

It was exactly 10 years ago today that marijuana, better known as cannabis, first became legal in the United States...well in Colorado at least. Colorado was the first state to legalize it after around 77 years of it being effectively illegal across the country.

Now that 10 years have passed, how has Colorado and the entire country, for that matter, changed?

The campaign predicts tax revenue to make \$2 million within the first year. \$10 million? Ha! Colorado ended up making around \$70 million in tax revenue that first year<sup>1</sup> and has made more than \$2 billion ever since. This money has funded everything from healthcare to education to highways to law enforcement. While more adults now consume marijuana in Colorado, there is no evidence that more kids do.<sup>2</sup> Marijuana DUI arrests have modestly gone up.

Nationwide, cannabis is now completely legal for adults in 24 states, DC, and 3 territories and medically legal in 37 states. What a difference 10 years makes.

Sources/further reading:

<https://www.statnews.com/2023/10/30/marijuana-colorado-legalized-recreational-use-challenges/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0F1oUfRKsqU>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7Q\\_8f21-6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7Q_8f21-6k)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj4TDqI8WY4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP0SoC9PSAA>

<https://www.youtube.com/@ColoMJinitiative2012/videos>

<https://coloradosun.com/2019/06/12/where-does-colorados-marijuana-tax-money-go/>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cdor.colorado.gov/data-and-reports/marijuana-data/marijuana-tax-reports>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://dcj.colorado.gov/news-article/colorado-division-of-criminal-justice-publishes-report-on-impacts-of-marijuana>