

## Marijuana Regulation: Impact on Health, Safety, Economy

### The enactment of adult use cannabis regulation is not associated with upticks in marijuana use by adolescents

"Rates of marijuana use by teens have been of great interest to researchers over the past decade, given major social and legislative shifts around the drug. ... Fortunately, even as teens' attitudes toward marijuana's harms continue to relax, they are not showing corresponding increases in marijuana use."

[National Institutes on Drug Abuse, December 17, 2018 press release](#)

There has been "no significant change in past 30-day use of marijuana between 2013 (19.7%) and 2017 (19.4%). Also, in 2017, the use rates were not different from the national 30-day use rates reported by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. In 2017, 19.4% of Colorado high school students reported using marijuana in the past 30-days compared to 19.8% of high school students nationally that reported this behavior."

[Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado, 2018](#)

### The establishment of cannabis retailers is not associated with upticks in criminal activity

"Using 2010 to 2015 Uniform Crime Reports data, the research undertakes interrupted time-series analysis on the offenses known to be cleared by arrest to create monthly counts of violent and property crime clearance rate as well as disaggregated counts by crime type. Findings suggest no negative effects of legalization on crime clearance rates. Moreover, evidence suggests some crime clearance rates have improved. Our findings suggest legalization has resulted in improvements in some clearance rates."

[Marijuana legalization and crime clearance rates: Testing proponent assertions in Colorado and Washington state, Police Quarterly, 2018](#)

"[W]e find no support for the idea that closing dispensaries reduces crime. Rather, temporary closures deter some types of Part I (serious) crime. ... "An open dispensary provides over \$30,000 per year in social benefit in terms of larcenies prevented."

[Going to pot: The impact of dispensary closures on crime. Journal of Urban Economics, 2017](#)

### Neither medical use nor adult use legalization is associated with adverse effects on traffic safety

"We find that states that legalized marijuana have not experienced significantly different rates of marijuana- or alcohol-related traffic fatalities relative to their synthetic controls. ... In summary, the similar trajectory of traffic fatalities in Washington and Colorado relative to their synthetic control counterparts yield little evidence that the total rate of traffic fatalities has increased significantly as a consequence of recreational marijuana legalization."

[Early Evidence on Recreational Marijuana Legalization and Traffic Fatalities, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2018](#)

"[T]he results of this study indicate that medical marijuana laws in general have null effects on the prevalence of cannabis-positive driving. The key exception is for MML (medical marijuana law) states that regulate the sale of cannabis through dispensaries, a policy framework that was shown to increase the probability of cannabis-positive driving by .011–.014, depending on the counterfactual policy. However, as noted above, this is a relatively small effect, representing an additional 87–113 cannabis-positive drivers in 2014 who were involved in fatal vehicle accidents who might not otherwise have been."

[The effects of medical marijuana laws on cannabis-involved driving, Accident Analysis and Prevention, 2018](#)

## **Marijuana regulation is not associated with adverse effects on workplace performance or safety**

"There is no or insufficient evidence to support ... a statistical association between cannabis use and occupational accidents or injuries."

[National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: Committee's Conclusions, 2017](#)

Reducing criminal penalties for marijuana offenses is associated with increased probability of employment, particularly for young males, and an average increase of 4.5 percent in weekly earnings. "This data provides suggestive evidence that marijuana decriminalization laws improve extrinsic labor market outcomes. ... This result is consistent with existing literature that suggests black adults, especially men, stand to benefit the most from removing these penalties."

[Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute, Marijuana decriminalization and labor market outcomes, 2016](#)

## **Marijuana regulation is associated with declining alcohol consumption**

"We use data on purchases of alcoholic beverages in grocery, convenience, drug, or mass distribution stores in US counties for 2006-2015 to study the link between medical marijuana laws and alcohol consumption and focus on settling the debate between the substitutability or complementarity between marijuana and alcohol. ... We find that the legalization of medical marijuana reduces alcohol consumption. We find consistent evidence across different specifications and alcohol products (i.e. alcohol in general, beer and wine). States legalizing medical marijuana use experience significant decrease in the aggregate sales of alcohol, beer and wine. Moreover, the effects are not short lived, with significant reductions observed up to 24 months after the passage of the law."

[Helping settle the marijuana and alcohol debate: Evidence from scanner data. SSRN Working Paper, 2017](#)

## **Marijuana regulation is associated with increased tax revenue and job creation**

"[L]istings for cannabis-related positions have rocketed to the top echelon of the fastest-growing-job categories on sites like Indeed and ZipRecruiter. Julia Pollak, a labor economist at ZipRecruiter, said the company's data put the number of cannabis jobs nationwide at 200,000 to 300,000."

["Cannabis, marijuana, weed, pot? Just call it a job machine," New York Times, April 25, 2019](#)