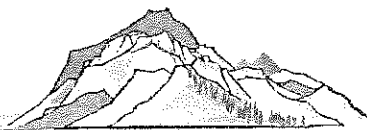


Healthy and Drug Free Colorado



c/o Colorado Drug Investigators Association
www.healthydrugfreecolorado.org

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: THE ISSUES

SUPPLEMENT 1

(AUGUST 2012)

ISSUE: *Is the slight dip in Colorado high school student marijuana use tied to “medical” marijuana regulations?*

Question: *I heard that there is a report showing a decrease in Colorado teen marijuana use from 2009 to 2011. Some claim the decrease is due to Colorado regulating “medical” marijuana beginning in July 2010. What is your response to that claim?*

Answer: It is incredulous that marijuana advocates are now claiming that a possible slight dip in marijuana use by Colorado teens is attributed to “medical” marijuana dispensaries. However, that shouldn’t be a surprise since they are also taking credit for less suicides and traffic fatalities in Colorado. Factually, there has been no legitimate causal relationship established between “medical” marijuana and any of these three issues. Following their “logic”, and using the same study, they should also claim credit for students being involved in less physical fights, having had less physically-forced sexual intercourse, using less tobacco and alcohol and reduced rates of use for cocaine, methamphetamine, and steroids. It is amazing the length some will go to glorify marijuana. Not only does it cure most types of diseases and illnesses, but now marijuana resolves all kinds of social behavior. Apparently they don’t allow facts, research or science to get in the way of the “spin” to push their agenda.

Question: *So what exactly are the facts?*

Answer: A 2011 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System reported that student current marijuana use in Colorado went down slightly from 24.8% to 22% and that nationally there was a slight increase of 20.8% to 23.1%. The question then becomes what exactly does this mean?

Examining the raw data used in the survey shows that the differences are “statistically insignificant,” thus potentially there is no difference. The CDC cites the limitations in its own survey. The report states additional study research is needed to assess the effect of such things such as socio-economic, educational, cultural and racial/ethnic factors. They also cite limitations in the study such as the fact that only teenagers who attend a school were surveyed. They point out that under-reporting or over-reporting of behavior cannot be determined. Apparently the pro-marijuana lobby disagrees with CDC’s assessment of its own study.