Global trends on cannabis

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UNODC

Göteborg, 16 November 2017
### Annual prevalence of illicit drug use at the global level, among the population aged 15-64, 2009 - 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All drug use (%)</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>3.3%-7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Problem drug use:** 0.6%

**Range:** 0.3%-0.9%

### Drug Types

- **Cannabis**
  - 2009: 2.8%
  - 2010: 2.6%
  - 2011: 2.7%
  - 2012: 2.7%
  - 2013: 2.7%
  - 2014: 2.7%
  - 2015: 2.7%

- **ATS (excluding "ecstasy")**
  - 2009: 1.2%
  - 2010: 1.2%
  - 2011: 1.1%
  - 2012: 1.2%

- **Ecstasy group**
  - 2010: 0.6%
  - 2011: 0.5%
  - 2012: 0.5%
  - 2013: 0.5%
  - 2014: 0.5%
  - 2015: 0.5%

- **Cocaine**
  - 2009: 0.4%
  - 2010: 0.4%
  - 2011: 0.4%
  - 2012: 0.4%
  - 2013: 0.4%
  - 2014: 0.4%
  - 2015: 0.4%

- **Opioids**
  - 2009: 0.8%
  - 2010: 0.8%
  - 2011: 0.8%
  - 2012: 0.8%
  - 2013: 0.8%
  - 2014: 0.8%
  - 2015: 0.8%

- **Opiates**
  - 2009: 0.5%
  - 2010: 0.5%
  - 2011: 0.5%
  - 2012: 0.5%
  - 2013: 0.5%
  - 2014: 0.5%
  - 2015: 0.5%

Source: UNODC, response to annual report questionnaire.
## Cannabis use

Cannabis use, global level and by region, population aged 15-64, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region or subregion</th>
<th>Cannabis</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number (thousands)</td>
<td>Best estimate</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>Upper</td>
<td>Prevalence (percentage)</td>
<td>Best estimate</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>Upper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>49,410</td>
<td>21,100</td>
<td>64,380</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>6,280</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>10,380</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>31,510</td>
<td>13,050</td>
<td>33,750</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>45,220</td>
<td>48,380</td>
<td>51,320</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>39,780</td>
<td>39,580</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>8,070</td>
<td>7,870</td>
<td>8,480</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>53,660</td>
<td>29,070</td>
<td>98,780</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>East and South-East Asia</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Near and Middle East</td>
<td>7,930</td>
<td>5,640</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>East/South-West Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>28,400</td>
<td>27,370</td>
<td>29,450</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Europe</td>
<td>5,340</td>
<td>5,030</td>
<td>5,720</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western and Central Europe</td>
<td>23,060</td>
<td>22,340</td>
<td>23,730</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>2,620</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>3,730</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNODC, response to annual report questionnaire.
Cannabis use

Ranking of cannabis in order of prevalence, 2015 (or latest year available back to 2011)
Estimated number of cannabis users and cannabis use perception index, 1998-2015

Source: UNODC calculations based on responses to the annual reports questionnaire.

Note: For details of the calculation methods, see the online methodology section of the present report.
Life-time prevalence of cannabis use in Europe among 15-16 year old pupils

Sweden: 9%  2011
Europe: 17%  2011

Sweden: 7%  2015
Europe: 16%  2015

Changes in life-time prevalence of cannabis use in Europe among 15-16 year old pupils.

![Graph showing changes in lifetime cannabis use in Europe among 15-16 year old pupils.](image)
Drug treatment

Proportion of people in treatment for different drugs, global averages, 2015 (or latest year available)

Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire.
Note: Unweighted average of people in treatment for different drugs in different regions.
Primary drug of concern among people in drug treatment, by region, 2015

Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire.
Number of deaths and “healthy” years of life lost (DALYs) attributable to drug use, 2015


Notes: Error bars represent uncertainty intervals. Numbers given in charts are percentage changes from 2005.
Healthy" years of life lost (DALYs) attributable to drug use disorders among men and women, 2005 and 2015.

Source: Global Burden of Disease Data, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

Distribution of total drug seizure cases, 2015 (2.4 million cases)

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.

Note: Based on information from 64 countries.
Drug seizures

Quantities of drugs seized in 2015

- 7,317 tons of cannabis (herb/resin)
- 864 tons of cocaine
- 587 tons of opium
- 132 tons of methamphetamine
- 153 tons of pharmaceutical opioids
- 90 tons of heroin & morphine
- 57 tons of synthetic NPS*
- 52 tons of amphetamine
- 6 tons of "ecstasy"

* 57 tons of which 34 tons represent seizures of GBL, ketamine and other medicines, see booklet 4.
C. THE CANNABIS MARKET

Global seizures

- Change from previous year
- 2% herb
- 6% resin

Cannabis herb: 5,781 tons
Cannabis resin: 1,536 tons

Global number of users

183 million

Note: Data refer to 2015. Estimates of illicit cultivation, production and eradication of cannabis and prevalence of cannabis use are available in the annex of booklet 2.
Drug seizures

Source: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire.
Note: A rate of 10:1 was used to convert seizures of opium into seizures expressed in heroin equivalents.
Available indicators of the distribution of eradication of cannabis production, by region, 2010-2015
Global quantities of cannabis resin and herb seized, 1998-2015

Source: UNODC, based on responses to the annual report questionnaire.
Cannabis seizures

Global quantities of cannabis seized, annual average, by product and by country, 2010-2015

Source: UNODC, based on responses to the annual report questionnaire.
Seizures of marijuana (cannabis herb), 2015

Weight in tonnes equivalents.

The present map includes data from countries and territories for which official seizure data are available and amount to more than 100 kg.

Cannabis herb seizures registered by UNODC (2010-2013)

No cannabis herb seizures registered by UNODC (2010-2013)

Source: UNODC annual report questionnaire data, supplemented by other official sources.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. Dotted lines represent approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined.

A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

* The vast majority of seizures of marijuana (cannabis herb) are reported to UNODC by weight. Whenever the availability of information allows, seizures expressed in other units are converted to weight. In particular, 1 litre is assumed to have a weight of 1 kg.

For more details please refer to the methodology section of the World Drug Report.
Quantities of cannabis herb seized, by region/subregion, 1998-2015
Seizures of hashish (cannabis resin), 2015
Weight in ton equivalents.
The present map includes data from countries and territories for which official seizure data are available and amount to more than 10 kg.

Cannabis resin seizures

Source: UNODC annual report questionnaire data, supplemented by other official sources.
Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.
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* The vast majority of seizures of hashish (cannabis resin) are reported to UNODC by weight. Whenever the availability of information allows, seizures expressed in other units are converted to weight; in particular 1 litre is assumed to have a weight of 1 kg.
For more details please refer to the Methodology section of the World Drug Report.

Sources: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire; and government reports.
Legalization of recreational cannabis

Jurisdictions in the United States allowing recreational use, medical use of cannabis and with no access to cannabis, May 2017

Source: Based on information from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) as of 12 May 2017.
Notes: The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
1905: 29 US states with ‘regulations’ concerning cannabis sales
1913: California criminalized cannabis preparations (‘loco weed’), followed by Utah (1915) and others (46 in 1937)
1937: The Marijuana Tax Act is passed, effectively prohibiting all use of cannabis at the federal level.
1970: The Controlled Substances Act prohibiting cannabis federally along with other drugs, replacing the 1937 Act.
1973: Oregon decriminalized cannabis.
1975: Alaska, Colorado and Ohio decriminalized cannabis.
1976: California, Maine and Minnesota decriminalized cannabis.
1978: New Mexico and Nebraska (first offence only) decriminalized cannabis.
1978: New Mexico and Nebraska (first offence only) decriminalized cannabis.
1996: California legalized medical cannabis. (California proposition 215)
    First marijuana dispensary, Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana appears in Fairfax, California, USA.
1999: Maine legalized medical cannabis.
2004: Montana legalized medical cannabis.
2006: Rode Island legalized medical cannabis.
2007: New Mexico and Vermont legalized medical cannabis.
2008: Michigan legalized medical cannabis.
2010: New Jersey and Arizona legalized medical cannabis.
2012: Massachusetts and Connecticut legalized medical cannabis.
2014: Maryland decriminalized cannabis as well as NY City; Minnesota and New York legalized medical cannabis.
2015: Georgia and Texas legalized medical cannabis; Delaware decriminalized cannabis
2016: California, Nevada, Massachusetts and Maine legalized recreational cannabis
Cannabis use: diverging trends

Annual cannabis prevalence: United States, European Union, Australia, global level

Cannabis prevalence among 15-16 year-old, Europe

Sources: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire; SAMHSA, EMCUDA and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
Legalization of recreational cannabis, US

Cannabis use patterns, risk perception, availability, medical cannabis

Cannabis use initiation in the past year

By 2007, 12 states had measures allowing medical cannabis use

Source: Elaborated from NSDUH presented in Rachel N. Lipari and others, “Risk and protective factors and estimates of substance use initiation: results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health” (SAMHSA, October 2016).

Sources: Key Substance Use and Mental Health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and earlier surveys and adapted from Compton and others, “Marijuana use and use disorders in adults in the USA, 2002-14: analysis of annual cross sectional surveys”, Lancet Psychiatry 2016, 3: 954-64. Note: Compton and others analysed the trends in cannabis use from 2002-2014.
Cannabis use in the past month, population 12 years and older, United States, in states with measures allowing/not allowing recreational cannabis market, 2002-2015

Source: Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, earlier surveys and SAMHSA State level estimates for the different years. Except for 2002, the state level estimates are presented as two-year averages. Alaska, Colorado, California, Maine, Nevada and Oregon had medical cannabis in 2000 or earlier.
Past-month prevalence of non-medical cannabis use among older age groups, prior to and following the legalization of medical cannabis use, 2004-2013.

Prevalence and proportion of cannabis use disorders among daily or near daily adult (18 years or older) cannabis users, United States, 2002-2015

Prevalence, availability and risk of cannabis, as perceived by 12th graders in the USA, 1975-2013

Availability* and prevalence

R = 0.60**
**statistically significant at α = 0.01

Annual prevalence of cannabis use
Cannabis availability

Risk** and prevalence

R = -0.93**
** statistically significant at α = 0.01

Annual prevalence of cannabis use
Risks of occasional cannabis use

* Percentage of 12th grade students saying that it would be “fairly easy” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana.
** Percentage of 12th grade students saying that smoking marijuana occasionally would be a “great risk”.

Changes in perceived ‘availability’* and perceived ‘risks’** as predictors for cannabis prevalence, based on US Monitoring the Future data, 1975-2013

*Availability: Percentage of 12th grade students saying that it would be “fairly easy” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana.

**Risk: Percentage of 12th grade students saying that smoking marijuana occasionally would be a “great risk”.

Multiple Regression Model: 
\[ \hat{y} = a + b_1 \cdot x_1 + b_2 \cdot x_2 \]

Prevalence = 12.62 + 0.51 * Availability + (-0.81) * Risk

Multiple regression coefficient: 0.944 (R² = 0.89)

Distribution of cannabis by number of users and consumption in the USA

Cannabis consumption

Cannabis users

Follows a "Pareto" distribution

Cumulative distribution function

From the definition, the cumulative distribution function of a Pareto random variable with parameters \( \alpha \) and \( x_m \) is

\[
F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 
1 - \left( \frac{x}{x_m} \right)^\alpha & x \geq x_m, \\
0 & x < x_m.
\end{cases}
\]

Sources:
UNODC calculations based on SAMHSA and Jonathan P. Caulkins, RAND, Drug Policy Research Center
Legalization of recreational cannabis, US


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prevalence rate</th>
<th>Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>+34%</td>
<td>+43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past month</td>
<td>+43%</td>
<td>+54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily/near daily users (&gt;300 times a year)</td>
<td></td>
<td>+67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Colorado–general population: change in cannabis use: 2006/07 to 2014/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prevalence rate</th>
<th>Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>+80%</td>
<td>+104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past month</td>
<td>+104%</td>
<td>+132%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population: 7.2 million
Remaining Illicit cannabis market in 2014: 33% of total cannabis sales

Population: 5.5 million
Remaining Illicit cannabis market in 2014: 40% of total cannabis sales
The first private equity company dedicated to the marijuana industry

Source: Drug Policy Institute, University of Florida, Presentation at CND March 2015.
Active marketing - Diversification - Targeting youth

• Source: Marijuana Business Journal and other media.
US: Marijuana edible displays
Source: Drug Policy Institute, University of Florida. Presentation at CND March 2015.
“and the evolvement of far more potent products ...”

(80-90% THC concentrates)

“Green Crack” wax

“Ear Wax”

Butane Hash Oil (BHO)

Hash Oil Capsules

“Budder”

“Shatter”
When Washington cannabis stores first opened in July 2014, prices averaged $25 per gram after taxes; by April 2015 that figure had fallen to $12 per gram, and by January 2016, to less than $10 per gram (-60% since July 2014).

In Colorado, the average price of an eighth ounce (3.5 grams; the most commonly purchased quantity) of cannabis also fell from nearly $60 in mid-2014 to $25-40 in November 2015 (some 50% since mid-2014).
Tax revenue from cannabis legalisation

Monthly Revenue for Retail Cannabis in Colorado

Population: 5.5 m

Source: Colorado Department of Revenue

License and Application Fees
Excise Tax (15%)
Special Sales Tax (10%)
State Sales Tax (2.9%)
Tax revenue from cannabis legalisation

Colorado's Statewide Budget, FY 2016

Marijuana Tax Revenue* (Medical and Recreational) = 0.5%

*Revenue from marijuana taxes as a portion of Colorado's total statewide budget

SOURCE: Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Progress to full-scale cannabis legalization

- **2001**: Medical marijuana permitted
- **2005**: 1st marijuana stores
- **2007-8**: Denver legalizes possession
- **2009**: 700 stores; 3.5% adults have MMJ license
- **2012**: Legalized
- **2014**: Recreational stores open

**Colorado**
Hospitalizations related to marijuana in Colorado, 2000-2014

Change: 2012-2014
+85%

SOURCE: Colorado Hospital Association, Hospital Discharge Dataset. Statistics prepared by the Health Statistics and Evaluation Branch, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Cannabis related emergency room visits in Colorado

Change: 2012-2014
+83%

SOURCE: Colorado Hospital Association, Emergency Department Visit Dataset. Statistics prepared by the Health Statistics and Evaluation Branch, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Heavy marijuana use among those in drug treatment in Colorado

People in treatment for marijuana use in CO reporting heavy use (>21 days/month)

Source: CO Department of Human Services
Colorado Probation
Percent of All Urinalysis Tests Positive for
Marijuana
Youth Ages 10 - 17 Years Old

SOURCE: Division of Probation Services/State Court Administrator’s Office
Commercialization of “medical” marijuana

Retail sales

Legalization

Source: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center with analysis provided by CDPHE (2016)
Deaths & impaired driving

Colorado - Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana*


THC limit in blood: 5 ng/mL

Sources:
- Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
- The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado – the Impact, Volume 3, Sept. 2015
Correlation of cannabis use with other drug use and alcohol use, among 12th grade students in the USA, 1975-2015

Source: NIDA, Monitoring the Future.
Colorado Average Consumption of Alcohol

Pre-Legalization 2010-2012: 136,364,158 gallons
Post-Legalization 2013-2015: 142,541,002 gallons

5% Increase

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Colorado Liquor Excise Tax
Development of THC* content (averages) in US and EU cannabis herb seizures, 1975-2013

![Graph showing THC content development](attachment:image.png)

- **Germany**: 8.2% in 2013 (0.1%-41.2%)
- **Austria**: 9.6% in 2013 (0.1%-43.5%)
- **France**: 12.7% in 2013 (1-35%)
- **Netherlands**: 14.6% in 2014

**Colorado and Washington**

=17%

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* Samples from state and local eradications in the USA in 2010 (latest year available)

** Samples from US federal seizures in 2013

*** Unweighted averages with 95% CI and data gaps filled by interpolations and carry-overs

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Interdictions by state highway patrols identifying marijuana from Colorado
States to which marijuana from Colorado was destined in 2015

The most common destinations identified were Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Florida, and Kansas.
38 US states received marijuana mailed from Colorado in 2014, up from 10 in 2010 and 0 in 2009.

SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service, Prohibited Mailing of Narcotics
Legalization of recreational cannabis, US

Figure 149. Total Marijuana Weight in Kilograms seized by CBP on the Southwest Border

- Cocaine, Heroin, Metamphetamine Combined Total Weight in Kilograms
- Marijuana Total Weight in Kilograms

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

US cannabis seizures at border with Mexico, 2010-2015

Figure 150. Total Number of CBP Southwest Border Seizure Marijuana Incidents

- Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine Combined Total Number of Incidents
- Marijuana Total Number of Incidents

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
Mexico: cultivation (in hectares) and production of opium (in tons), 1998-2015

Legalization of recreational cannabis, US

Sources: US State Department International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (and previous years) and UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys.
Origin of heroin on the US market

Figure 50. Source of Origin for the United States Wholesale-Level Heroin Seizures, 1977-2014

Source: Heroin Signature Program
Thank you for listening