



SMART **CO**

PROTECTING COLORADO'S YOUTH

About Smart Colorado

- Non-profit organization formed after the passage of Amendment 64 after kids were ranked last by 2013 Governor's task force around regulations
- Sole focus to protect kids from the unintended consequences of commercialized marijuana
- Supporters include those who voted for and against marijuana legalization

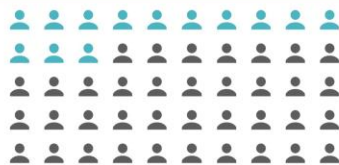
About Smart Colorado

- Smart Colorado has not applied for or received any funding generated from marijuana tax revenues (state or local)
- Smart receives donations from every day citizens and private foundations
- Smart Colorado's non-partisan work has been endorsed by Colorado's four living ex-Governors
- We draw engagement from kids, parents and leaders from education, healthcare, law, youth serving organizations, business and government

Smart Colorado: Denver Snapshot

Marijuana Use Among Denver High School Students

Results from the 2015 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey



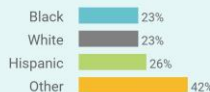
26% of Denver high school students used marijuana one or more times in the past 30 days

Who has been using marijuana?

Past 30 day use is highest among 11th graders



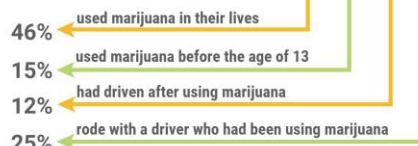
No significant difference in past 30 day use by race



No significant difference in past 30 day use by gender



Percent of students who did the following marijuana-related activities



Compared to 2013, fewer students thought marijuana use was dangerous and that their parents would disapprove of their use
YOUR INFLUENCE MATTERS

Consequences

- Minor in Possession charges
- Removal from extracurriculars
- Loss of federal financial aid
- Loss of a job

KNOW THE LAWS

Health Outcomes

- Respiratory issues
- Cannabis use disorder
- Risk of motor vehicle crash
- Memory and learning impairments

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS

Prevention

- Talk with your teen
- Get to know their friends
- Establish clear rules
- Minimize exposure at home

SHARE YOUR OPINION

- 26% Denver HS students used marijuana one or more times in the past 30 days
- 46% used marijuana in their lives
- 29.2% of Denver HS males used marijuana compared to 24.4% used alcohol in the past 30 days
- 65% of DPS students graduate compared to 77% of Colorado
- African American males drops to 56% and Hispanic males is 55%
- Perception of harm has gone down

Smart Colorado: Principals & Educators on Marijuana



“Drugs are the number 1 problem at our school.... No, we don’t have a bullying problem here, we have a drug problem.”

- Andy Mendelsberg, Principal of East High School




“Marijuana has compromised the success of schools at every grade level. The legalization of marijuana has had a direct impact on the work we do. Students no longer see marijuana as harmful due to its legalization, and it is destroying their chances for success. It is ironic we have linked the sale of marijuana to the funding of public schools. We will need the extra money to combat the effects this drug has on so many of our students, especially those that are historically underserved.”

- Scott Lessard, Principal of George Washington High School

Smart Colorado: Marijuana in Schools

EDITORIAL: Pot officially a crisis in school
By: The Gazette editorial
Updated: October 18, 2015 at 11:32 am
Comments: 22

Colorado educators concerned about pot in public schools
A summit by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in Thornton featured marijuana legalization and its effect in schools
By Elizabeth Hernandez
The Denver Post
POSTED: 10/14/2015 05:41:20 PM MDT | UPDATED: 30 DAYS AGO



Pot legalization is a disaster for Colorado children and schools. Listen to the experts who live it every day.

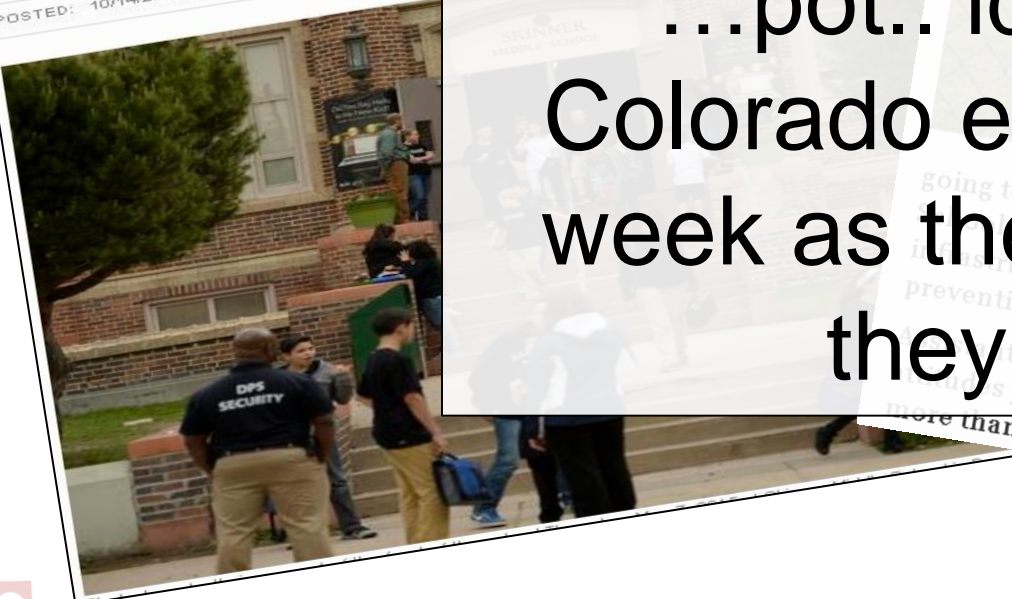
The crisis of pot-infested schools was identified by Colorado educators last week as the No. 1 issue they face. They shared their concerns and frustrations as more than 350 school officials, first responders and school mental health professionals met Wednesday and Thursday in Thornton for the Colorado School Safety Resource Center's Safe Schools Summit.

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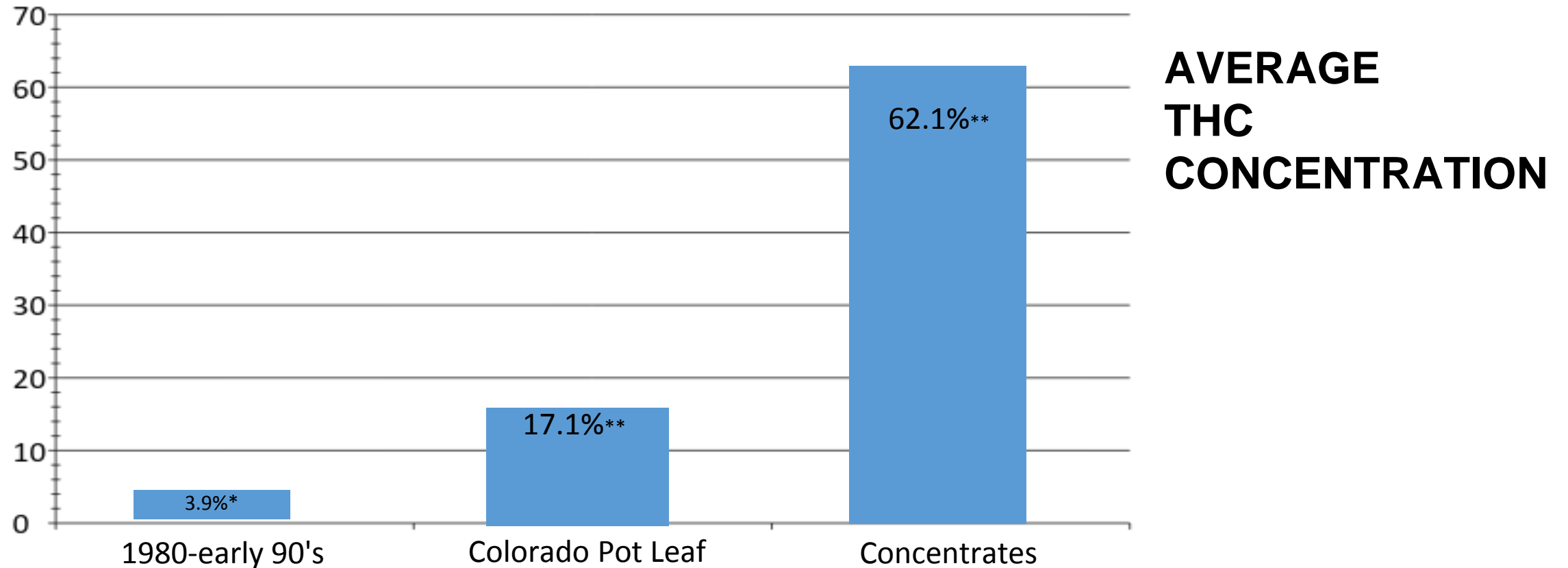
going to pose a significant impact on our schools. The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, as quoted in The Denver Post, "And there is the school prevention programs and our students are paying the price."

Michael Song told school faculty of the shifting risk-reward ratio favors risk more than it did before passage of Amendment 64, which legalized pot for adults.

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Smart Colorado: Why Potency Matters



Smart Colorado: Denver Office of Drug Strategy Report (2013)

- Regulating substances with a Public Health approach: lessons learned from alcohol regulation:
 - Accessibility: A primary factor which contributes to the likelihood that a substance will be used and abused is the ease of accessing the drug. Some have argued that regulating marijuana and selling it in stores which are required to check for identification before completing a sale makes the drug less accessible to youth.
 - ***However, teens most frequently access drugs through social channels, and the more legal opportunities to purchase the drug in the community results in greater opportunities for youth to obtain those drugs through those social networks.***
- To illustrate, around 7% of Denver students who drink purchase their alcohol directly from a retail establishment ; a full 50% of the students report having someone give it to them or taking it from a store or a home. Similarly, 40% of students who used marijuana report having it given to them; an additional 10% of students reporting getting marijuana from someone with a medical marijuana card.

Smart Colorado: Mayor Hancock's Letter to Denver City Council: 4/8/13

- “As a parent, I worry about how the increased presence of marijuana in our city will affect our children and our grandchildren. Despite a few lessons learned from medical marijuana, the long term implications of that industry and the potential for an expanded industry will not be known to us for perhaps a generation or more. **There is no denying, however, the potential for a negative impact on our kids – on their home lives, their health, their education and their future.** We already know the toll substance abuse takes on so many of our residents. Sadly, many of them are parents. The cost of substance abuse on our healthcare system, our jails and in our courts is substantial. I want more for all of our kids and our Denverites.”
- “Finally, as everyone who has touched this subject of late will attest, there are no easy answers to what we are facing. Amendment 64 calls for quick implementation, **but we cannot sacrifice prudence for expediency.** Denver's future depends upon us and the actions we take now.”

Smart Colorado: Impacts of Initiated Ordinance 300?

- Yes on 300 made no mention of simultaneous marijuana industry led push to increase hours of marijuana dispensary hours to the voters
- We don't know what we don't know

Smart Colorado: Delay Decision for later hours of marijuana dispensaries

- 2 major policy changes around marijuana that will impact our community at the same time
- Smart Colorado respectfully requests that the Denver special issues committee **DELAY** any extension of hours of operation for a period of 12-18 months to properly evaluate the impact of initiated ordinance I-300