

Notable Community Benefits: [by state/territory]

Massachusetts

Massachusetts in 2016, the expectation was that retail stores would pop up quickly within a couple of years. That hasn't happened, as the state — and host communities — have taken a deliberately measured approach to permitting. But with early returns strong from a few shops, and towns reporting solid tax benefits and no real community disruption, the pace of openings should begin to increase — and so will the economic benefits of this new industry.

Community reaction:

Mass. was full of people who thought the sky was falling when recreational marijuana was legalized,

Community impact:

Mark Zatyрка thinks fewer of them are saying the same thing now.

"I knew it would change. But I feel like it's changed at a more rapid pace than I would have expected," he said of public perceptions about the new access to cannabis products in the Bay State. "When we held our public meetings, we had a few folks who thought we were going to destroy the world and everything would come crashing down once we opened. But the opposite has been true."

[<https://businesswest.com/blog/cannabis-businesses-benefit-communities-in-more-ways-than-one/>]

Colorado

Norml.org

Main point: Retail cannabis facilities are not positively associated with increased crime.

studies investigate the effects of marijuana legalization on neighborhood crime and documents the patterns in retail dispensary locations over time using detailed micro-level data from Denver, Colorado. ... The results imply that an additional dispensary in a neighborhood leads to a reduction of 17 crimes per month per 10,000 residents, which corresponds to roughly a 19 percent decline relative to the average crime rate over the sample period. ... Overall, our results suggest that dispensaries cause an overall reduction in crime in neighborhoods, with no evidence of spillovers to surrounding neighborhoods.

Community impact:

Crime-

Lastly, there is no evidence that increased marijuana use itself results in additional crime.”

<https://norml.org/marijuana/fact-sheets/societal-impacts-of-cannabis-dispensaries-retailers/?amp>
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Community impact:

Economic benefits-[Ia plata county Colorado] tourism spending, charitable donations and community outreach & support from local businesses.

“Additional economic benefits also accrue from visitors/tourists that make purchases of other goods and services in the county, and from the cannabis businesses that make local charitable contributions.”

https://www.region9edd.org/uploads/Cannabis_Final_Report_February_2018.pdf

Community impact:

Home Values-

Increased local home values.

“The first state to legalize recreational marijuana in the US was Colorado. Three notable studies have been conducted to investigate the home price effects of dispensaries in Colorado. Conklin et al. (2016) examined retail establishments that converted from medical marijuana providers to recreational marijuana providers, contemporaneous with state’s legalization of recreational marijuana. The study compared homes near dispensaries to those located farther away, using controlled regressions. The central finding of Conklin et al. (2016) was that single-family homes within 0.1 miles of a recreational dispensary experienced an 8% increase in value.”

https://www.justintyndall.com/uploads/2/8/5/5/28559839/tyndall_ghlp.pdf

California

Common studies attempt a relationship between dispensaries and crime rates. Kepple and Freisthler (2012) analyzed the spatial relationship between crime and medical marijuana dispensaries in Sacramento, California. The study found that dispensaries were not predictive of local crime rates. In an evaluation of the effect of medical marijuana legalization on crime rates across California, Morris et al. (2014) found no evidence that legalization increased crime.

Community impact:

Crime-

No increase in crime found related to cannabis business location.

Vancouver Canada

Impacts on home values in surrounding neighborhood.

“Recent empirical evidence has found a positive effect of dispensaries on home values. Data from 84 dispensaries and 62,000 repeat home transactions from Vancouver, Canada showed the effect of dispensaries on home prices.”

Community impact:

Home values-

“Results indicated that allowing the operation of dispensaries generated a 6% increase in home values within a municipality, relative to municipalities that did not allow recreational dispensaries.”