



# The *new* face of Big Tobacco

Say NO to Big Marijuana in New Zealand

Same corporates.  
Same objectives.  
Same addiction.  
New product.



## SOCIAL IN-JUSTICE

Pro-marijuana lobbyists argue that marijuana legalisation will increase social justice, but disparities among use and criminal offence rates *continue* among race and income levels in US states that have legalised marijuana.



## CRIMINAL OFFENCE RATES

The **District of Columbia** saw public consumption and distribution arrests nearly triple between the years 2015 and 2016, and a disproportionate number of those marijuana-related arrests occurred among African-Americans. **Colorado** has seen a similar trend. Colorado marijuana arrests for young African-American and Hispanic youth have *increased* since legalisation.

According to a 2013 survey conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, black and Hispanic youth are slightly more likely to use marijuana than their white counterparts: about 17% of white high school students reportedly used pot in the previous 30 days, while 25.9% of black students and 23.6% of Hispanic students did.

### More Black and Hispanic youth were arrested for pot in Colorado after legalization than before

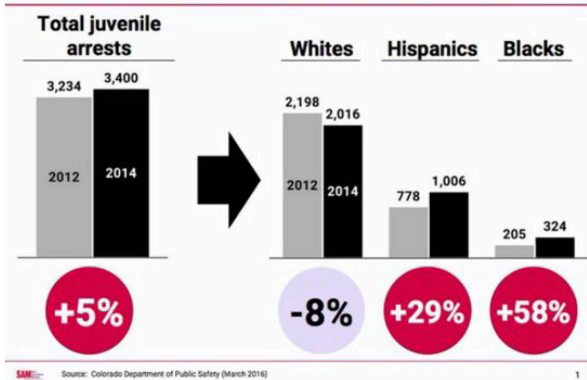


Image Source: Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)

## POVERTY

In a similar trend to the placement of alcohol outlets and pokie machine venues in New Zealand, communities of colour are being subjected to disproportionate targeting by the marijuana industry in the US. In **Los Angeles**, the majority of dispensaries have opened primarily in African-American communities.

An overlay of socioeconomic data with the geographic location of pot shops in Denver, **Colorado** shows marijuana stores are located primarily in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Those with a household income below \$25,000 had a 20% current-use rate compared to a 11% rate among households with income levels of \$50,000 or greater.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 28% of women living in low-income areas tested positive for marijuana use during pregnancy. Another study by the American College of

Obstetricians and Gynecologists reported that young women from lower income levels have a 15–28% rate of marijuana use during pregnancy. Up to 60% of these young women continue marijuana use throughout pregnancy due to a *decreased* perception of risk and stigma.

## HOMELESSNESS

A new **Melbourne** University study examining why people become homeless found that daily marijuana use significantly increases men's likelihood of becoming homeless. Using cannabis daily increases their likelihood of becoming homeless by age 30 by 7-14 percentage points. The researchers said; "Our research suggests that *early interventions to reduce cannabis use may be effective in reducing the number of boys and young men who become homeless.*"

Business owners and officials in Durango, **Colorado**, testify that the resort town, "suddenly became a haven for recreational pot users, drawing in transients, panhandlers, and a large number of homeless drug addicts."

For additional information, including source references:  
[SayNopeToDope.org.nz/social-justice](http://SayNopeToDope.org.nz/social-justice)

Correct as at time of printing. We welcome any documented corrections.