



## COLORADO DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

*This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of Colorado.*

### Colorado At-a-Glance:

- The rate of drug-induced deaths in Colorado is higher than the national average.
- Approximately 12 percent of Colorado residents reported past-year use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8 percent.
- Marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Colorado.
- For the 2007-2008 time period, Colorado was one of the top ten states for rates in several drug-use categories among persons age 12 and older and among young adults age 18-25: past-month use of marijuana, and past-month use of any illicit drug.

*Source:* National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2007-2008.

## Drug Use Trends in Colorado

**Drug Use in Colorado:** The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 11.72 percent of Colorado residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.02 percent. Colorado's rate was one of the 10 highest among the states. Additionally, 4.57 percent of Colorado residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month. The national average was 3.58 percent.

*Source:* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2007-2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k8state/Cover.pdf>

**Drug-Induced Deaths:** As a direct consequence of drug use, 747 persons died in Colorado in 2007. This is compared to the number of persons in Colorado who died from motor vehicle accidents (593) and firearms (505) in the same year. Colorado drug-induced deaths (15.4 per 100,000 population) exceeded the national rate (12.7 per 100,000).

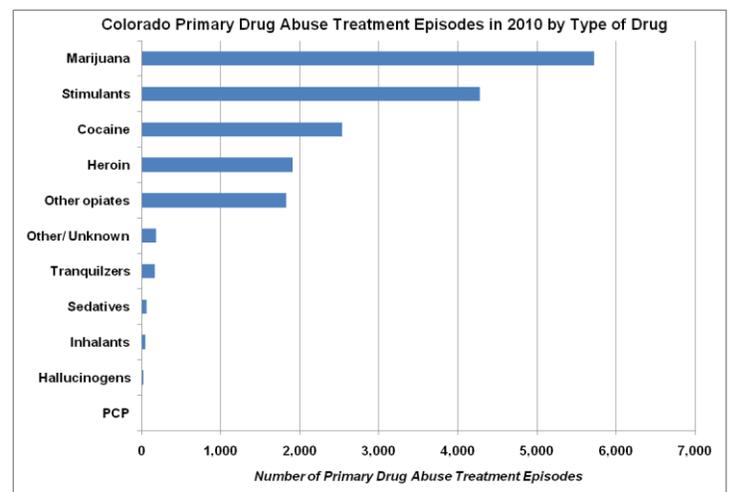
*Source:* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 58, Number 19 for 2007: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58\\_19.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_19.pdf)

## Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

### Colorado primary treatment admissions:

The graph at right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in Colorado in 2010. The data show that marijuana, followed by stimulants (including methamphetamine), is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Colorado.

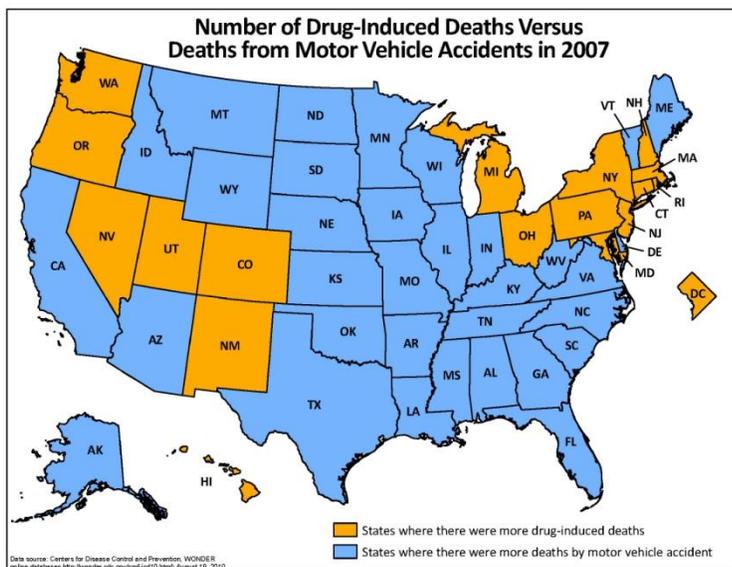
*Source:* Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration : <http://oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm>



## Prescription Drug Abuse

### ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, entitled, **"Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,"** provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



### **State-Level Action: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)**

PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Thirty-five states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 13 states have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would significantly help reduce prescription drug diversion and abuse.

Colorado's **Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**, authorized by law in 2005, provides a database of controlled substance prescriptions that have been dispensed by Colorado pharmacies and from non-resident pharmacies that ship prescriptions into Colorado. The purpose of the database is to provide objective information to assist practitioners and pharmacists in providing appropriate treatment for their patients. Information collected by the program is accessible only to prescribers of controlled substances and pharmacists.

*Source:* Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, Board of Pharmacy: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/pharmacy/pdmp/index.htm>

### **State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs**

A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

## Drugged Driving

### ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.

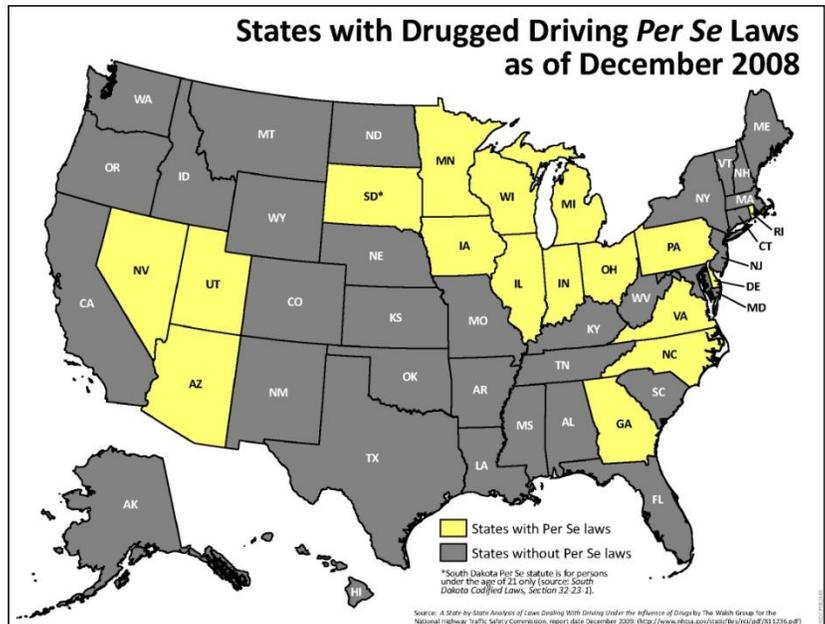
### State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to consider *Per Se* standards for impairment that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.

**Colorado does not have a *Per Se* standard,** however, under Colorado law (Section 42-4-1301[1]), it is a

misdemeanor for any person who is under the influence of, or impaired by, one or more drugs to drive any vehicle in the State. It is also a misdemeanor for a habitual user of any controlled substance to drive a vehicle. "Driving under the influence" means driving a vehicle when a person has consumed one or more drugs that affect the person to a degree that the person is substantially incapable, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



## ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

### National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages to young people (including those in Native American and Alaska Native communities) about drug use and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

## The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2011, the following Colorado coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Chaffee County Community Prevention Policy Board
- Eagle River Youth Coalition
- Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project
- Lake County Build a Generation

- SLV Prevention Coalition Alamosa
- Summit Prevention Alliance
- Teller County Prevention Project

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy  
[http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee\\_map.html](http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html)

## ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) County Info

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. In designated HIDTA counties, the program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

### HIDTA Counties in Colorado

**Rocky Mountain HIDTA:** Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Jefferson, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Moffat, Pueblo, Routt, and Weld counties.

- Rocky Mountain HIDTA provides funding, information sharing system, training and coordination for an increased emphasis through the Rocky Mountain Highway Patrol Network on criminal interdiction by the Colorado State Patrol, and investigative follow-up by allied agencies in an “all crime” approach.
- The HIDTA is leading the effort to build a large coalition to repackage and distribute anti-drug use (emphasis on marijuana) education and prevention message.
- The HIDTA is in the planning stages of trying to coordinate and consolidate greater information sharing within the state, on not only drug crimes but all criminal activity, working with allied agencies and the Colorado Fusion Center.
- The HIDTA is in the planning stages of working with allied agencies in developing financial investigation teams to work with drug task forces to identify and seize hidden assets gained illegally through drug trafficking.

## Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of Colorado

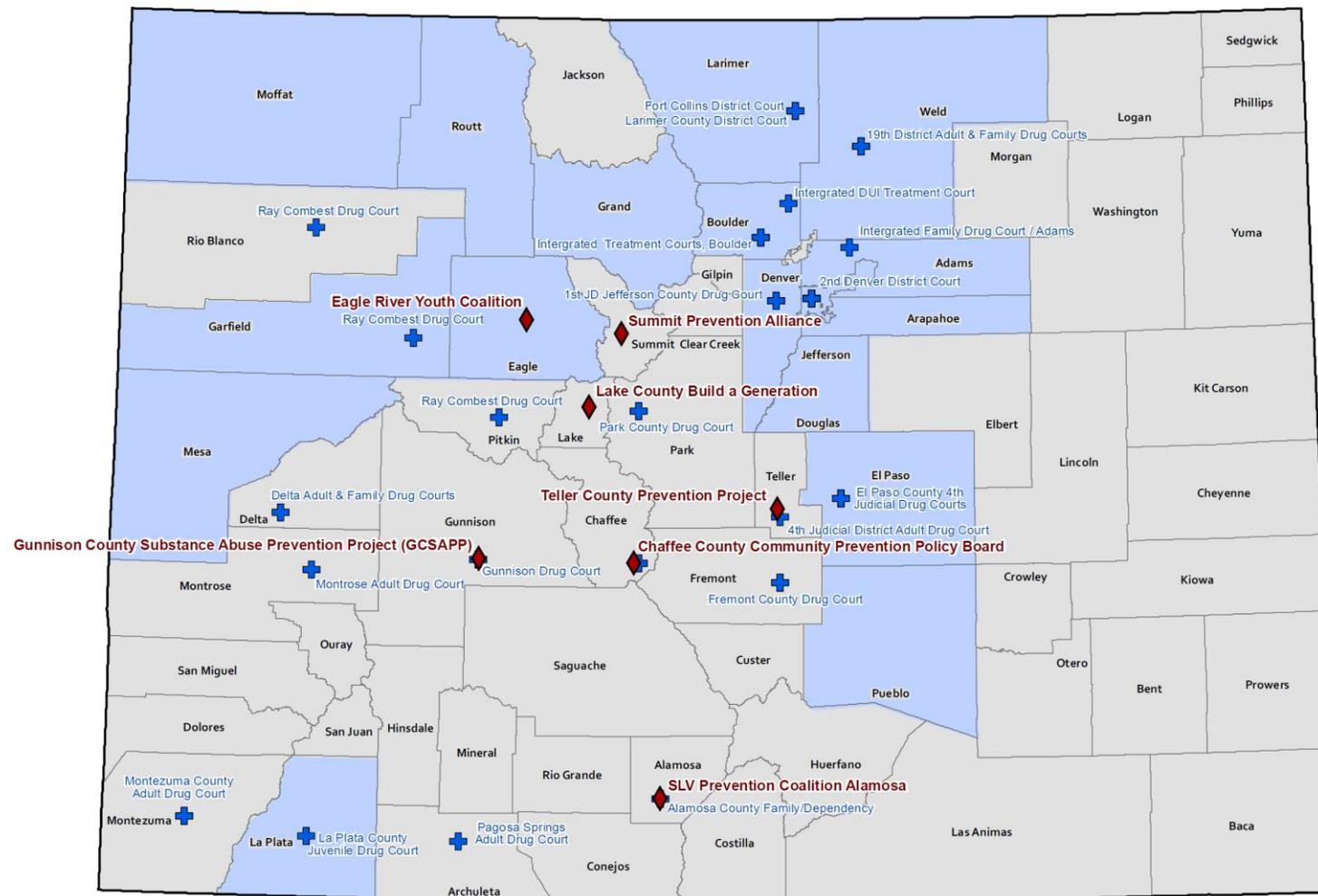
The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2010, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2010, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

Federal Grant Awards		2010
<b>Department of Education</b>		
<b>Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_National Programs</b>		<b>5,285,534</b>
Building State And Local Leadership Capacity for Preventing Youth Substance Use and Violence		124,941
Challenge Newsletter		1,261,909
Competition To Prevent High-Risk Drinking & Violent Behavior Among College Students		121,053
Grants For School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs		148,735
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grants		3,628,896
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>		
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>		<b>4,628,930</b>
Enhance the Safety of Children Affected by Parental Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse		500,000
Mentoring Children of Prisoners		250,000
Promoting Safe and Stable Families		3,878,930
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>		<b>427,500</b>
HIV Prevention Activities_Non-Governmental Organization Based		427,500
<b>Health Resources and Services Administration</b>		<b>700,000</b>
Healthy Start Initiative		700,000
<b>Indian Health Service</b>		<b>221,865</b>
Urban Indian Health Services		221,865
<b>National Institutes of Health</b>		<b>18,907,960</b>
Discovery and Applied Research for Technological Innovations to Improve Human Health		2,060,824
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs		16,638,576
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services_Projects of Regional and National Significance		208,560
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>		<b>47,485,146</b>
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse		26,393,425
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)		973,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services_Projects of Regional and National Significance		16,766,721
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services-Access to Recovery		3,352,000
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>		
<b>Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development</b>		<b>4,582,953</b>
Shelter Plus Care		4,582,953
<b>Department of Justice</b>		
<b>Office of Justice Programs</b>		<b>21,258,546</b>
Congressionally Recommended Awards		395,000
Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program		200,000
Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program		359,671
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program		10,734,686
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program		356,400
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants		774,000
Juvenile Mentoring Program		2,653,563
National Institute of Justice Research Evaluation and Development Project Grants		2,458,521
Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program		12,187
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners		479,310
Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative		2,335,208
Tribal Youth Program		500,000
<b>Department of Labor</b>		
<b>Employment and Training Administration</b>		<b>500,000</b>
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders		500,000
<b>Executive Office of the President</b>		
<b>Office of National Drug Control Policy</b>		<b>6,315,036</b>
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program		6,315,036
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>		<b>875,000</b>
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants		875,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>111,188,470</b>

**Note:** Report as of 11/30/2010. FY 2009 includes additional grant awards under the Recovery Act. The Federal, State and Local Shares of Medicaid and the Federal Medicare Programs are not included above. File updated 06/07/2011.

# Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in Colorado with Drug Court Locations

ONDCP-002846



- ◆ Drug Free Communities program grantees
- + Drug Court locations
- Rocky Mountain HIDTA counties
- County Boundaries



Source: National Drug Court Institute and ONDCP, September 2011

