



Marijuana in Mesa County



Amendment 64, legalizing recreational marijuana use in Colorado, was passed in November 2012. Commercial sale of recreational marijuana began January 1, 2014.

What is marijuana?

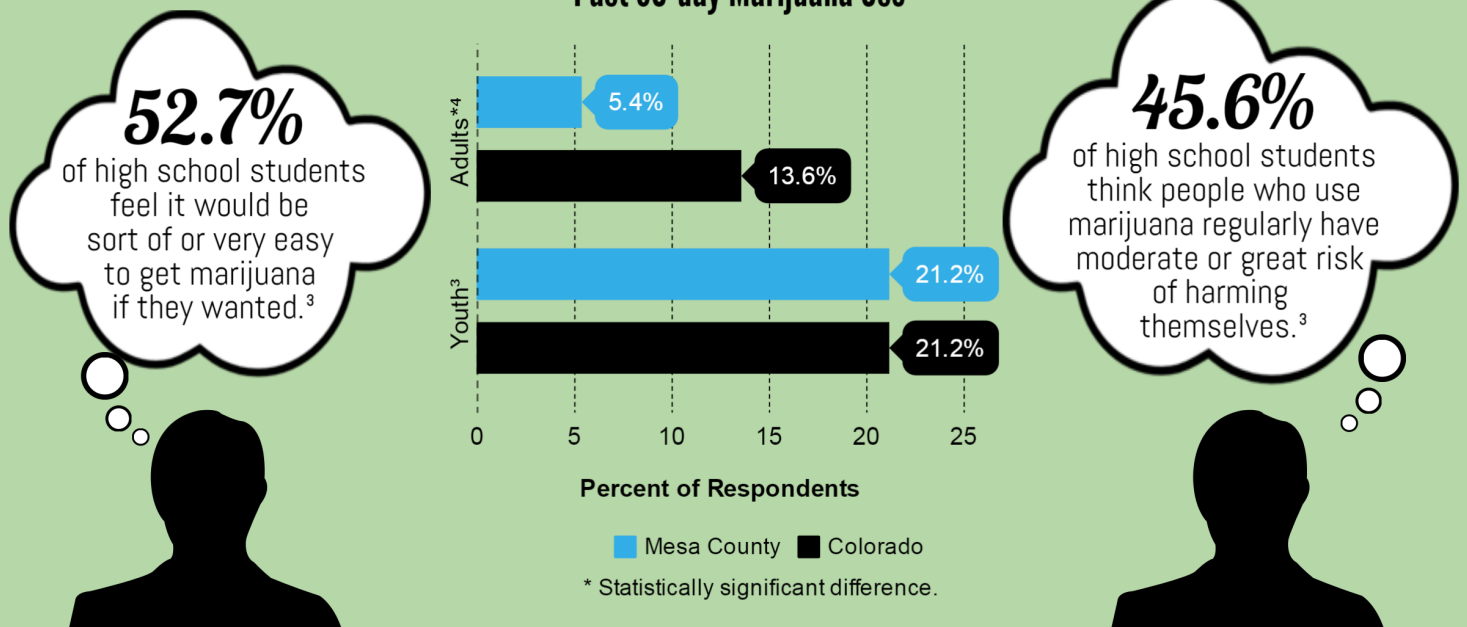
Marijuana is a green, brown leafy mixture from a *cannabis* plant. When smoked or consumed, the psychoactive chemical (THC or delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is absorbed by the body's fatty tissue and enters the brain. The THC triggers the brain's reward system.¹

43% of adults in Mesa County report having used marijuana one or more times during their life.²

Special Report: September 2016

Marijuana Use

Past 30-day Marijuana Use



Youth and Marijuana Use



Approximately **4 in 10** high school students have used marijuana one or more times during their lives.³

First Use Before Age 13^{*3}

12.6% **9.2%**
Mesa County Colorado

* Statistically significant difference.

83.6%
of youth think their parents feel it is wrong or very wrong if they were to use marijuana.³

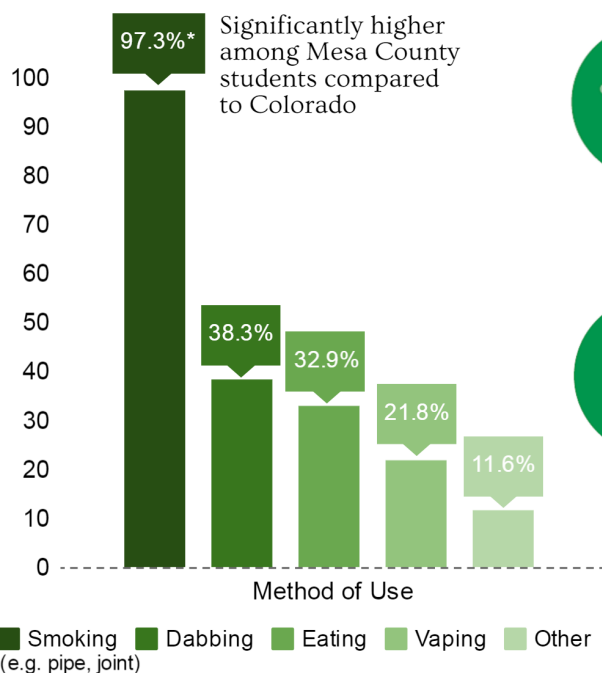
58.8%
of youth think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their same age to use marijuana.³

4.0%
of youth used marijuana at school during the past 30 days.³

1.5%
of youth who used in the past 30 days usually got it at school.³

Methods of Use

Methods of Use Reported by High School Students³



Methods of Use⁵

Smoking:



Flower (bud) from marijuana plant is burned and the smoke is inhaled.
Takes seconds to minutes to take effect.

Vaping:



THC extract is heated and the vapor is inhaled.
Takes seconds to minutes to take effect.

Topical:



THC extract is added to products and applied to the skin.
Non-psychoactive form of use.

Ingesting:



THC extract is added to food or drink to be ingested.
Takes 90 minutes to 4 hours to take effect.

Dabbing:



THC extract is heated and the vapor is inhaled.
Can obtain up to 60-80% THC.
Takes seconds to minutes to take effect.

Legal

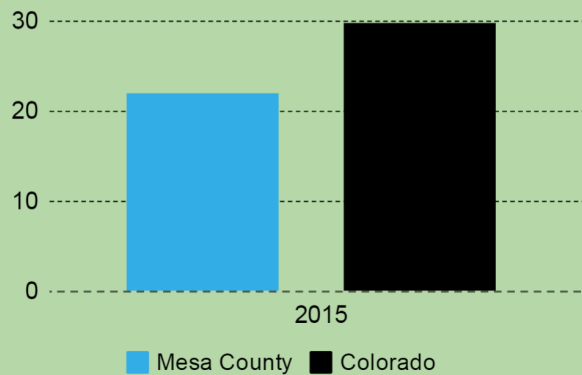
2014 Adult Marijuana Arrests*

per 100,000²


Mesa County:
289


Colorado:
131

Percent of Youth Who Think
Police Will Catch Kids Using
Marijuana*³



2014 Juvenile Marijuana Arrests*

per 100,000²


Mesa County:
1403


Colorado:
611

* Statistically significant difference.

Data Sources:

¹ National Institute on Drug Abuse, Marijuana

² Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2014 and 2015 combined.

³ Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, 2015

⁴ BRFSS, 2015

⁵ Information from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



**MESA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Working Together for a Healthy Community

 **healthy**
MESA COUNTY
healthymesacounty.org