

Data Infrastructure for Marijuana Public Health Surveillance

WORKING DRAFT

Review of the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RM-HIDTA) report¹, *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact Volume 5 Update, September 2018*, suggests that we need to be prepared to measure the effects of policy changes affecting the availability of marijuana.

Regardless of the overall merits of any proposed policy, all policies have both positive and negative consequences. We need to understand and monitor the consequences of policy changes in order to moderate policies and/or develop programs to mitigate negative consequences.

The RM-HIDTA and collaborating agencies developed a data infrastructure to monitor the impact of marijuana policies. Data cover three periods of policy development:

- Medical Marijuana 2000-2008;
- Medical Marijuana commercialization and expansions beginning 2009;
- Recreational Marijuana beginning 2013.

The following outline is based principally on the table of contents on the “Update” and the previous Volume 5 report (2017). [See footnote 1 below.] Some items have been added based on data that may be available for Greater New Orleans or statewide. These items are flagged as “***”. All data sources and indicators developed have to be assessed in terms of validity and reliability for their intended purpose.

Population Surveys

- National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) for adolescents, young and older adults
- Communities Than Care (CCYS) school survey (6th, 8th, 10th, 12th grades)
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) high school survey—state level data
- Core Institute Survey*** college students
- Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)*** telephone survey of adults

Public Order & Safety

- Crash Fatalities (or Injuries) – Driver or operator tested positive for marijuana
- Driving under the influence (DUI) – marijuana involved
- Driver screening for marijuana
- Police calls for service, marijuana-related***
- Offenses, marijuana-related***
- Arrests, marijuana-related***
- Probation, marijuana-related cases

¹ This report from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) is an update of the previous Volume 5 report published in October 2017. Both reports are available at: www.rmhidta.org and at <http://arc-associates.net/gno-policystudiesreports/marijuanapolicy> .

- Child Protective Services, marijuana-related cases

Public Health & Safety

- Emergency Department Data (LEEDS marijuana use-related visits)
- Hospitalizations (marijuana use-related)
- Poison Control Center, phone calls related to marijuana
- EMS calls related to marijuana use***
- ViaLink*** marijuana-related calls/referrals
- Suicides related to marijuana based on Medical Examiner/Coroner analysis

Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment

- Prevention and Treatment Need estimates related to marijuana use based on survey analysis
- SUD Treatment Utilization, admissions for primary and secondary marijuana problem by type of care
- SBIRT Screening Marijuana-involved***

Marijuana Industry

- Market Size and Demand
- Reported Sales
- Pricing and Potency
- Marijuana Industry Information, retail outlets
- Energy use in production

Black Market

- Investigations, felony arrests
- Highway Interdictions
- Parcel Interdictions (e.g. US Mail)

Societal Impact

- Tax Revenue
- Crime, violent and property offences
- Medical Marijuana Statistics
- Alcohol Consumption