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CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION
April 29 - May 1, 2014
Washington, D.C.**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.55
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28 April 2014
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**MARIJUANA ISSUES
KEVIN A. SABET
DRUG POLICY INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

Marijuana Issues

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Disclaimers/Interests

- I receive no funding from a US Federal Agency
- Serve on American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Public Policy Committee
- Former policy staffer in three US Administrations
- I will present the work of many of my collaborators/colleagues, including:
 - Dr. Christian Thurstone, Colorado
 - Dr. Paula Riggs, Colorado
 - Dr. Kathryn Wells, Colorado
 - American Society of Addiction Medicine

How did we get here?

Medical Marijuana

**“We will use [medical marijuana]
as a red-herring to give marijuana
a good name.”**

**—Keith *Stroup*, head of *NORML*
to the Emory Wheel, 1979**

Made people answer the question:

Which is worse:

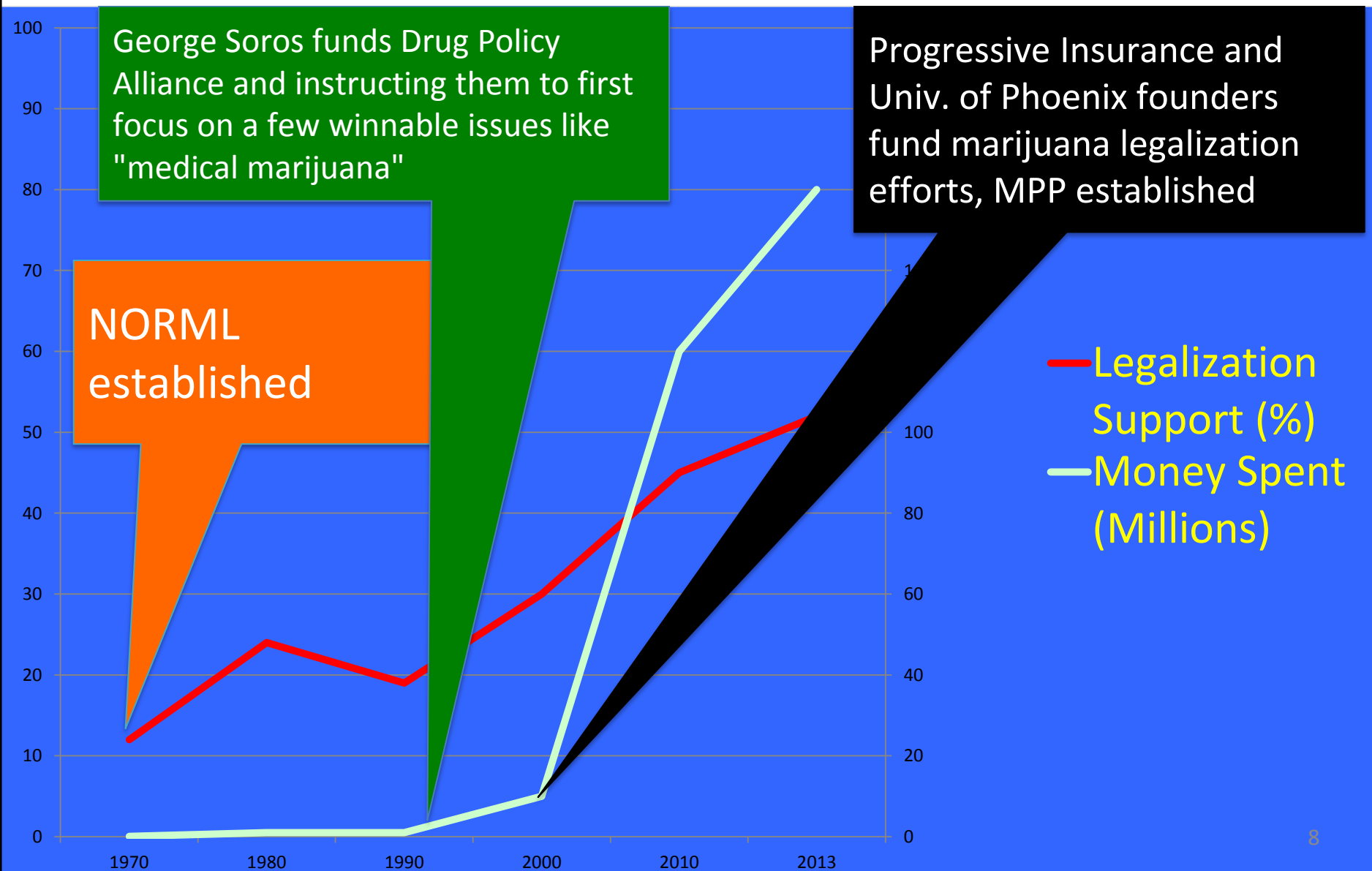
drug abuse or cancer?

Only a small proportion of medical marijuana users report any serious illness

- Less than 2% report cancer, HIV/AIDS, glaucoma, MS, Crohn's, ALS, etc. as their reason for using medical marijuana.
- **Profile:** 30s white male, no history of cancer/AIDS. Self-reported back pain



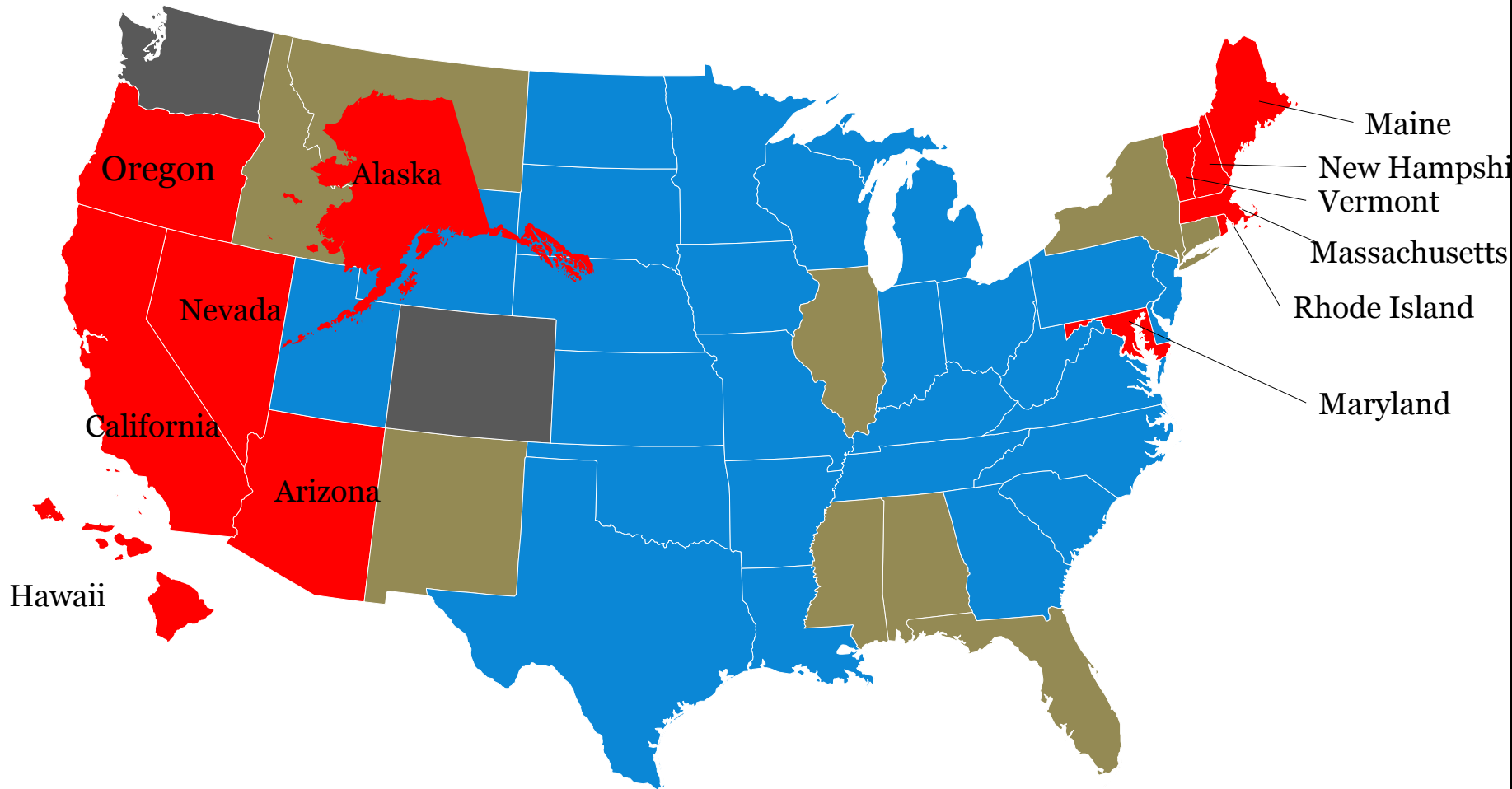
Legalization – Follow the Money



What are we facing in 2014?

- (1) Growing “inevitability” narrative**
- (2) Money divide**
- (3) States that will take a while to analyze; while legalization groups work at record pace to fund successful political campaigns**

States targeted for Legalization



DOJ Guidance on Legalization

Major areas of importance, including:

- the distribution of marijuana to minors;
- revenue from the sale of marijuana from going to criminal enterprises, gangs and cartels;
- the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal under state law in some form to other states;
- state-authorized marijuana activity from being used as a cover or pretext for the trafficking of other illegal drugs or other illegal activity;
- violence and the use of firearms in the cultivation and distribution of marijuana
- drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences associated with marijuana use;
- growing of marijuana on public lands and the attendant public safety and environmental dangers posed by marijuana production on public lands;
- preventing marijuana possession or use on federal property.¹¹

How has it gone so
far?

Colorado Didn't Legalize Overnight

2001

2005

2008

2009

2012

2014

Medical
Marijuana
implemented
(passed in
2000)

Denver
legalizes

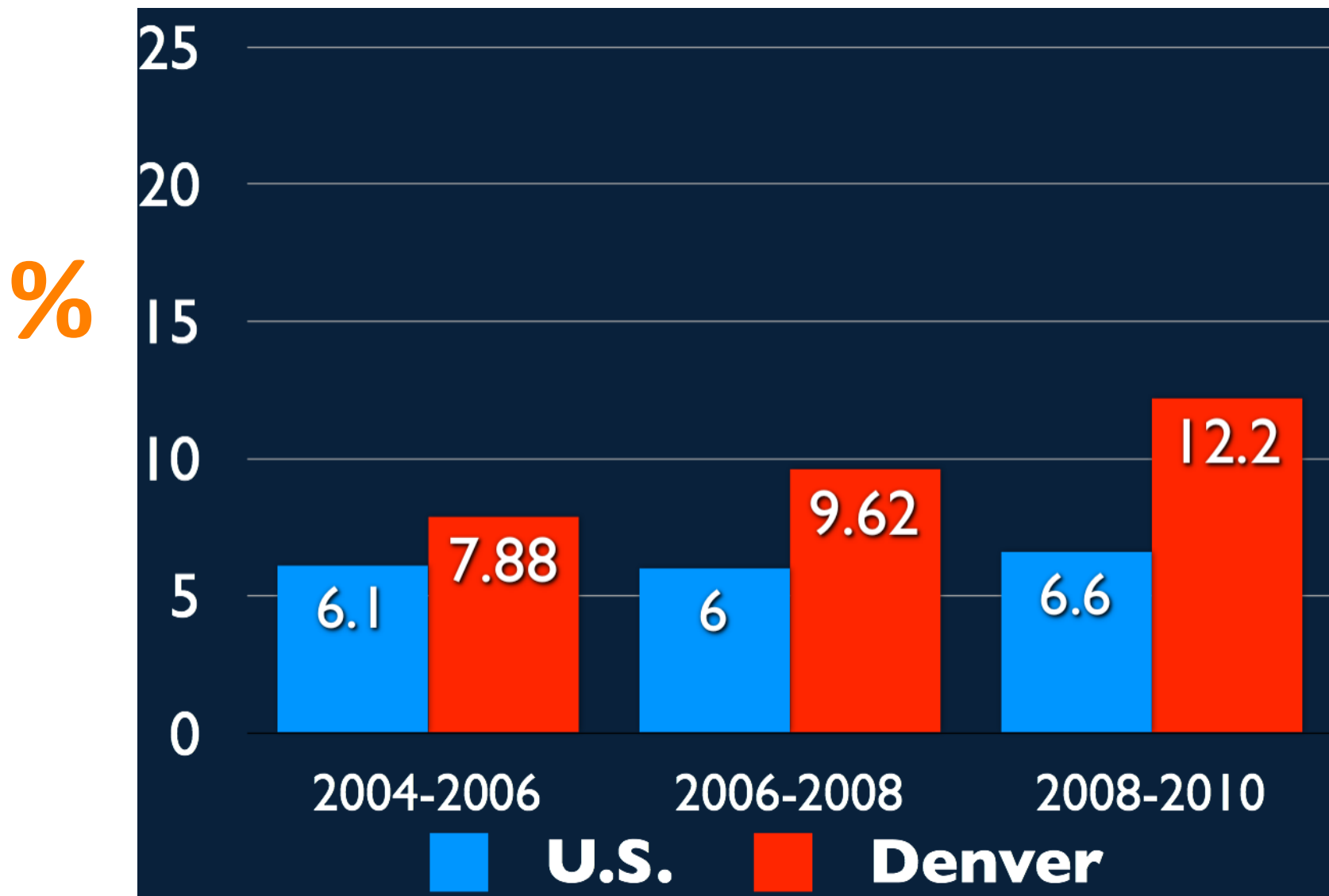
1st stores

700 stores
3.5%
adults
have MMJ
license

Legalized

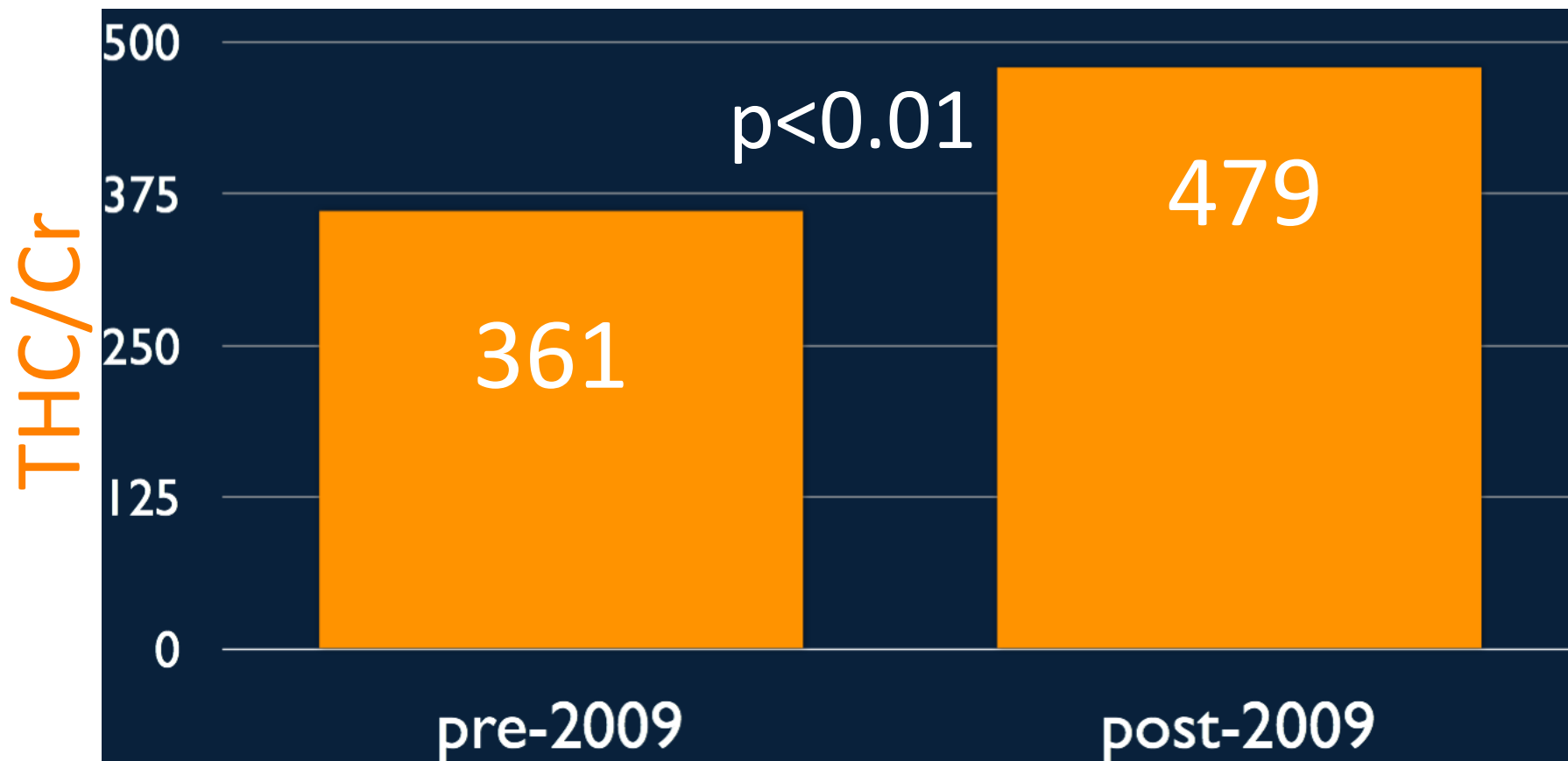
Stores
open

Past month prevalence 12+



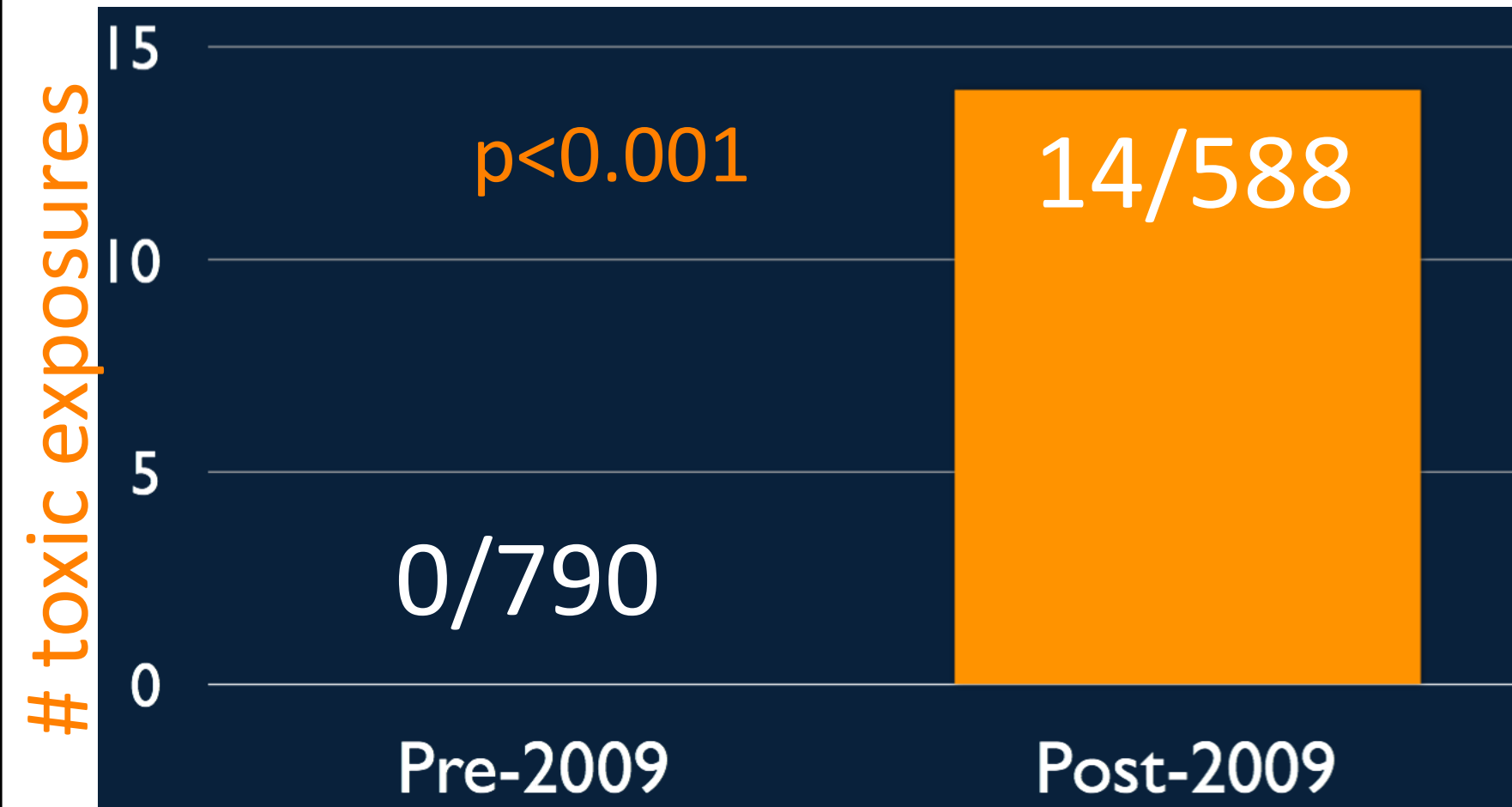
Schuermeyer J, Salomonsen-Sautel S, Kato Price R, Balan S, Thurstone C, Min SJ, Sakai JT. Temporal trends in marijuana attitudes, availability and use in Colorado compared to non-medical marijuana states: 2003-2011. Accepted for publication in Drug and Alcohol Dependence

Urinary THC/Cr - adolescents in substance treatment



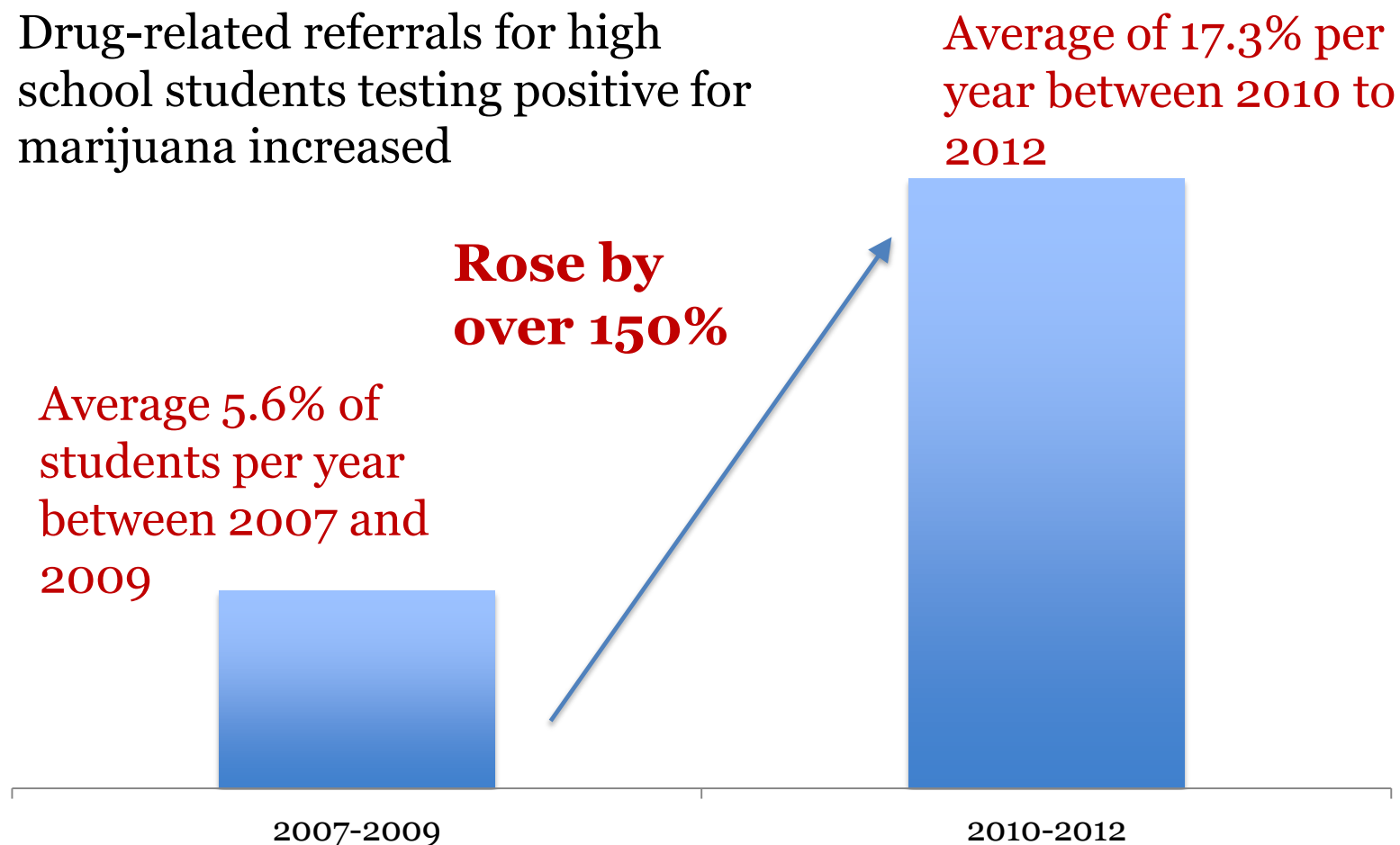
Belendiuk et al (2013), The effect of marijuana commercialization on adolescent drug treatment outcomes, AACAP Poster Presentation, Orlando, FL

Childhood Exposures



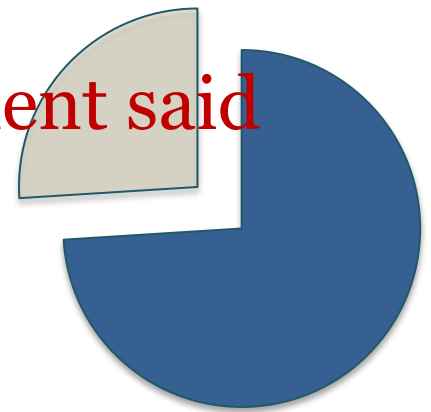
Distribution to minors

Drug-related referrals for high school students testing positive for marijuana increased



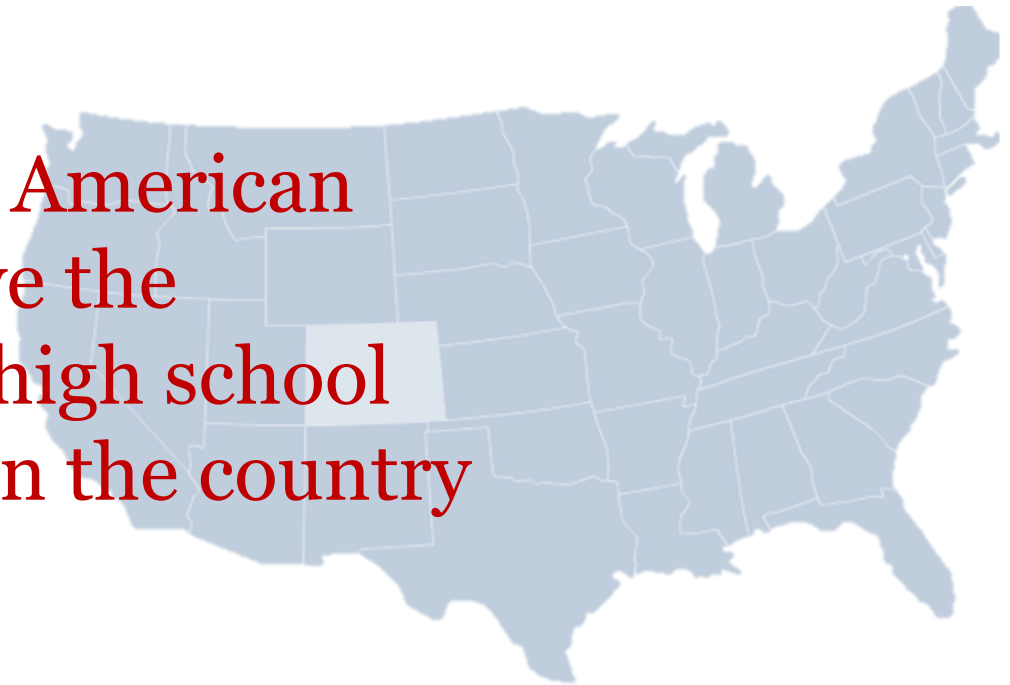
Medical marijuana is easily diverted to youth

- Teens who know somebody with a medical marijuana license are more likely than those who don't to report 'fairly' or 'very' easy access to marijuana
- **74%** of Denver-area teens in treatment said they used somebody else's medical marijuana an average of 50 times

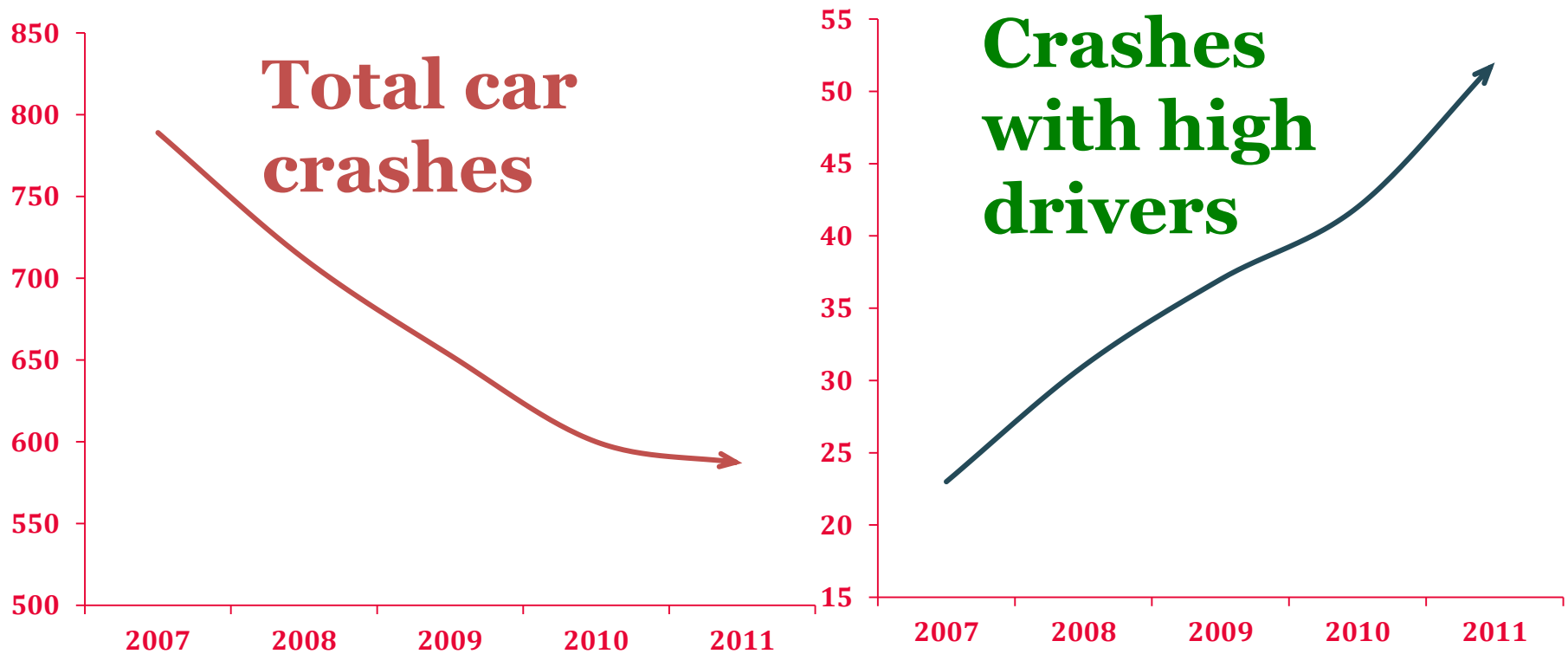


Denver high schools

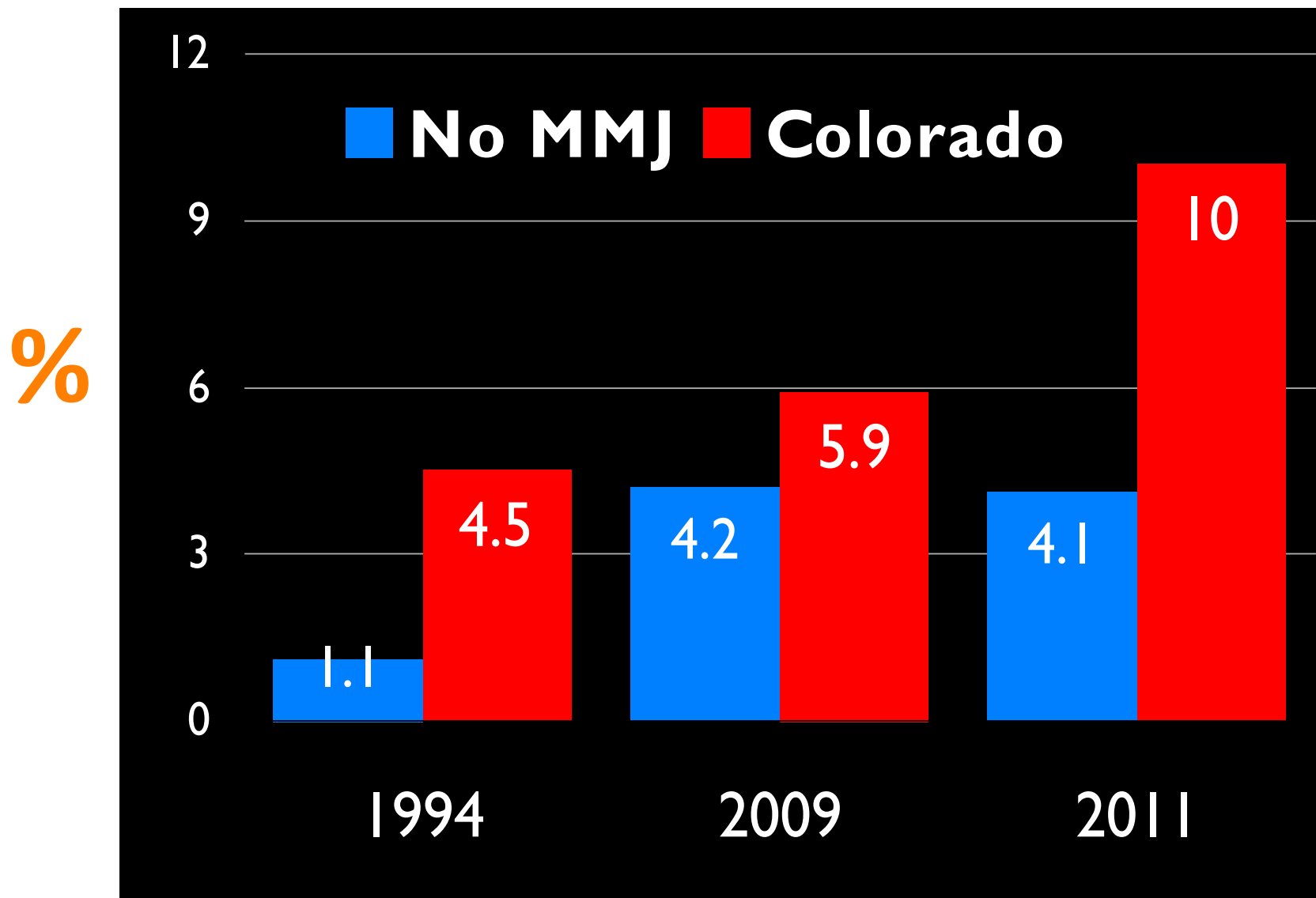
- 29% of Denver high school students used marijuana in the last month
- If Denver were an American state, it would have the **HIGHEST** public high school current use rates in the country



While the total number of car crashes ***declined*** from 2007 to 2011, the number of fatal car crashes with drivers testing positive for marijuana rose sharply.



Traffic Fatalities + for Marijuana

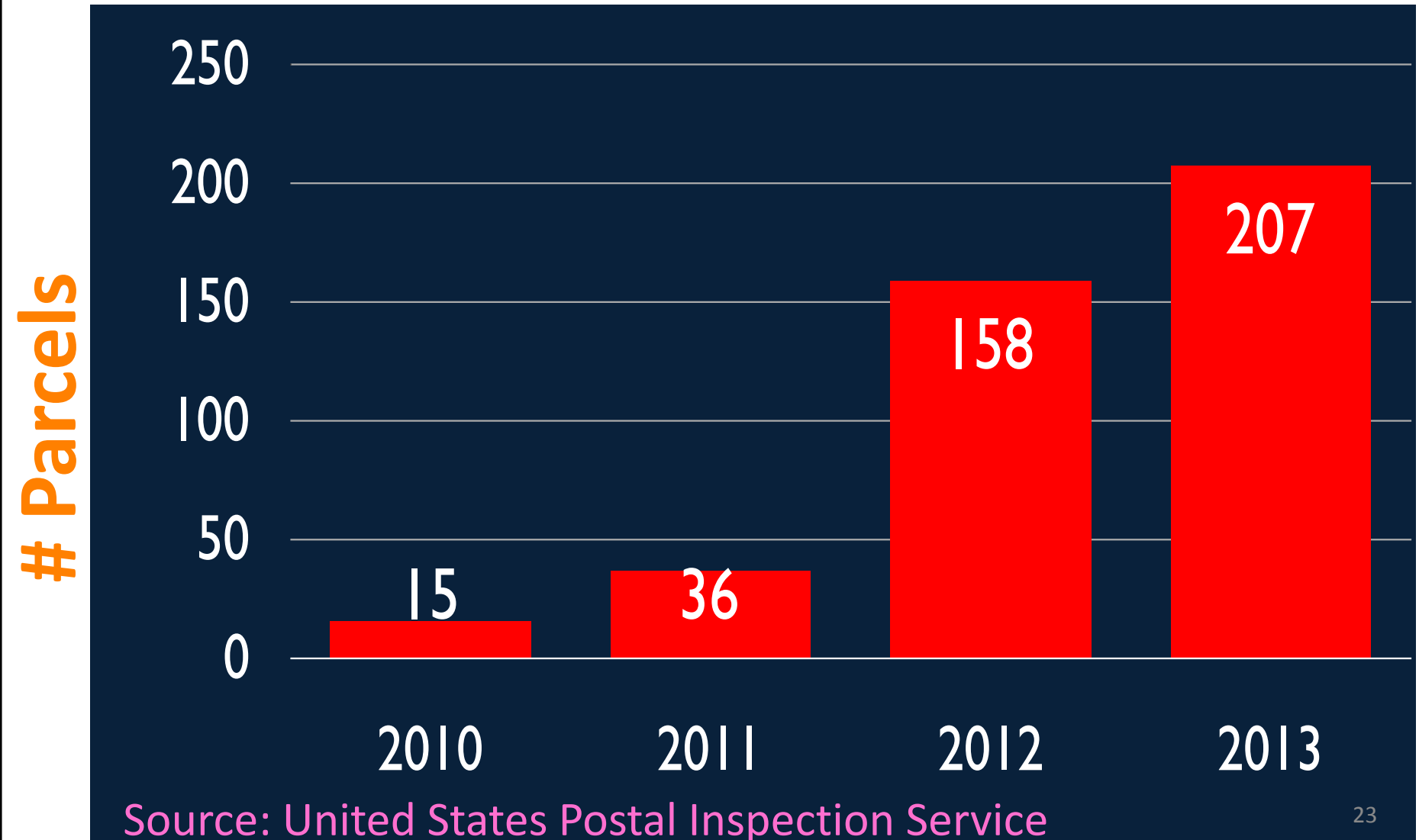


Salomonsen-Sautel S, Min SJ Sakai JT, Thurstone C, Hopfer C. Trends in fatal motor vehicle crashes before and after marijuana commercialization in Colorado. Accepted for publication in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*

Hospital Cannabis Discharge DX



U.S. Postal Inspection Service - parcel packages intercepted



Diversion of marijuana

As the price for marijuana plummets in legalization states, we can expect cheap marijuana to be sold in non-legalization states for a handsome profit.

- According to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) National Seizure System, in 2012, there were 274 Colorado marijuana interdiction seizures destined for other states compared to 54 in 2005.

Projected vs. Actual Tax Revenue (in millions)

Projected vs. Actual tax Revenue (in millions)



Early Indications in Colorado

- **When asked, 10% of non-using youth said they would use, according** to 10,000-student survey by NYU researcher, published in peer-reviewed journal (Palamar et al, International Journal of Drug Policy)
- “Students Find Way to Sneak Marijuana Into Class”
- “Colorado students who ingested marijuana edibles treated at hospital”
- “Marijuana candy at Colorado middle school”
- “Colorado pot trade is smoking Nebraska Panhandle budgets”
- “Marijuana superstore proposed in Eagle, Colorado”

A WEBSITE TRACKING THE VIOLATIONS OF THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN COLORADO AND WASHINGTON

In August of 2013, the US Department of Justice Released a Memo Promising to Closely Examine How Legalization in WA and CO Affected Several Areas. This Website Tracks Violations in Those Areas.



Students Find Way To Secretly Smoke Marijuana In Class

February 20, 2014 / in Minors, Public Health Consequences / by legaladmin



RECENT POSTS

*Students Find Way To Secretly Smoke
Marijuana In Class*

Responsible Regulations?

- Heavily influenced by CO's massive medical marijuana industry
- Advertising allowed in magazines/newspapers where 21+ makes up “more than 30% of audience”



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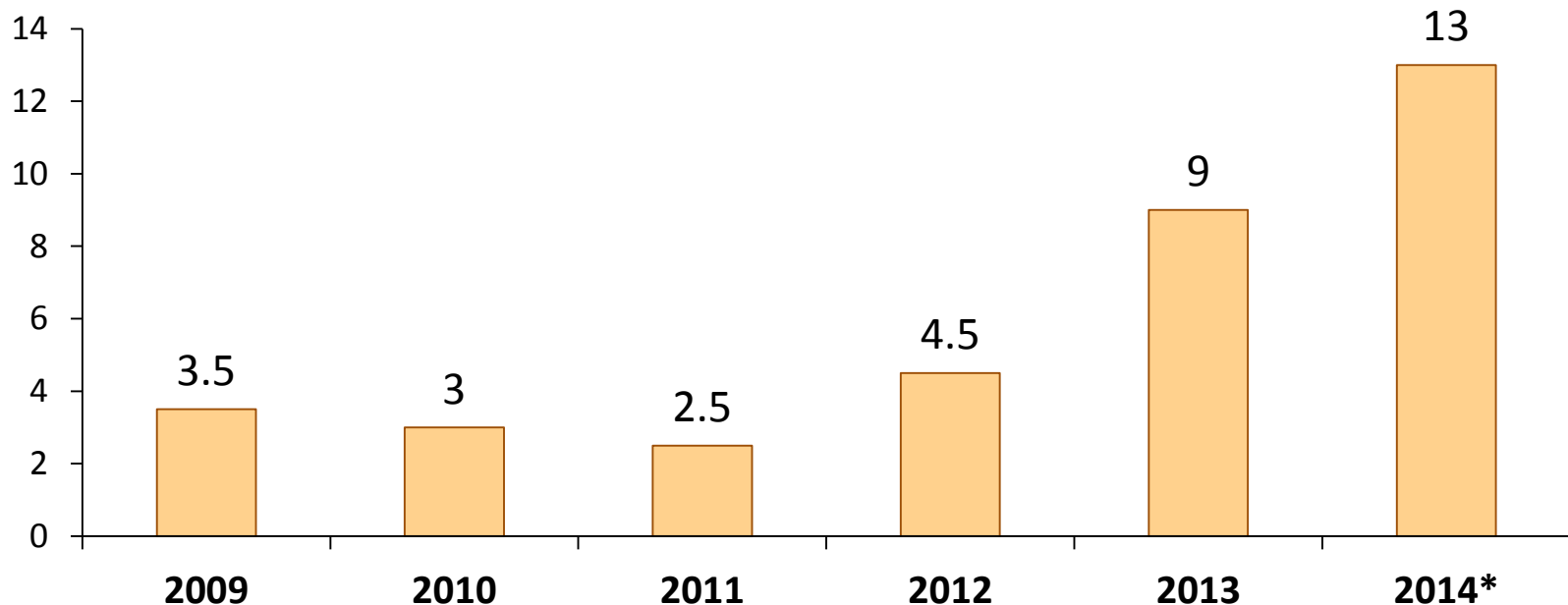
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Marijuana in the workplace

**THC-positive workplace drug test
results in Colorado Springs rose by 30%
since 2013**

Average number of THC-positive results per month



*2014 estimates based on January data from Conspire! drug testing results in Colorado Springs

2014 Marijuana Developments

- Associated Press: [“Two Denver Deaths Linked to Recreational Marijuana Use”](#). One includes the under-aged college student who jumped to his death after ingesting marijuana cookie.
- The number of parents calling the poison-control hotline to report their kids had consumed marijuana has [risen significantly in Colorado](#).
- Marijuana edibles and marijuana vaporizers have been found in middle and high schools.

Colorado's underground market



A Colorado drug dealer says that if anything, legalization has **helped** his business because “it’s over priced, it’s being taxed way too high.”

Colorado's underground market

Colorado Springs Lieutenant stated that

“[Legalization] has done nothing more than **enhance the opportunity for the black market**. If you can get it tax-free on the corner, you’re going to get it on the corner.”

Crime in Colorado

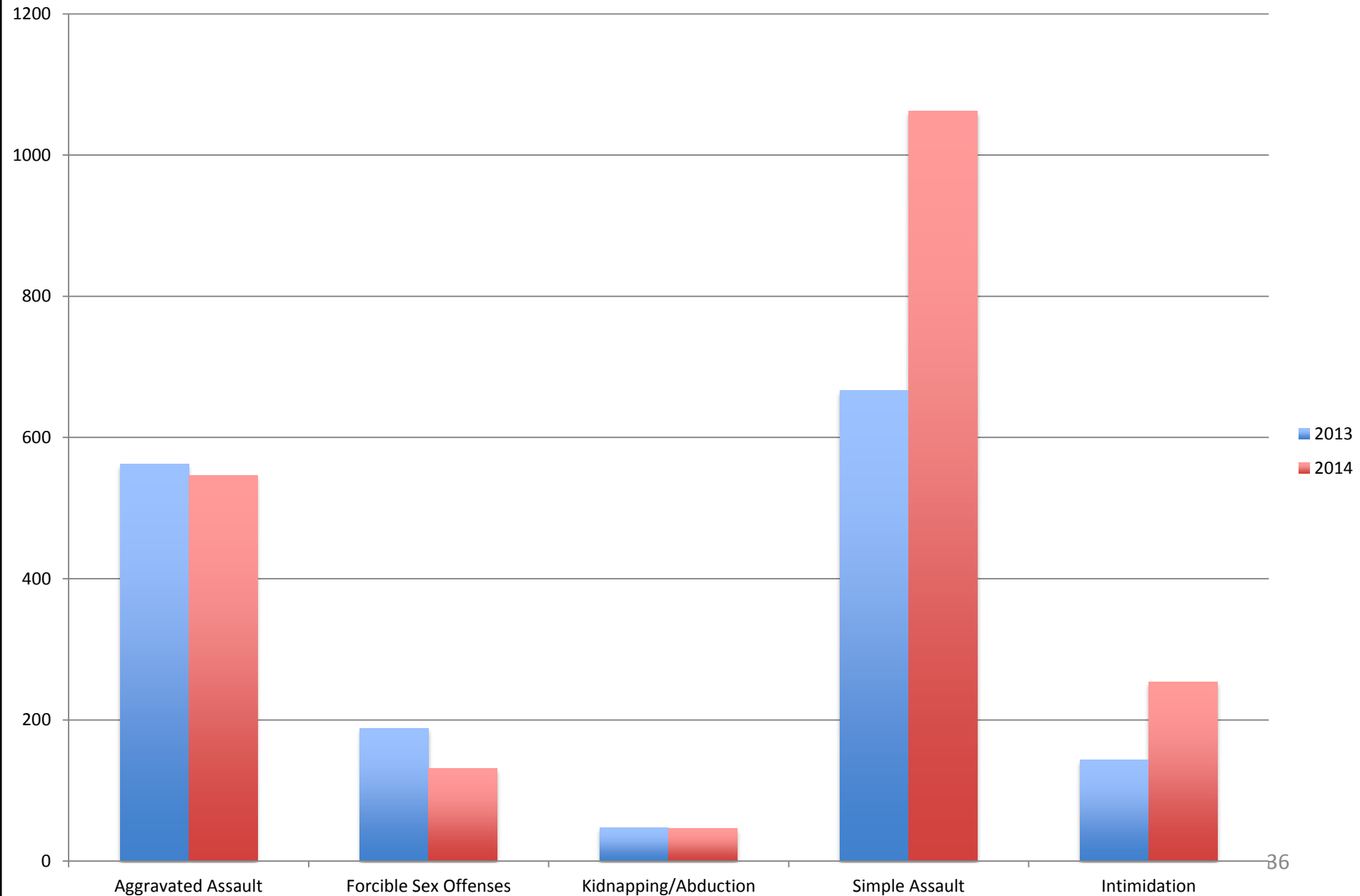
Several media reports said that crime had decreased in Colorado since the legalization of sales began in 2014.

Crime fell for motor vehicle theft violations, which skewed “crimes against property” category

Issue gets more complicated when digging deeper into the numbers.

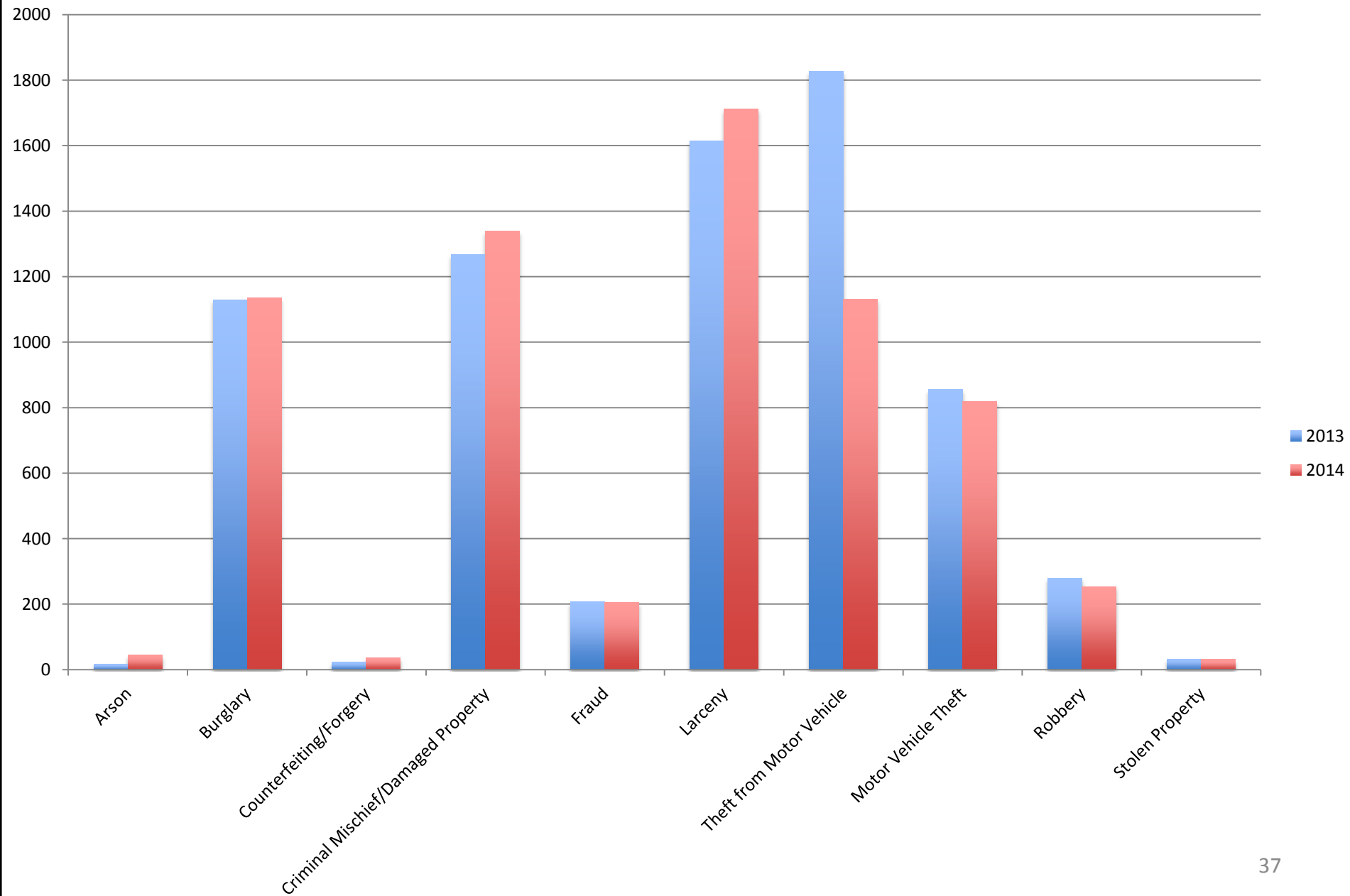
Crimes Against Persons: 2013 v. 2014

(Based on Jan, Feb, and March totals)

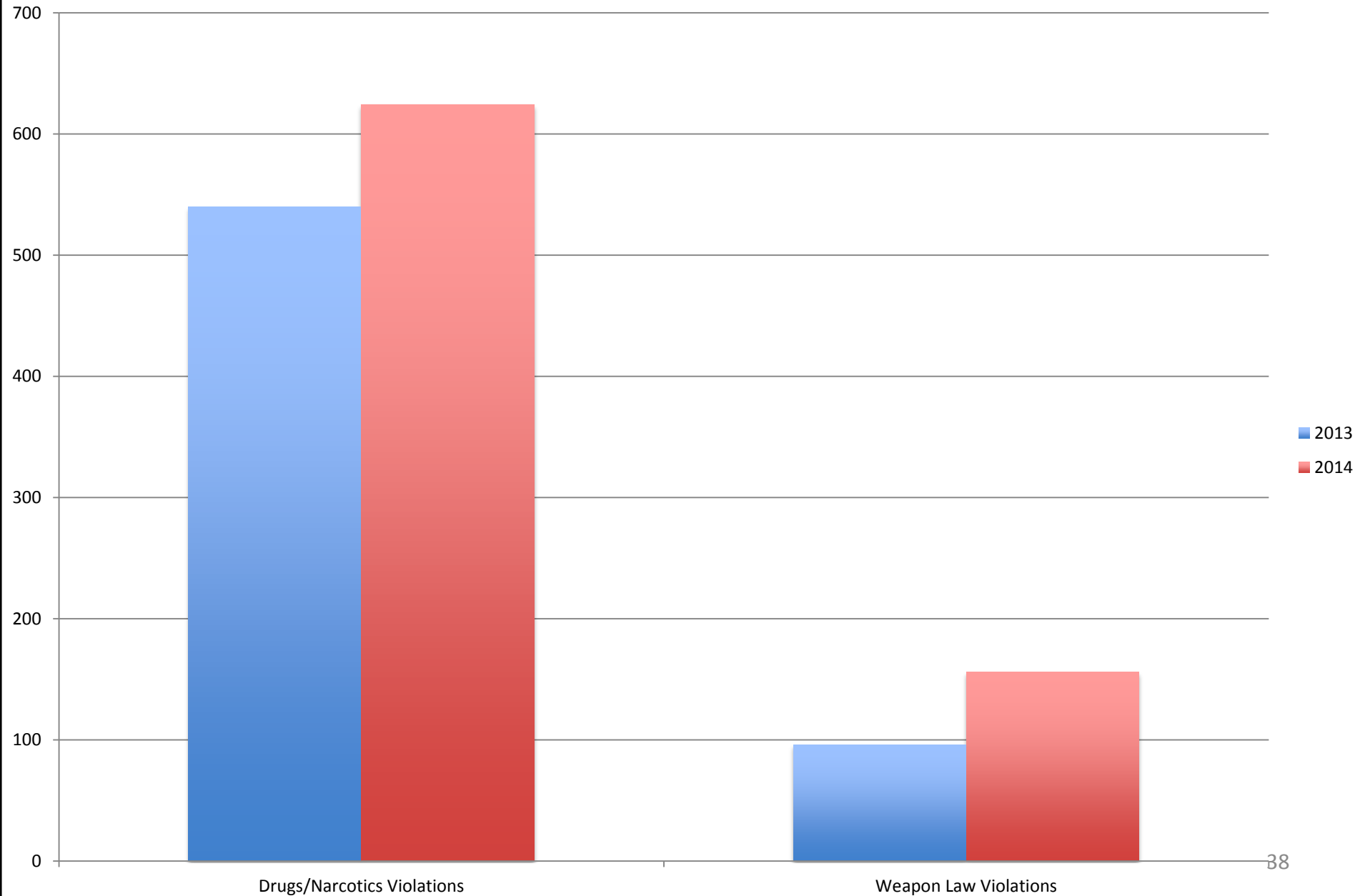


Crimes Against Property: 2013 vs. 2014

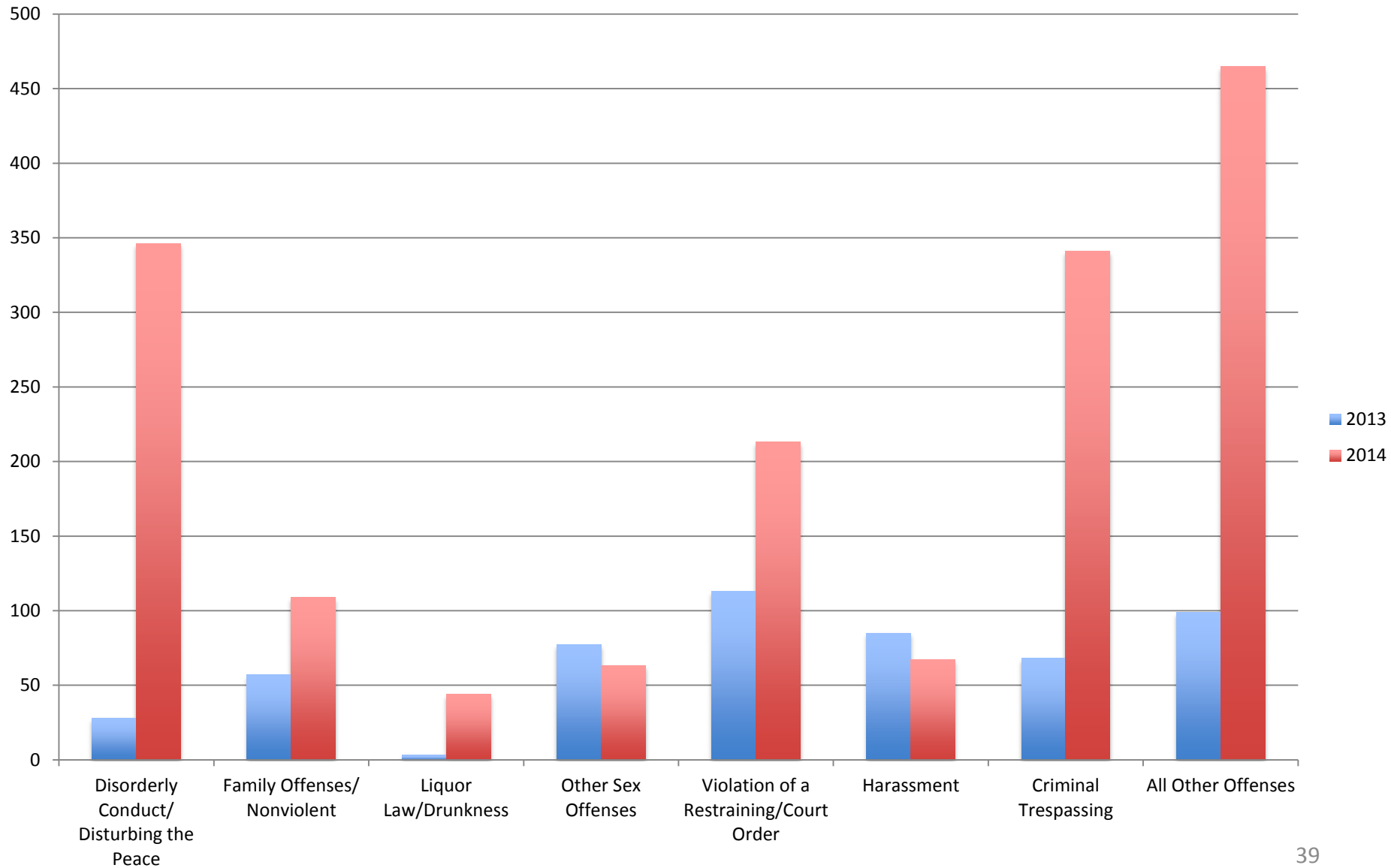
(Based on Jan, Feb and March totals)

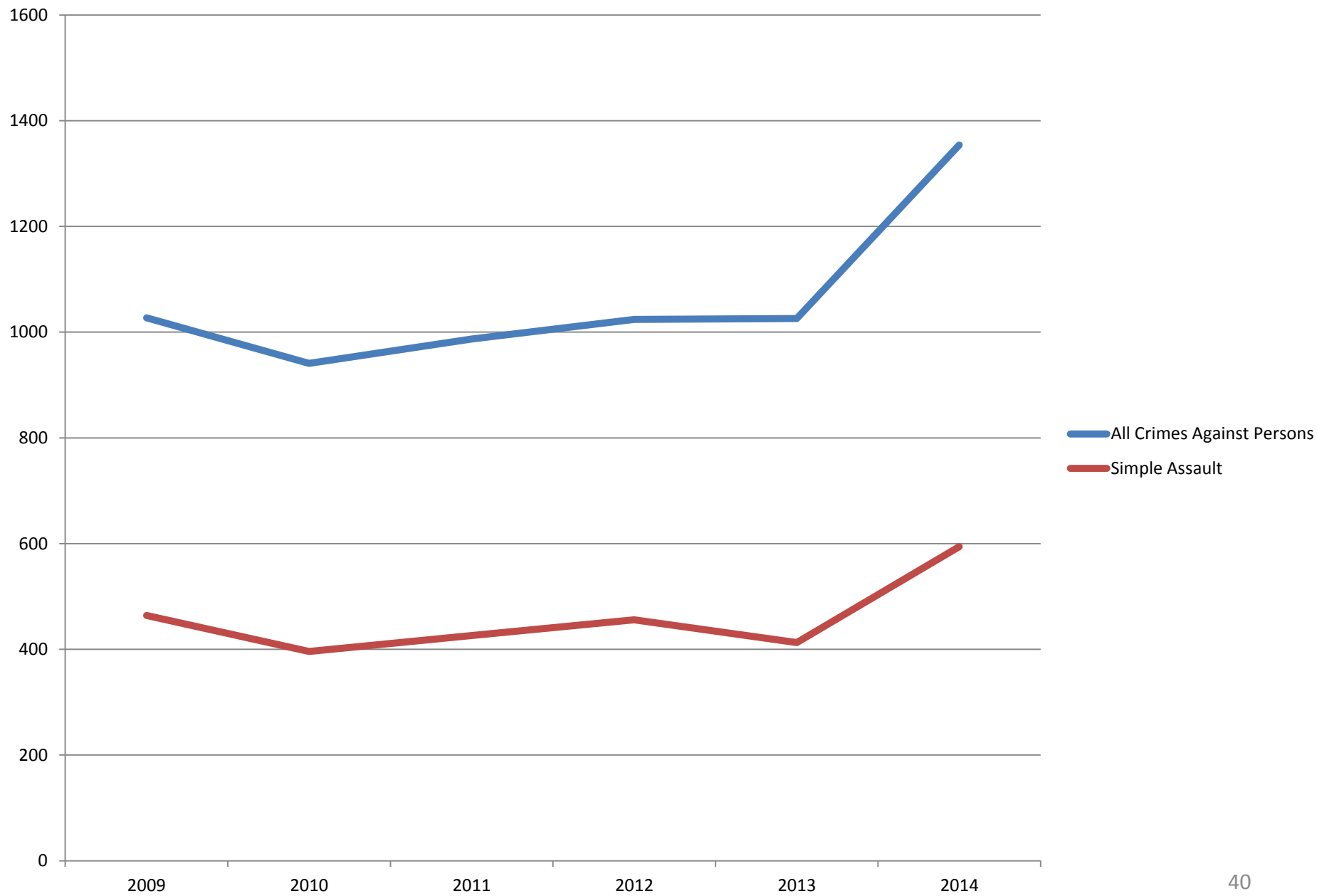


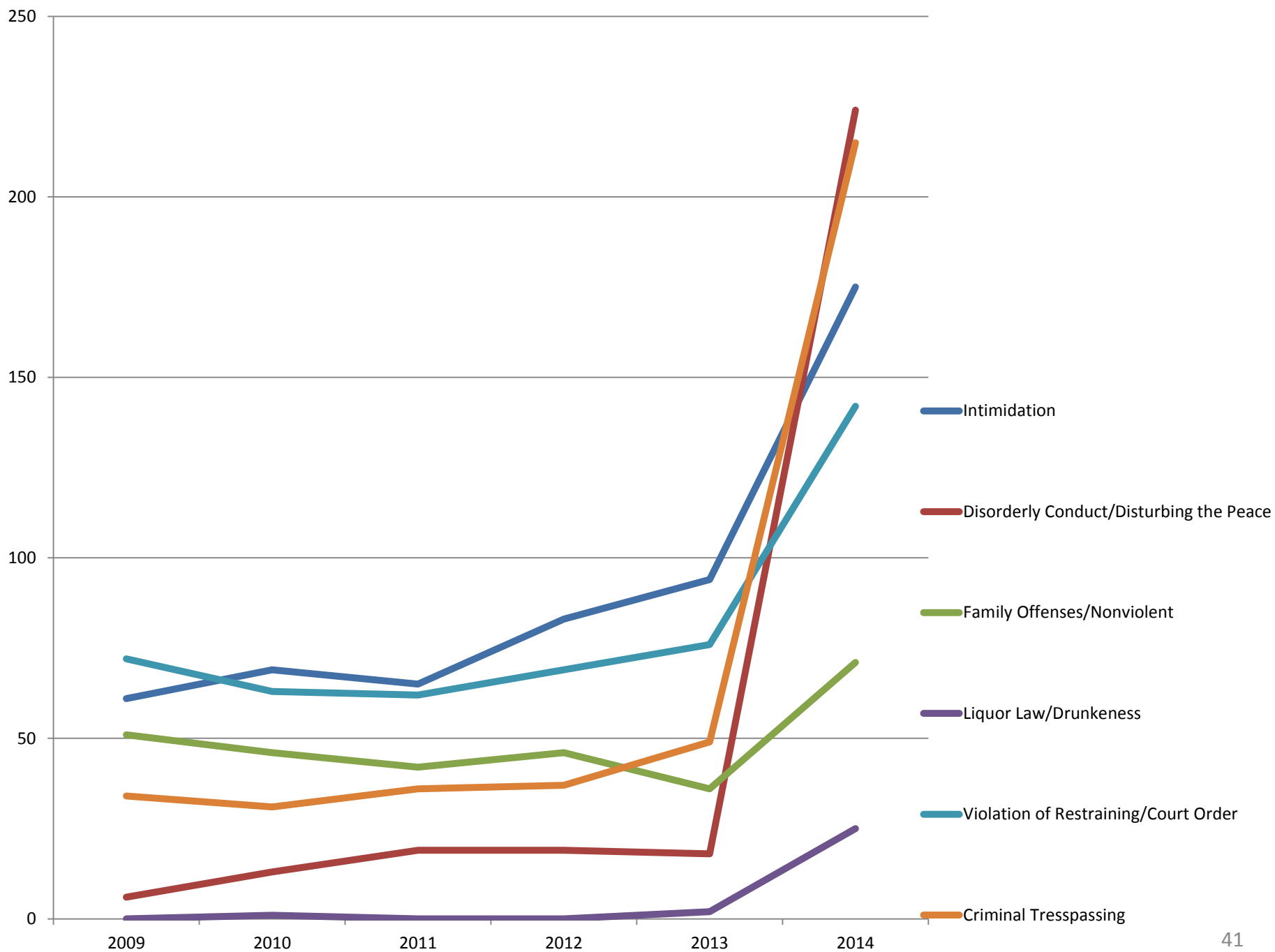
Crimes Against Society: 2013 vs. 2014 (Based on Jan, Feb and March totals)



All Other Offenses (Based on Jan, Feb, and March totals)







Crime in Colorado

Data weaknesses:

Does not control for any other confounders

What happened in other areas?

Did enforcement go up, or actual crime?

Media Portrayals of Colorado

- Mostly positive
 - However some outlets, like the biggest newspaper in Colorado, now are profiting off of the sales of marijuana

THE DENVER POST

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BREAKING NEWS

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Louisville teen clears hurdles, heads to U.S. Naval Academy

ABOUT 12 HOURS AGO

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1/5

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ON 25 GS
solid supports the water's role in the environment against her husband's view.
The woman, identified by local police as Alicia Thompson, said federal agents who had not been in contact with her husband for years, said Police Officer Michael Smith.

NBC's "Hannibal" episode last week's first, said today's reality program as episode of an episode after the show "Hannibal" one of the most popular for recent releases, including the British television, "The



Vaporizing industries: Nicotine and Marijuana

Pax by Ploom

- Japan Tobacco International (JTI) is the third largest international tobacco company behind Philip Morris International.
- In 2011, JTI bought a portion of Ploom – a startup based in Silicon Valley that produces a loose-leaf vaporizer that can be used to inhale heated vapor from marijuana as well as tobacco, called the Pax.



Regular E-Cigarettes can be used to vaporize marijuana

- Marijuana with THC [concentrates approaching 100%](#), in the form of butane-extracted hash oil (BHO) can easily be packed into e-cigarettes.
- The process is extremely dangerous.
- E-cig companies are [increasingly marketing youth and adolescents](#).
- Teen use of e-cigarettes is [significantly on the rise](#).



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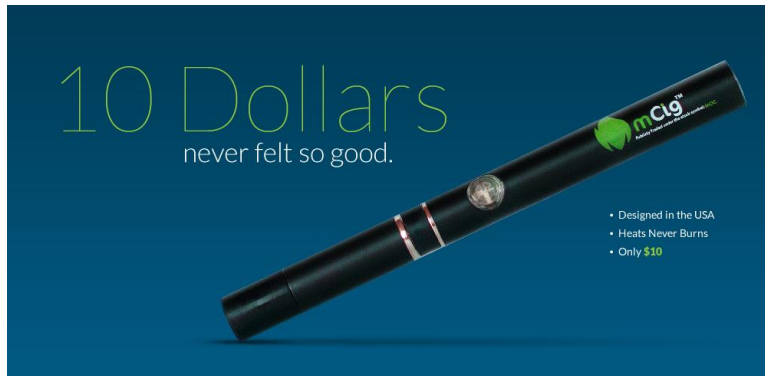
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WITH DORIS BURKE



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE SATURDAY INTERVIEW

Thank You for Smoking—Marijuana

Justin Hartfield, the Weedmaps.com founder, on his plans to legalize the drug nationwide and become the Philip Morris of pot.

Email Print Save 741 Comments



A

A

By BARI WEISS [CONNECT](#)

Updated March 14, 2014 7:17 p.m. ET

Newport Beach, Calif.

Justin Hartfield is high.

"I've been high since I'm 13," the 30-year old marijuana entrepreneur says as he sips an iced tea at the Pelican Hill Resort, a tony spot overlooking the Pacific where he plays golf twice a week. But don't mistake this onetime high-school pot dealer with a libertarian streak for your run-of-the-mill stoner. His aim is to become the Philip Morris of the American marijuana industry.

"Prohibition is about to pop. And the people that were here before, if they're positioned intelligently, will reap a profit. I think we're positioned really well," Mr. Hartfield says.



In the 1920s and early 1930s, risk-takers who invested in alcohol while it was still underground hit the jackpot when it was legalized. Joseph Kennedy secured "medicinal liquor" permits during Prohibition and in the months before the anti-alcohol law was repealed in 1933 he secured the exclusive import rights to popular liquor brands like Dewar's whisky and Gordon's

Associate editorial features editor Bari Weiss on Justin Hartfield, an entrepreneur in the budding marijuana



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