Legalization of Cannabis In Colorado
The Good, The Bad and the Ugly
A view from the Colorado Highway Safety Office
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https://www.codot.gov/safety/alcohol-and-impaired-driving/druggeddriving

Retired from Littleton Police.
Objectives:

• Prevent the spread of new “medical” marijuana initiatives

• Stop any more states from legalizing marijuana for recreational use

• Start planning to repeal “medical” and recreational marijuana laws

• Plan new approaches for marijuana policy in the United States

• Good To Know
• Advocate
• Candor
• Realist
Amendment 64: The Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act of 2012

- 21+

- State licenses product manufacturing, cultivations testing and retail sales

- Local governments can regulate or prohibit facilities;

- Excise tax to be levied upon wholesale sales of marijuana;

- $40 million to public school capital construction assistance fund;

- No public use
What Lens You Look Through?

- Good?
- Bad?
- Ugly?
Good? Bad? Ugly?

- Ending Marijuana Prohibition (Legalization)
- Taxes from Marijuana Sales
- Traffic Safety
  - Data
  - Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)-Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
  - Impaired Driving
    - Research (sfst?)
    - Awareness, who is your expert? DRE
    - Laws gaps
Good? Bad? Ugly?

- Partnerships
  - State/NHTSA
- Media [Drive High Get a DUI](#)
  - [Drive High II](#)
- Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Focus
  - What can be changed
  - Focus on impairment (ng-device)
- Opportunities:
  - Data
  - Promote DRE and ARIDE DRE Schools
  - “Green Lab”
  - Roadside Evaluation (SFST)
MJ Partnerships

- Identified and reached out to MJ Industry Leader(s)
- Utilized partners for focus groups
- MJ representative on State DUI Task Force
- Presented at MJ industry events
- Mutual Press Opportunities
- Do not underestimate MJ advocates passion and resources (Primary Seat Belt)
- Belief vs. Knowledge

Partner on:
- Governor's MJ Working Group
- MJ Data Group
- MJ Education Committee
Colorado has 502 licensed medical facilities, 322 licensed recreation facilities, 261 infused product manufactures, and 16 testing facilities. [Department of Revenue, 2015 MED Licensed Facilities]

1% Percent of the nation’s electricity consumed by marijuana operations, accounting for 15 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions. [Denver Business Journal, Growing pot is hardly green; is it time for LEED for weed?]

116,216 Number of valid medical Registry ID cards, with 73 percent of cardholders being 31 years of age or older. (Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, November Medical Marijuana Registry Program Update)

356 On a per-square-foot basis, it takes 356 percent more energy to run a marijuana operation than it takes to operate a hospital. [Denver Business Journal, Growing pot is hardly green; is it time for LEED for weed?]

121.4 Amount of pot in metric tons (267,566 pounds) demanded by Colorado residents in 2014. Non-residents demanded 8.9 metric tons (19,621 pounds) of marijuana. (Colorado Department of Revenue, Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado)

$67.6 million Amount Colorado collected in taxes, license and fees through November 2014, 68 percent from recreational retail sales, 15 percent from medical sales and 17 percent from license and fees. (Colorado Department of Revenue, Office of Research and Analysis)

The average price of one-eighth of an ounce of recreational marijuana in the Metro Denver area in November, compared with $59 per eighth along the I-70 mountain corridor. (Colorado Pot Guide, Marijuana prices in Denver and Colorado: Fall 2014 Update)

$47 Number of products industrial hemp is used to make, including food, fuel, fiber, paper and biodegradable plastic. (Hemp.com, www.hemp.com/hemp-education/)


485,000 Estimated number of regular adult users in Colorado, or 9 percent of the state’s population estimate for 2014. (Colorado Department of Revenue, Market Size and Demand for Marijuana in Colorado)

12,000