



Interagency Coordinating
Council for Prevention

Marijuana Abuse Factsheet

Cost to Montanans

- In 2012, there were 1,502 arrests or citations for marijuana-related offenses in the state of Montana, 95% of which were for possession. The number of marijuana arrests more than tripled since 2003.⁴
- From August 2015 to December 2015, there were 2,437 open placements in the Montana Child and Family Services Division; 1,549 or nearly 64% of those were placements with drugs indicated. In 20.92% of those 1,549 cases marijuana was the drug type listed.⁵
- Montana has an adult marijuana use percentage equivalent to Washington, DC. There are 81,000 adult users in Montana, 10.58% of adult population. This is much higher than the national average right around 7%.³
- In 2006 marijuana arrests cost \$29.71 million in Montana.²

American Adults and Marijuana

- Modern marijuana has been genetically modified to be more potent – 6 to 10 times higher in THC. THC levels rise from “200 nanograms per milliliter to 500, to 1,000, to 1,750 nanograms per milliliter.”⁸
- Individuals with mental illnesses are more than seven times more likely to use cannabis weekly compared to people without mental illness.⁶
- 50% of those using high-potency marijuana daily will experience withdrawal symptoms including poor sleep, decline in appetite, possible vomiting, and stomach pain. Side effects of this high potency marijuana include anxiety, increased irritability, muscle twitching and limb spasms.⁸
- Growing marijuana indoors requires four times more energy than a hospital and eight times more energy than a typical U.S. commercial building when the cost per square foot is calculated.⁸
- In Colorado, marijuana-based treatment programs are exceeded only by alcohol treatment numbers, with ages 21-25 increasing the most of the last several years. Marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Montana.¹
- Experts estimate that drug and alcohol abuse by American workers may cost U.S. businesses an estimated \$100 billion each year. Furthermore,
 - 38% to 50% of all Workers Compensation claims are related to substance abuse in the workplace, as substance abusers file three to five times as many Workers’ Compensation claims.
 - Substance abusers incur 300% higher medical costs than non-abusers.
 - Substance abusers are 2.5 times more likely to be absent eight or more days a year.
 - Substance abusers are 1/3 less productive.
 - It costs a business an average of \$7,000 to replace a salaried worker.⁷

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RESOURCES

[*Chemical Dependency Bureau*](#), [*Parent Power*](#), [*Marijuana Talk Kit*](#)

- In all 56 counties of Montana, a prevention specialist is hard at work to reduce marijuana use and the associated harmful behaviors.
- The Chemical Dependency Bureau provides an up-to-date list of state approved addiction treatment centers across the state of Montana.



Citations

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<http://www.cheatsheet.com/personal-finance/10-states-with-the-highest-marijuana-use.html/>
4. [Marijuana Policy Project, Montana](https://www.mpp.org/states/montana/)
<https://www.mpp.org/states/montana/>
5. Child and Family Services Division, CAPS Report 5388.2
6. [Center for Addiction and Mental Health](http://www.camh.ca/en/hospital/about_camh/newsroom/news_releases_media_advisories_and_backgrounders/current_year/Pages/CAMH-study-shows-mental-illness-associated-with-heavy-cannabis-use-.aspx)
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7. [Department of Labor and Workforce Development](http://www.tn.gov/workforce/article/drug-free-workplace-program)
<http://www.tn.gov/workforce/article/drug-free-workplace-program>
8. [Colorado HIDTA Report Volume 3](http://www.rmhidta.org/)
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Resources

1. [Chemical Dependency Bureau](http://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/SubstanceAbuse.aspx)
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/SubstanceAbuse.aspx>
2. [Parent Power](http://parentpower.mt.gov/)
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3. [Marijuana Talk Kit](http://www.drugfree.org/MJTalkKit/)
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