

Informational Document on Retail Cannabis

Information related to Article 20 & 21 which will be decided on by Australian Ballot on March 1st. The passage of Article 20 & 21 will be an “Opt-in” for the Town of Hardwick. An “Opt-in” vote by the Town would only apply to only Retail or Integrated Licenses. This document is to inform the voter on the issues surrounding the vote.

Act No. 164 (S.54). Cannabis:

An act relating to the regulation of cannabis. This act creates the Cannabis Control Board for the purpose of regulating cannabis production and sale in Vermont. Participation in the legal cannabis market will require licensing by the Board. Six types of licenses will be available: cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, testing laboratory, retailer, and integrated licensee. Regulation of the medical cannabis program will move from the Department of Public Safety to the Board on March 1, 2022. Retail sales of cannabis to the public will begin in 2022.

Pre Registration for state licenses will start in March of 2022 for applicants to participate in the Retail Cannabis market. Licensing will be made available in May of 2022. An “Opt-in” vote will allow businesses to operate Retail and Integrated establishments starting in October 2022. More information about the Cannabis Control Board can be found at: <https://ccb.vermont.gov/>.

<p><u>Definitions:</u></p> <p><u><i>Retail Cannabis:</i></u> State license to legally sell THC Cannabis products to the public over the age of 21.</p> <p><u><i>Integrated licenses:</i></u> A company with an integrated license can grow it, sell it to other companies for retail sales, manufacture products (such as edibles), conduct testing (for their own cannabis or others), and sell it themselves in a retail store. The reason why integrated licenses require an opt-in vote by a town is because they include retail licenses.</p> <p><u><i>Local Option Tax:</i></u> Towns with a Local Option Tax already in place can collect revenue from the sale of Retail Cannabis (Hardwick does not have this in place).</p> <p><u><i>Medical Marijuana/Cannabis:</i></u> License to sell Marijuana to the end user as prescribed by a physician.</p>	<p><u>Zoning Considerations:</u></p> <p>Bylaws cannot discriminate against Retail Cannabis specifically, but State and Federal laws and regulations will apply.</p> <p>Zoning Bylaw review and adoption of new standards related to Retail Cannabis will need to be made if the Town approves “Opt-in” vote.</p> <p>Guidance from the state is pending for regional planning for Cannabis regulatory language.</p> <p>Potential effects to Zoning Bylaws: Current districts zoned for retail would be available for Retail Cannabis establishments.</p> <p>Current guidance on buffer zones of Retail Cannabis establishments from a school are 500’ to 1000’ See Maps</p> <p>Stores must be dedicated solely to selling THC Cannabis products.</p>
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<u>Health</u>	<u>Community Impact</u>
<p>Adult use of Cannabis has been known to have positive and negative health effects.</p> <p>The State of Vermont Department of Health has links and facts sheets available to the public that study the long term health effects of Cannabis use</p> <p>Healthy Lamoille Valley is a local source of information on this topic for adults and youth.</p> <p>The range of Cannabis THC potency varies and is currently capped at 30% flower 60% concentrate i.e. oils and edibles.</p> <p>Sources available on the town website:</p> <p>https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/retail-cannabis-info/</p> <p>https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP_Data_Brief_Marijuana.pdf</p>	<p>Currently THC cannabis is available to youth regardless of “Opt-in” passage.</p> <p>Potential effects of increased traffic to the area of retail establishments.</p> <p>Potential influx of out of state travelers to Hardwick to purchase Cannabis products.</p> <p>Current state law prohibits TCH Cannabis use in public spaces and/or accommodations.</p> <p>Increased potential property tax revenue from the commercial tax base.</p> <p>Adult use of 21+ products are prohibited in the school setting.</p>

Links for more information:

[Retail cannabis forum stirs debate over economic benefit, public health risks - VTDigger](#)

[Vermont Cannabis Control Board](#)

[healthylamoillevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/HLV-resource-Cannabis-and-Your-Town.pdf](https://www.healthylamoillevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/HLV-resource-Cannabis-and-Your-Town.pdf)

[Act 164 Retail Opt-In Guide](#)



Hardwick, VT

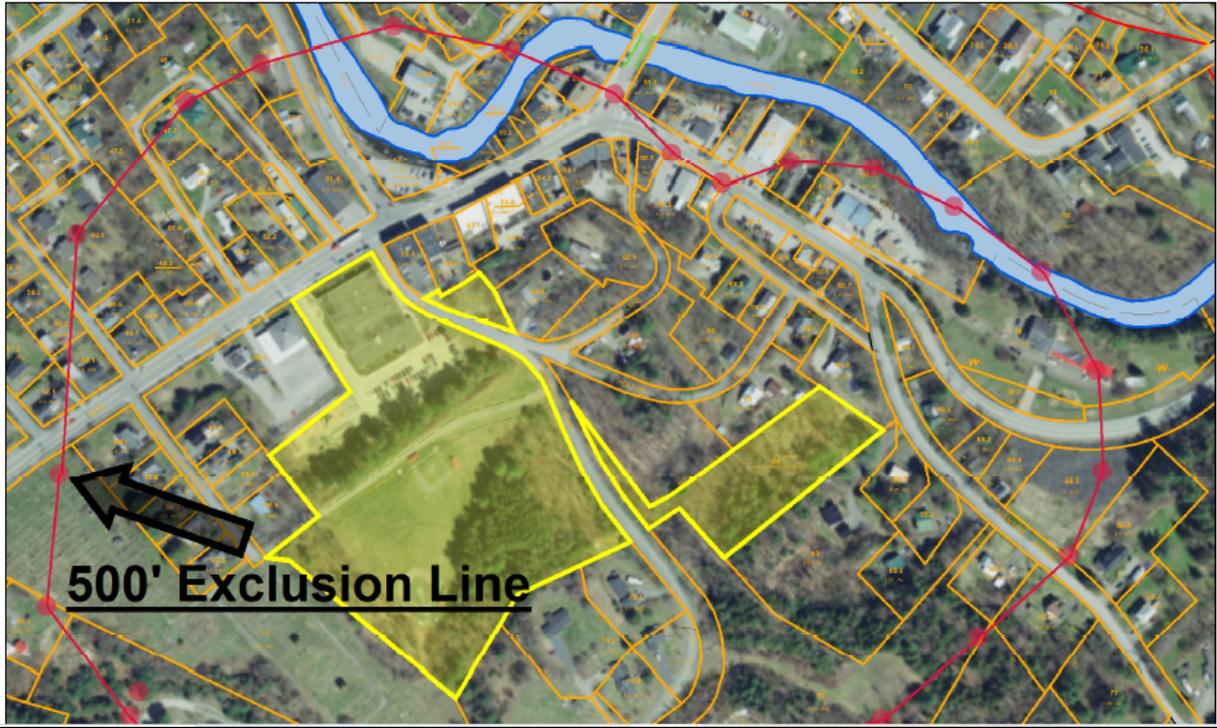


January 26, 2022

1 inch = 268 Feet

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Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado
A Report Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-33.4-516
Colorado Division of Criminal Justice
July 2021

A Summary for the Hardwick Act 164 Task Force
February, 2022

- In **2013**, the passage of Amendment 64 allowed for the retail sale and possession of marijuana in Colorado
- The **measurement of available data** elements can be affected by very context of marijuana legalization. For example, the decreasing social stigma regarding marijuana use could lead individuals to be more likely to report use on surveys and also to health workers in emergency departments and poison control centers, making marijuana use appear to increase when perhaps it has not.
- The total number of **marijuana arrests** decreased by 68% between 2012 and 2019, from 13,225 to 4,290. Marijuana possession arrests, which make up the majority of all marijuana arrests, were cut in half (-71%). Marijuana sales arrests decreased by 56%. Arrests for marijuana production increased slightly (+3%). Marijuana arrests that were unspecified, meaning the specific reason for the arrest was not noted by law enforcement, went down by 45%.
- The number of **marijuana-related court filings** declined 55% between 2012 and 2019, from 9,925 to 4,489. In terms of organized crime, the number of court filings charged with the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (C.R.S.18-17.104) that were linked to some marijuana charge increased from 31 in 2012 to 119 in 2017, but has since dropped back down to 34 in 2019.
- The number of **DUI summonses** issued by the Colorado State Patrol in which marijuana-alone or marijuana-in-combination was recorded increased by 120% between 2014 (n=684) and 2020 (n=1,508). The prevalence of marijuana alone increased from 6.3% in 2014 to 8.7% in 2020. The percentage of marijuana polydrug (marijuana and alcohol or marijuana and other drugs) as the perceived impairing substance increased from 5.7% of all DUIs in 2014 to 22.7% in 2020.
- According to CDOT, the number of **fatalities** in which a driver tested positive for Delta-9 THC at or above the 5.0 ng/mL level increased from 52 (14% of all fatalities) in 2016 to 56 in 2019 (13% of all fatalities).
- The **Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)** is a statewide telephone survey conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). In 2014, the BRFSS was expanded to include questions about marijuana use. In 2019, 19.0% of adults reported marijuana use in the past 30 days, compared to 13.4% in 2014, a significant increase. Those reporting smoking marijuana flower decreased from 87.2% of users in 2016 to 76.1% in 2019. This compares to increases in eating/drinking (35.2% in 2016 to 43.0% in 2019, vaping (22.9% in 2016 to 32.0% in 2019), and dabbing (16.8% in 2016 to 19.6% in 2019)

- The overall rate of **treatment admissions** for those reporting marijuana as their primary substance of use has decreased from 222 admissions per 100,000 population in 2012 to 182 in 2019. Nearly three-quarters (73.5%) of youth (10 to 17 years-old) in treatment for substance use report marijuana as their primary substance of use.
- Data on **youth marijuana use** was available from two sources. The **Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)**, with 46,537 high school and 6,983 middle school students responding in 2019, and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), with 447 respondents in 2018/19. HKCS results indicate no significant change in past 30-day use of marijuana between 2013 (19.7%) and 2019 (20.6%). Also, in 2019, the use rates were not different from the national 30-day use rates reported by the **Youth Risk Behavior Survey**. In 2019, 20.6% of Colorado high school students reported using marijuana in the past 30-days compared to 21.7% of high school students nationally that reported this behavior.
- To assess **drug-endangered children**, as required in S.B. 13-283, data from **CDPHE's Child Health Survey** (targeting parents with children ages 1-14) and Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System was obtained. Of parents with children ages 1–14 who responded to the survey, 14.0% reported some type of marijuana product around the house. When asked about where it was kept, 89.6% reported storing it in a location the child cannot access.
- Total **revenue from taxes, licenses, and fees** increased from \$67 million in 2014 to \$387 million in 2020 (+473%). The amount of taxes transferred to the school capital construction fund and public school fund increased 264%, from \$33 million in 2015 up to \$120 million in 2020.
- In December 2020, there were 85,814 individuals registered as **medical marijuana cardholders**. The most common conditions reported were severe pain (90%), muscle spasms (36%), and severe nausea (20%).

Helpful Links

[Retail cannabis forum stirs debate over economic benefit, public health risks - VTDigger](#)

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/S-0054/S-0054%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf> The law as passed.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT062/ACT062%20As%20Enacted.pdf> Update to the law.

<https://headyvermont.com/vermont-s-25-the-bill-to-strengthen-cannabis-equity-provisions-summary/> Summary of the law.

<https://www.vpr.org/vpr-news/2021-10-27/a-year-ahead-of-legal-sales-vt-cannabis-regulators-want-industry-to-be-small-scale-equitable> A good article on what the legislature had in mind.

<https://www.vermontgrowers.org/resources/act-164-retail-opt-in-guide> An interesting summary from the cannabis industry.

<https://vermontjournal.com/featured-articles/ludlow-voters-defeat-cannabis-retail-sales-for-second-and-final-time/>

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/07/21/legal-marijuana-black-market-227414/>