Clearing the Air

The Deadly Facts about Legalized Marijuana

Vehicular Deaths Involving Pot Up by 254% in Colorado.

“The ugly truth is that Colorado was suckered. It was promised regulation and has been met with an industry that fights tooth and nail any restriction that limit its profitability.”

Ben Cort
Director of Professional Relations for the Center of Addiction Recovery and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado Hospital
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Since 2006, fatalities from vehicle crashes in Colorado involving drivers under the influence of marijuana were up 254%, according to an annual report by the RMHIDTA (Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area). The report stated in 2014, 94 vehicular deaths were attributed to pot while the total was 37 in 2006.

The past year total represented 19.3% of all deaths in fatal crashes. In comparison, the 2006 total of 37 accounted for 6.9% of the total fatalities.

MORE PEOPLE HOSPITALIZED
The report also stated that during the four year period from 2011 to 2014, marijuana related ER (emergency room) visits in Colorado increased from 8,198 to 18,257. This is more than 220%. The highest increases were among adults 18 to 25.

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area is an offshoot of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The RMHIDTA is a federal program charged with providing assistance to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions in the United States.

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Is the total economic impact for a vehicular fatality. This includes property damage, medical, insurance, and productivity according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

$1,398,916

Is the total economic impact for a drug related driving under the influence (DUI) offense. The costs for this offense is similar to those of an alcohol related one.

$10,270