply for a permit to operate a designated MJ consumption area at any type of business or event.

Due to State rules, it is still hard to open a consumption venue in Denver.

Currently we have 2 licensed consumption lounges in the City.

In 2019, the State of Colorado approved Hospitality and Hospitality and sales licenses.

Allows for mobile Hospitality facilities (eg., tour buses)

Now the State and Cities that opt-in will be able to issue licenses for cannabis consumption venues.

Opt-in options include a possible exemption from the CCIAA that would allow smoking and vaping of marijuana indoors.
Denver’s Marijuana Designated Consumption Area License

Federal Guidance
- MJ illegal under federal law
- “Strict rules and robust enforcement”
- 2012 - Feds shut down 47 MMJ dispensaries within 1000’ of schools

State Laws and Rules
- Not allowed on liquor-licensed premises
- Not allowed on marijuana-licensed premises
- Only marijuana-licensed businesses allowed to sell MJ; so must be BYOC
- No smoking indoors (Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act)
- No public consumption of MJ

Initiative 300 Ordinance Language
- Have to have an existing underlying business or event
- Can’t be within 1000’ of a school
- Evidence of Community Support
- Community Engagement Plan
- Health and Sanitation Plan
- Responsible Operations Plan
- Only 21+

EXL Rules
- Fleshe out I-300 requirements and State laws and rules
- Not on public property
- Can’t be within 1000’ of childcare, city-owned pools and rec centers and treatment facilities
Delivery

In 2019 the State of Colorado approved a delivery license.

This will allow for medical patients to get marijuana delivered to their homes in 2020 and recreational users in 2021.

Wrinkles:
- Can they cross city lines?
- Insurance?
- Security?
- Bicycles? Motorcycles?
- Enclosed, locked container?
Hemp & the “Farm Bill”

2019 Farm Bill

- Removed hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act
- Including all parts of the cannabis plant, including seeds, with a THC concentration of 0.3% or less
- Allows a state’s department of agriculture to submit a plan for monitoring and regulating production of hemp to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Denver is a dense urban area

- Currently doesn’t allow more than 36 plants in any one zone lot
- If we do create a grow and manufacture license for this new industry, it could only be grown indoors
Cannabis Equity

What is Equity?

➔ Equality is treating everyone the same regardless of their specific requirements.
➔ **Equity*** occurs when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved.
➔ Inclusion is an action, it is how we create environments for everyone to contribute and participate in an authentic and intentional manner.

*Definition according to GARE

For decades, the War on Drugs has had a significant impact in the United States and in Colorado, with a disproportionate impact on communities of color and historically marginalized groups.

The challenge of today’s post-legalized world is also our opportunity: As we move toward normalizing this new and growing industry, we must take the opportunity to harness its potential to restore historic inequities.

The legalization of adult-use cannabis presents an opportunity to learn from the past and to create accountable mechanisms to achieve shared prosperity.
Denver’s “Turn Over a New Leaf” Program:

- Program to mitigate the negative effects of low-level marijuana convictions obtained prior to legalization.
- Low level marijuana convictions vacated, cases dismissed, and sealed.
- Free Program
- 5 clinics in 2019
- Online application process
- Training for jail staff to reach incarcerated population
Thank You!

Web: Denvergov/MarijuanaInfo
Email: MarijuanaInfo@Denvergov.org

Commander James Henning, Denver Police Department
Brian Lukus, Fire Protection Engineer, Denver Fire Department
Marley Bordovsky, Director, Prosecution Section, Denver City Attorney’s Office

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brian.lukus@denvergov.org
marley.bordovsky@denvergov.org
Thank You!

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByKp_geuniERWWpVNXJGQzJHMGc

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByKp_geuniERWWpVNXJGQzJHMGc
Financial Impact: Sales, Revenue, Expenditures and Jobs
## Marijuana Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DENVER MARIJUANA SALES</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RETAIL</td>
<td>$149.7M</td>
<td>$219.3M</td>
<td>$291.5M</td>
<td>$377.5M</td>
<td>$392.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICAL</td>
<td>$180.1M</td>
<td>$191.4M</td>
<td>$212M</td>
<td>$206.4M</td>
<td>$155.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$329.8M</td>
<td>$410.7M</td>
<td>$503.5M</td>
<td>$584M</td>
<td>$548M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL YOY% CHANGE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLORADO MARIJUANA SALES</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RETAIL</td>
<td>$303.2M</td>
<td>$577.5M</td>
<td>$861.6M</td>
<td>$109.1B</td>
<td>$121.4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICAL</td>
<td>$380.3M</td>
<td>$418.1M</td>
<td>$445.6M</td>
<td>$416.5M</td>
<td>$332.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$683.5M</td>
<td>$995.6M</td>
<td>$130.7B</td>
<td>$150.8B</td>
<td>$154.6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL YOY% CHANGE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marijuana - % of Colorado GDP

Approximately $1.5 Billion in sales in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>$306 B</td>
<td>$318 B</td>
<td>$324 B</td>
<td>$343 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MJ Sales</td>
<td>$699 M</td>
<td>$996 M</td>
<td>$1.3 B</td>
<td>$1.5 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of GDP</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
<td>0.31%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data provided by the State of Colorado and the US Department of Commerce
### Retail Marijuana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State Special Sales Tax</th>
<th>Denver Special Sales Tax</th>
<th>Denver Standard Sales Tax</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(7/1/17-10/1/18)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.65%</td>
<td>22.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Retail Marijuana (as of 1/1/19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State Special Sales Tax</th>
<th>Denver Special Sales Tax</th>
<th>Denver Standard Sales Tax</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(as of 1/1/19)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>4.31%</td>
<td>24.81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Medical Marijuana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State Special Sales Tax</th>
<th>State Standard Sales Tax</th>
<th>Denver Special Sales Tax</th>
<th>Denver Standard Sales Tax</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(as of 1/1/19)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>4.31%</td>
<td>7.21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marijuana Revenue in Denver

Note: 2.0% increase for dedicated affordable housing tax in Oct. 2018.
## Denver Marijuana Revenue as a % Denver General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$1,124,674,402</td>
<td>$1,204,306,900</td>
<td>$1,238,208,804</td>
<td>$1,309,418,915</td>
<td>$1,343,348,264</td>
<td>$1,410,245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of General Fund Revenue</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>2.57%</td>
<td>3.02%</td>
<td>3.41%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2019 Retail Marijuana Special Sales Tax and State Shareback Allocation

- **Regulation:** $2,576,163, 8%
- **Enforcement:** $2,647,228, 8%
- **Education:** $3,590,635, 11%
- **Affordable Housing:** $11,200,000, 35%
- **Opioid Intervention:** $3,115,961, 10%
- **Improvement to City and Facilities:** $8,950,000, 28%
General Fund Revenue after Regulation, Enforcement, Education

- **2014**: $10M
- **2015**: $20M
- **2016**: $30M
- **2017**: $40M
- **2018**: $50M
- **2019**: $70M

- **Total Marijuana Revenue**
- **Regulation/Enforcement/Education Expenditures**
Distribution by Department

- City Attorney’s Office: 16%
- Office of Marijuana Policy: 17%
- Denver Health: 2%
- Fire: 9%
- Office of Behavioral Health: 7%
- Parks & Recreation: 3%
- Police: 14%
- Community Planning and Development: 5%
- Dept. of Public Health and Environment: 7%
- Office of Children’s Affairs: 17%

**Total: $8.8M**
Since 2014 Denver hired 58.5 full time employees with marijuana tax revenue, distributed in 10 departments. They work on marijuana and other projects.
Other potential impacts to consider

- Tourism
- Crime
- Public Health/Usage Rates
- Sustainability

- Odors
- Industrial warehouse space
- “Urban travelers,” homeless
- Neighborhoods
- Image and culture
Impact on Tourism
Tourism

While the availability of recreational marijuana can make consumers more interested in visiting, it can just as easily be a turn off and make them less interested in Colorado. While these groups are nearly evenly split, two-thirds of consumers continue to say the availability has no influence on their likelihood to visit. (Colorado Tourism Office, Longwoods study)
Tourism

Legalization’s Impact on Non-Resident Tourism

- Consider visiting on a vacation: 46% More Positive, 48% Same, 6% More Negative
- Consider living/working there: 38% More Positive, 51% Same, 11% More Negative
- Consider buying goods/services made there: 42% More Positive, 49% Same, 9% More Negative

*Data sourced from a 2017 Longwoods International Survey
Impact on Crime
Since the legalization of recreational marijuana in 2012, the illegal production and sale of marijuana has continued in Denver. In the first few years, the city experienced a large increase in black market marijuana.
Marijuana Crime

Industry Related Crime entails reported criminal offenses where legal marijuana businesses were either the victim or the perpetrator of a crime. Approximately 77% of these crimes were burglaries or larcenies that occurred at licensed marijuana businesses. They represented in 2018 0.3% of total reported crime in Denver.

Other Non-Industry Related Crime entails reported criminal offenses that are not direct violations of marijuana law and do not have a clear connection to a licensed business, yet marijuana is believed to be the motive for the crime. For example, if someone is growing four marijuana plants in their garage for personal use, and someone breaks into the garage to steal the marijuana plants, that would be considered other non-industry related crime. In 2018 they represented 0.9% of total reported crime in Denver.

Note: It’s hard to compare crimes before and after legalization, since the legal and illegal conducts have changed. However, before and after legalization marijuana crime in Denver has remained about less than 2% of overall reported crime.
Colorado: Marijuana Arrest Rates

Since before legalization, with the Cole Memo, marijuana became a low level priority enforcement for the City of Denver and State of Colorado. We have seen arrests go down about 50%.

Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System
We can see that there was a 50% drop on the total arrests across all races.

However, in Colorado, African Americans are still arrested at a higher rate than white and Hispanic populations.
Marijuana-involved Fatalities on Colorado Roadways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Fatalities</th>
<th>Cannabinoid only</th>
<th>Cannabinoid &amp; any alcohol</th>
<th>Cannabinoid &amp; other drugs</th>
<th>Cannabinoid, any alcohol, and any other drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Denver, 2018)
Overall Drug Use, Single Drug

- Alcohol Only: 14052 (91%)
- THC Only: 957 (6%)
- Single Other Drug: 386 (3%)
Impact on Public Health/Usage Rates
Assessing the Impact: Hospitalizations

Figure 1.1: Annual rate of marijuana-related and marijuana-caused hospitalizations for the city and county of Denver
Assessing the Impact: Hospitalizations

Figure 1.3: Annual rate of marijuana-related hospitalizations for the city and county of Denver, by age group
Assessing the Impact: Emergency Room Visits

Figure 2.1: Annual rate of marijuana-related and marijuana-caused emergency department visits for the city and county of Denver
Assessing the Impact: Emergency Room Visits

Figure 2.3.1: Annual rate of marijuana-related emergency department visits for the city and county of Denver, by age group
For adults 18 and older current use (defined as usage in the past 30 days) has been higher in CO compared to U.S average for the past 12 years. There is a considerable increase between 2012 (A64) and 2015 and a stabilization from 2015 to 2018.
Daily or nearly daily use increased in Colorado from 2014 to 2017, specially amongst young adults (18 to 25 years old) and mid aged adults (26 to 34 years old). This second groups is where we can see the higher increase rate of cannabis usage.

Note: Marijuana usage in Colorado is illegal for adults between 18 and 21 years old.
Daily and nearly daily usage for adults 18 and order was driven by males, leading to the total increase we saw on the previous graph.
19% of Colorado youth uses marijuana currently (defined by usage in the past 30 days)

Colorado youth that has used marijuana at least once in their life: 35% in 2017, compared to 43% in 2009.

Youth usage current use has remained unchanged (within margin of error) in the past 10 years, before and after legalization, considering the margin of error.
LGBTQ and non-white youth are more likely to use marijuana in CO. Increased risk factors.

Youth are still more likely to use alcohol and e-cigarettes than marijuana.
Youth could mark more than one option.
In 2018 the Denver legalized market had a 100% compliance rate for underage sale.

Most youth still smoke as primary method of consumption. However, much like in the adult population, vaping and edibles are a growing method of use.

In Denver: We have seen the highest decrease rate in youth usage in the State. It went down from 26% in 2015 to 21% in 2017. Still higher than CO average (19%), as it has historically been.
DENVER’S MARIJUANA PREVENTION AND EDUCATION APPROACH

- Mass marketing campaign
- ‘High Costs’ Campaign
- Peer to peer conversation
- Fact based
- Social media
- Classroom-in-a-box

- Data Collection
- Public Awareness

- Youth Prevention Programs
  - After school and summer programs
  - Social emotional learning
  - Health Lifestyles curriculum
  - More than 10,000 youth served since 2015.
  - Over 50 grantee organizations.

- Youth Diversion Programs
  - Intervention and diversion programs
  - 8 grantee organizations
  - 1,780 youth served since 2016
HIGH COSTS

- DENVER YOUTH DISCUSS HIGH COSTS
  - Help youth understand the legal, educational, health and social risks that can come from smoking marijuana.
  - Use creative and relatable messaging that gives youth the facts they need to reach their own conclusions.
  - Provide perspective that sparks discussion with their peers and proves being stoned is not the social norm.
  - Create buzz and ask Denver youth to consider whether marijuana is worth the long-term risks.
Thank You!

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Brian Lukus, Fire Protection Engineer, Denver Fire Department
Marley Bordovsky, Director, Prosecution Section, Denver City Attorney’s Office