



Crime in Colorado in 2022:

The Data on Colorado's Increasing Crime Problem

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Mitch Morrissey served as the elected District Attorney for the 2nd Judicial District covering Denver, Colorado from 2005-2017. Mitch is internationally recognized for his expertise in DNA technology and applying that technology to solve crimes. He has trained law enforcement officers and prosecutors throughout the United States, the Middle East, Central America, and Canada. He currently runs a company that solves Cold Cases with DNA and Investigative Genetic Genealogy.

ABOUT COMMON SENSE INSTITUTE

Common Sense Institute is a non-partisan research organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of Colorado's economy. CSI is at the forefront of important discussions concerning the future of free enterprise in Colorado and aims to have an impact on the issues that matter most to Coloradans. CSI's mission is to examine the fiscal impacts of policies, initiatives, and proposed laws so that Coloradans are educated and informed on issues impacting their lives. CSI employs rigorous research techniques and dynamic modeling to evaluate the potential impact of these measures on the Colorado economy and individual opportunity.

TEAMS & FELLOWS STATEMENT

CSI is committed to independent, in-depth research that examines the impacts of policies, initiatives, and proposed laws so that Coloradans are educated and informed on issues impacting their lives. CSI's commitment to institutional independence is rooted in the individual independence of our researchers, economists, and fellows. At the core of CSI's mission is a belief in the power of the free enterprise system. Our work explores ideas that protect and promote jobs and the economy, and the CSI team and fellows take part in this pursuit with academic freedom. Our team's work is driven by data-driven research and evidence. The views and opinions of fellows do not reflect institutional views of CSI. CSI operates independently of any political party and does not take positions.

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Introduction and Key Findings

Advocates for criminal justice reform have made significant inroads in the past few years. Measures have been enacted to decriminalize a range of crimes, reduce the punishments for committing crimes, and pursue decarceration through various means. The results of these actions have had a serious and lasting impact on Colorado communities, resulting in increased crime and a decrease in public safety. This report looks at the current state of crime in Colorado through the lens of publicly available data on the level of crime and crime rates.

Crime rates in Colorado continue to top pre-pandemic levels. This year, Colorado's average monthly crime rate has been 530 crimes per 100,000 residents, with no relief in sight. While slightly lower than last year's peak, it remains 7.3% higher than in 2019, and 20% higher than in 2008. Incidents of robbery, arson, car theft, vandalism, prostitution, and the purchase of stolen property have continued to increase in 2022. Several violent crimes such as murder, rape, and sexual assault are on pace to be lower than 2021 levels. The most significant decline occurred in fraud due, in large part, to the phasing out of COVID-19 related payments, which had elevated levels of fraud, particularly through unemployment insurance payments.

Compared to other states, Colorado ranks first in motor vehicle theft and second in property crimes. This year, Denver, Aurora, Pueblo, and Westminster ranked among the top ten of 167 American cities surveyed in several crime categories. Pueblo made the top ten in each of 10 categories. Denver's homicide rate rose even as other major cities' rates declined.ⁱⁱ

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) is on track to seize 300% more illicit fentanyl this year than last. According to the CSP, the state is experiencing a 10-year drug trafficking record. Although there has been a decrease in cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking, the amounts of fentanyl and illegal marijuana seized have been significantly higher. The increase in fentanyl is alarming, given its potency. As a lethal dose of fentanyl is a mere two milligrams, the 412 pounds seized so far this year is enough to kill 93 million people. The total number of drug overdose deaths has gone up in each of the past three years and opioids, fentanyl in particular, claimed the most lives.

Concurrent with Colorado's rising crime rates, since the start of the pandemic, incarceration in Department of Corrections facilities dropped by 15.5%, the number of offenders on parole by 14.1%, and the number of offenders on probation by 14.4%. A rise in crime should catalyze a corresponding rise in arrests, convictions, and incarceration for the sake of public safety and justice for victims.

Key Crime Rate Statistics in 2022

The Colorado Crime Rate

- The number of crimes increased in 7 major categories: robbery, arson, motor vehicle theft, buying stolen property, vandalism, prostitution/pandering, and drug possession/sales.
- Colorado continues to rank 1st in motor vehicle theft in the nation. The motor vehicle theft rate has increased by another 13.6% in 2022. At this rate, car thieves will steal 48,000 vehicles in Colorado this year alone.
- Colorado ranks 2nd in crimes against property in the U.S.
- Cases of fraud declined by 61%, as frauds associated with COVID-19 relief programs receded when the programs ended.

Crime Across Colorado

- Out of 167 cities reporting across the U.S. in the FBI's 2022-Q2 Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, Pueblo ranks in the top ten rates of crime for all ten crime categories listed: aggravated assault (8th), violent crime (5th), murder (8th), rape (2nd), robbery (4th), property crime (5th), burglary (4th), larceny/theft (7th), motor vehicle theft (6th), and arson (2nd).
- Among 69 major cities surveyed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association in their 2022 Mid-year Comparison with 2021:[™]
 - Aurora ranks 7th in the growth rate of homicides (35% increase), 66th in rape (32.3% decrease), 21st in robbery (21.4% increase), and 5th in aggravated assault (26.7% increase).
 - Denver ranks 12th in the growth rate of homicides (23.3% increase), 33rd in rape (3.8% decrease), 36th in robbery (7.3% increase), and 16th in aggravated assault (11.3% increase).

Fentanyl

- In the first five months of 2022, Colorado law enforcement seized more fentanyl (2 million dosage units), than it seized in all of 2021.
- The Colorado State Patrol has seized enough fentanyl this year to kill 93 million people.
- Fentanyl will likely kill over 1,500 Coloradans this year, nearly 500 more than 2021. Between 4 and 5 Coloradans are dying daily from overdosing on synthetic opioids (including fentanyl) on average in 2022. This is up from 2 to 3 Coloradans per day in 2021.

Drug Trafficking

- According to the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), Colorado is in the midst of a 10-year drug trafficking record. Through August of 2022, drug seizures by the Colorado State Patrol are up 173% for fentanyl-bulk (412 pounds), and up 75% for cannabis (4,395 pounds).
- Legal cannabis sales have increased by 166% since 2014. However, sales flattened in 2021 and are beginning to fall in 2022.
- Illegal cannabis seized by the CSP, which is a fraction of the total illegal cannabis seized by law enforcement or even available throughout Colorado, has increased by 1,327%, at least eight times as much as legal sales.

Drug Overdoses

- Comparing Colorado to all other states and the District of Columbia, Colorado now ranks 16th in total overdose deaths, up 7 places from 2021.
- Nearly two-thirds of overdose deaths occur among people between 15 and 44 years old.
- At current rates, 2,000 Coloradans will die from drug overdoses in 2022.

Colorado Crime Rate

As Figure 1 illustrates, despite year-to-year fluctuations, the trend line for the average monthly crime rate per 100,000 residents has increased since 2008. The significant increase in Colorado's crime rate in 2021 was heavily influenced by a massive increase in COVID-19 relief program frauds. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reported in April 2021 that it had uncovered 1.2 million fraudulent claims since March 2020. Many of these programs ended in 2021 and 2022 resulting in a decrease in the number of fraudulent claims. Without these COVID-19 cases of fraud, the crime rate in 2021 would be much closer to the trend growth rate shown by the black line in Figure 1. The blue line is the average monthly crime rate with the COVID-19 fraud cases included.

Figure 1 - Average Monthly Crime Rate per 100,000 Residents in Colorado

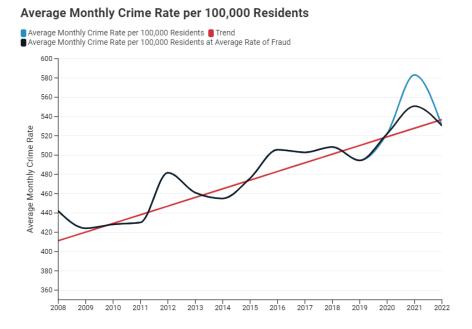
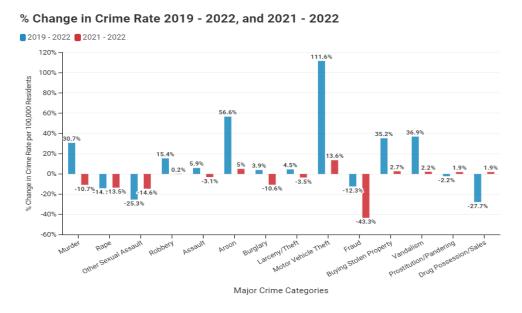


Figure 2 shows the change in the crime rate per 100,000 residents for the period of 2019 (pre-pandemic) to June 2022 (blue bars), and from 2021 to 2022 (red bars).

Figure 2 - Percent Change in Crime Rate 2019 (pre-pandemic) to 2022 vs. 2021 to 2022



The crime rates of half of the fourteen major categories of crime continued to increase through June 2022:

• Robbery: 0.2%

• Arson: 5%

Motor Vehicle Theft: 13.6%Buying Stolen Property: 2.7%

• Vandalism: 2.2%

Prostitution/Pandering: 1.9%Drug Possession/Sales: 1.9%

In most categories (9 out of 14), rates remained significantly elevated above prepandemic levels:

Murder: 30.7%Robbery: 15.4%Assault: 5.9%

Arson: 56.6%Burglary: 3.9%

• Larceny/Theft: 4.5%

Motor Vehicle Theft: 111.6%Buying Stolen Property: 35.2%

Vandalism: 36.9%

Crime in Colorado Relative to Other States

In 2022, Colorado has seen little movement in the five major crime categories from 2021. Colorado's rankings compared to all other states are shown in Table 1.

- Colorado remains the number one state for motor vehicle theft.
- Colorado ranks 2nd in crimes against property.
- Colorado moved up to 26th from 27th in crimes against society.
- Colorado's homicide rank dropped to 21st.

Table	Table 1 - Colorado's Crime Category Rankings 2022 and 2021 Rankings are Compared to 2020 Rates in Other States*											
Year	Crimes Against Person	Crimes Against Society	Crimes Against Property	Motor Vehicle Theft	Homicide Rate							
2020	23 rd	29 th	4 th	1 st	22 nd							
2021	20 th	27 th	2 nd	1 st	19 th							
2022	20 th	26 th	2 nd	1 st	21 st							

*Colorado's rankings in 2021 and 2022 are compared to the crime rates of all other states in 2020, the last year the annual crime rates for all cities are available from the FBI's National Incident-based Reporting System

Crime in Colorado's Cities

Using the latest report from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) for the second quarter of 2022, CSI converted the number of crimes to crime rates based on population for each reporting city. 150 cities reported to the UCR in Q2 2021 and 167 reported in Q2 2022. Highlighted in Table 2 are Colorado cities that rank in the top ten of the respective crime categories. Denver ranks 2nd in motor vehicle thefts (up from 3rd in 2021). Denver, Aurora, Pueblo, and Westminster held four of the top ten spots for vehicle theft. Pueblo occupies a top-10 spot in each crime category.

Other areas in which Colorado cities rank in the top ten include property crime, violent crime, rape, robbery, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

	Table 2 - FBI Quarterly Crime Rates Ranked 150 Cities Reporting in 2021 and 167 Cities Reporting in 2022. ^{vi}										
	Year	Aggravated Assault	Violent Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Property Crime	Burglary	Larceny- theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Arvada	2021	110	110	115	115	84	30	65	29	24	86
Arvada	2022	114	119	137	104	117	49	72	60	25	47
Aurora	2021	24	20	57	6	12	19	33	53	4	16
	2022	16	12	41	29	9	14	42	54	3	20
Poulde"	2021	99	102	103	95	101	39	27	35	67	46
Boulder	2022	113	123	50	142	125	101	65	109	115	35
Centennial	2021	118	127	106	141	118	93	99	106	52	52
Centenniai	2022	138	149	137	151	157	116	108	134	60	92
Colorado	2021	54	53	64	30	76	45	43	45	41	35
Springs	2022	48	53	66	18	91	50	34	57	44	9
Denver	2021	30	28	37	15	26	4	9	10	3	40
Denvei	2022	24	23	32	8	24	4	22	10	2	36
Fort Collins	2021	103	113	131	75	130	114	124	104	120	75
Fort Comms	2022	117	131	137	93	155	110	133	101	127	80
Greeley	2021	62	68	105	88	75	76	79	76	53	110
Greeley	2022	39	48	88	51	81	43	75	67	16	19
Lakewood	2021	58	46	93	54	17	7	17	7	7	41
Lakewood	2022	79	67	98	77	38	29	47	52	13	56
Pueblo	2021	17	14	25	2	25	8	4	13	8	2
Pueblo	2022	8	5	8	2	4	5	4	7	6	2
Thornton	2021	126	107	92	16	106	42	88	44	21	84
THOTHLOH	2022	148	130	130	37	98	37	114	38	20	57
Westminster	2021	96	91	32	64	83	15	57	20	6	50
westillistel	2022	124	121	137	125	92	15	70	22	8	40

Areas of Concern

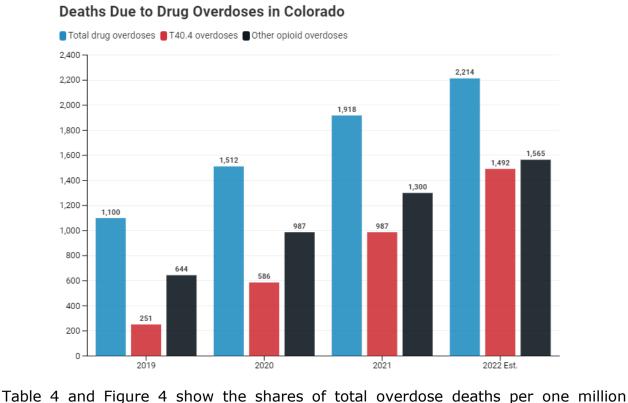
Increase in Drug Overdose Deaths

Despite the crime rates for drug possession and sales increasing only 1.9%, the flood of synthetic opioids is taking a significant toll on Colorado families as overdose death rates soar. Citing the latest data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Table 3 and Figure 3 show the numbers of deaths due to drug overdoses in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Year-to-date data for 2022 are unavailable; CSI used the CDC's 12-month estimates through April to estimate the annual number of deaths in 2022. The total number of drug overdose deaths increased in each of the last three years by 9.6%, 37.5%, and 26.9%, respectively. Overdose deaths increased by 74.4% between 2019 and 2021. If the estimate for 2022 ends up close to the actual number,

there will have been a 101.3% increase since 2019. The annual increases are remarkable. Synthetic opioids (T40.4), including fentanyl and tramadol, caused the most deaths of all categories of drugs.

	Table 3 – Number of Overdose Deaths by Drug in Colorado										
	Opioids (T40.0- T40.4, T40.6)	% Annual Change	Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)	% Annual Change	Number of Drug Overdose Deaths	% Annual Change					
2019	644	13.4%	251	93.1%	1,100	9.6%					
2020	987	53.3%	586	133.5%	1,512	37.5%					
2021	1,300	31.7%	987	68.4%	1,918	26.9%					
2022 Est.	1,565	20.4%	1,492	51.2%	2,214	14.4%					

Figure 3 – Deaths Due to Drug Overdoses in Coloradovii



rigure 5 Deaths Due to Drug Overdoses in

residents in Colorado by drug. Both the number and rate of overdose deaths has increased each year. The number of overdose deaths per one million residents has increased by 101% between 2019 and 2022. Estimated deaths due to synthetic opioids (T40.4) such as fentanyl have increased from 44 per one million residents in 2019 to 252 deaths per one million residents in 2022—a 473% increase.

Comparing Colorado to all other states and the District of Columbia, Colorado ranks 16th in total overdose deaths, 18th in synthetic opioids overdose deaths (T40.4), and

20th in all opioids overdose deaths. These ranks are higher than they were before the pandemic by 11 places, 10 places, and 8 places respectively.

	Table 4 – Death Rate from Drug Overdoses												
	201	L9	2020		202	21	2022						
	Death Rate per 1M Residents	Death Rate Rank Rel. U.S.	Death Rate per 1M Residents	Death Rate Rank Rel. U.S.	Death Rate per 1,000,000	Death Rate Rank Rel. U.S.	Death Rate per 1,000,000	Death Rate Rank Rel. U.S.					
Total Drug Overdoses	198	27	266	27	328	23	374	16					
Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)	44	28	103	27	169	10	252	18					
Opioids (T40.0- T40.4, T40.6)	112	28	173	26	222	27	264	20					

Figure 4 - Fatal Drug Overdose Rates Per 1,000,000 in Colorado

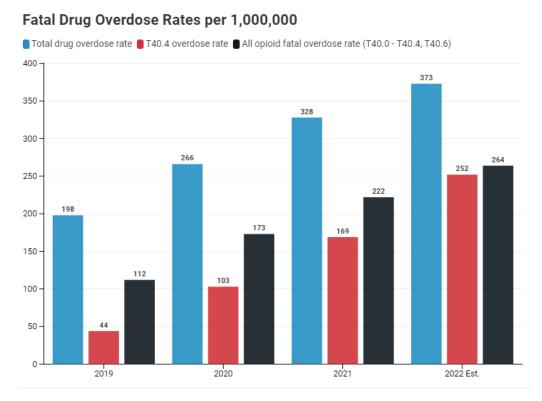


Table 5 and Figure 5 show changes in overdose deaths and death rates since 2019. Though year-over-year percentage changes in the number of deaths and the death rate have dropped in each year, they are misleading. The changes in the number of deaths and death rate were so large from 2019 to 2020 that the increases in 2021 and 2022 look small by comparison even though the number of drug overdose deaths has grown each year.

Figure 5 – Year-over-year Fatal Drug Overdose Growth between 2019 and 2022 Est.

Year-over-year Fatal Drug Overdose Growth between 2019 and 2022

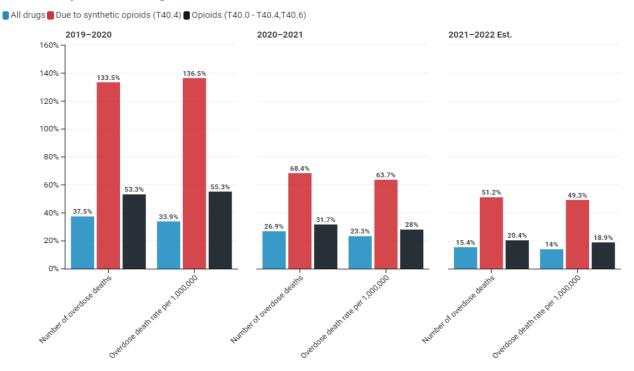


Table 5 - Cha	Table 5 - Changes in Overdose Deaths and Death Rates Year-over-year										
	2019 -	- 2020	2020	- 2021	2021 -	- 2022 Est.					
	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1 million Residents	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1 million Residents	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1 million Residents					
Overdose Deaths	37.45%	33.93%	26.85%	23.31%	15.43%	13.98%					
Overdose Death Due to Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)	133.47%	136.50%	68.43%	63.73%	51.17%	49.26%					
Overdose Deaths Due to Opioids (T40.0-T40.4, T40.6)	53.26%	55.25%	31.71%	28.04%	20.38%	18.87%					

Synthetic Opioid (Class T40.4) Synthetic Opioids, Including Drugs Such as Fentanyl and Tramadol and Excluding Methadone

Drug overdose deaths due to class T40.4 synthetic opioids, which include fentanyl and tramadol, are a majority of all opioid related deaths. They are cheap and abundantly available.

Figure 6 - T40.4 (Synthetic Opioids Including Fentanyl and Tramadol) Share of All Drug-related Deaths and Share of all Opioid Deaths

T40.4 Overdose Deaths as Shares of of Total Opioid Overdoses and Total Drug Overdoses in Colorado

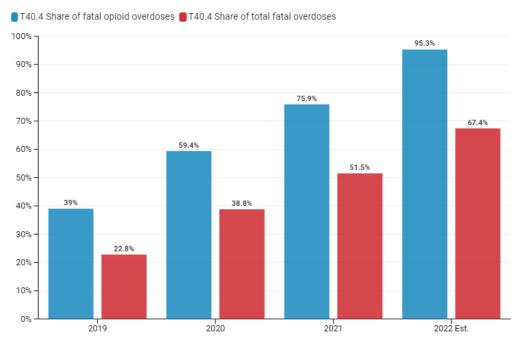


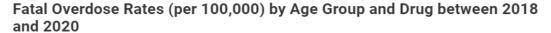
Table 6 - T40.4 Overdose Deaths*									
2019 2020 2021 2022									
Number of Drug Overdose Deaths (All Drugs)	22.8%	38.8%	51.5%	67.4%					
Opioids (T40.0-T40.4, T40.6)	39.0%	59.4%	75.9%	95.3%					

^{*} Includes Synthetic Opioids, Including Drugs such as Fentanyl and Tramadol and Excluding Methadone as Share of Total Overdose Deaths and Opioid Overdose Deaths

Fatal Overdose by Age Group and Drug Class

Fatal drug overdoses occur in all age groups as shown in Figure 7. Those between 25 and 34 years of age suffer the highest overdose death rate of all age groups. Although the focus is often on the number of overdose deaths from fentanyl or fentanyl-laced drugs among young people, the data demonstrate that deaths from fentanyl occur at all ages, and that the 25–44 age group is most impacted.

Figure 7 – Death Overdose Rates (per 100,000 Residents) by Age Group and Drug Class Between 2018 and 2020.



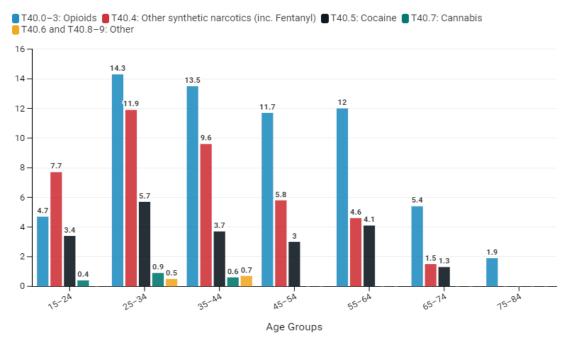
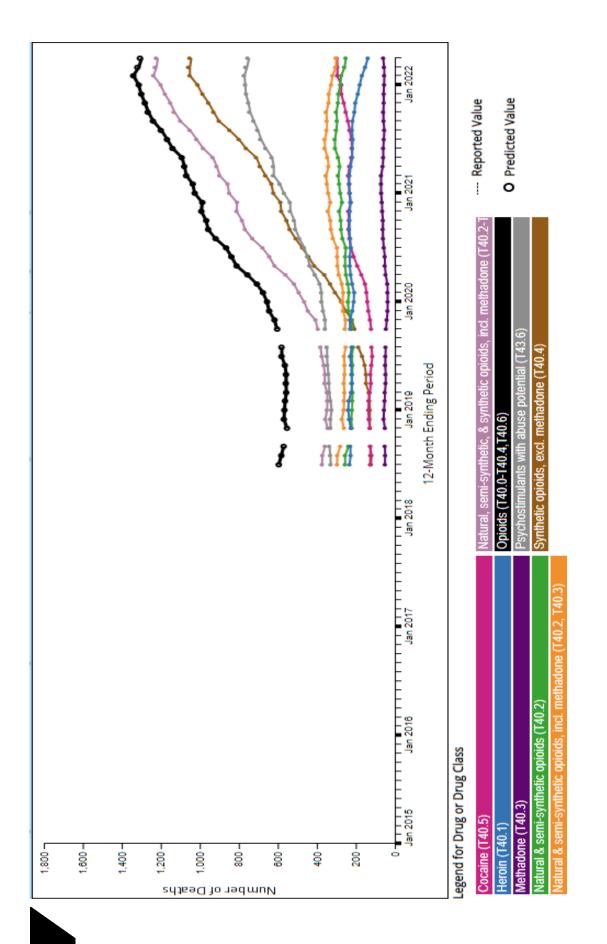


Table 7 shows that two-thirds of overdose deaths occur among people between 15and 44-years-old.

Table 7 – I	Table 7 – Deaths from Overdose by Age Group										
Ten-year Age Groups	Deaths from Overdose	% Total	% Cumulative								
15-24 years	362	12.2%	12.2%								
25-34 years	911	30.6%	42.8%								
35-44 years	674	22.6%	65.4%								
45-54 years	435	14.6%	80.0%								
55-64 years	442	14.9%	94.9%								
65-74 years	129	4.3%	99.2%								
75-84 years	13	0.4%	99.7%								
85+ years	10	0.3%	100.0%								
	2,976	100.0%									

Figure 8 shows the Center for Disease Control's predicted number of deaths from drug overdoses by class of drug. While deaths from synthetic opioids are growing rapidly, deaths from heroin, natural, & semi-synthetic opioids are decreasing. Deaths from synthetic opioids is growing due to increased availability, low cost, and accidental deaths from opioids like fentanyl mixed with other drugs without the knowledge of the drug user.

Figure 8 - Predicted Number of Deaths from Drug Overdose by Drug Class. (Source CDC.)



Drug Seizures in Colorado

According to the CSP, Colorado is experiencing a 10-year drug trafficking record. Viii Using the most recent data available, Table 8 and Figure 9 show the amounts and types of drugs seized by the CSP. Seizures of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine decreased, and seizures of fentanyl and marijuana increased.

Fentanyl seizures increased by 173% from 2021 to 412 pounds through August 2022 (618 pounds annualized). According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), two milligrams of fentanyl is a lethal dosage in most individuals and one kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill 500,000 people. One pound of fentanyl can kill 227,000 people. The potential number of deaths from the seized fentanyl is 93,400,000, or enough to kill every Coloradan 15 times over. If the trend continues, 618 pounds will be seized by the CSP by the end of the year—enough to kill every Coloradoan 23 times over.

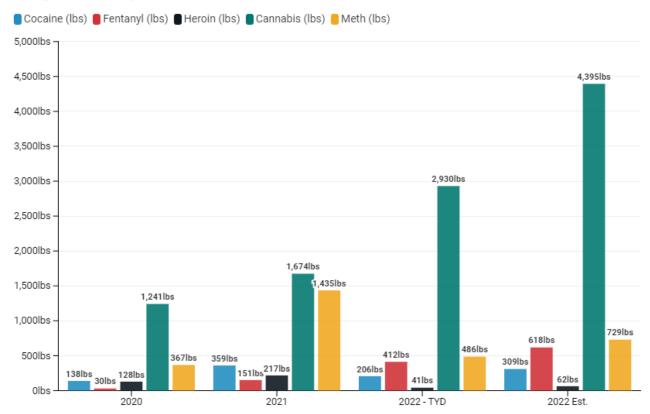
Unfortunately, the number of drugs seized by law enforcement personnel is only a fraction of the illicit drugs on the market. In a June 1, 2022, press release, the United States Attorney's Office – District of Colorado reported that, in the first five months of 2022, the Office seized more than 2 million dosage units of fentanyl—more than they seized in all of 2021. Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol, stated, "While I would love to tell you that our troopers have eliminated the threat of this deadly drug, what we remove is a drop in the ocean. It's cheap, it's everywhere, including a strong counterfeit market where people think they are taking other forms of pills."

Because the amount of fentanyl seized represents only a small fraction of the total illicit fentanyl market, the potential number of people who could die from illicit fentanyl is much larger than the predicted number based on known confiscations.

Та	Table 8 – Drugs Seized by the Colorado State Patrol, 2022-2022 YTD (as of 8/17/22)											
	2020 Seizures	2021 Seizures	2022 YTD (8/17/2022) Seizures	2022 Annualized Estimate	% Change by Weight or Value 2020- 2021	% Change by Weight or Value 2021 – 2022 YTD	% Change by Weight or Value 2021- 2022 Est.					
Cocaine	138 LBS	359 LBS	206 LBS	309 LBS	160%	-43%	-13.9%					
Fentanyl – Pounds	30 LBS	151 LBS	412 LBS	618 LBS	403%	173%	309.3%					
Fentanyl – Pills	28,562 Pills	13,842 Pills	Not available		-52%							
Heroin	128 LBS	217 LBS	41 LBS	62 LBS	70%	-81%	-71.4%					
Cannabis - Bulk	1,241 LBS	1,674 LBS	2,930 LBS	4,395 LBS	35%	75%	162.5%					
Meth – Pounds	367 LBS	1,435 LBS	486 LBS	729 LBS	291%	-66%	-49.2%					

Figure 9 - Drugs Seized by the Colorado State Patrol



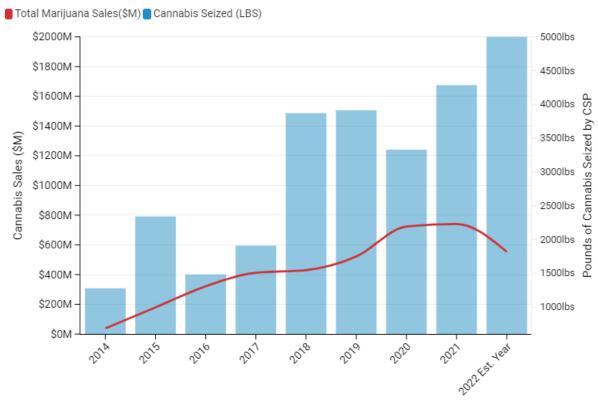


Even though cannabis is legal to sell and consume through Colorado's regulated market, the amount of illegal cannabis seized increased by 35% from 2021 to 2,930 pounds through August 2022 (4,395 pounds annualized). Proponents of legalized marijuana predicted that the legalization would eliminate illegal cultivation, transport, and sale. Despite recreational marijuana's legalization in 2012, there remains a thriving black market which appears to be growing. After a successful joint operation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and CATPA Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (C-MATT) in 2018 took down an illegal marijuana and stolen automobile operation, Special Agent in Charge William McDermott said, "Criminal organizations use the marijuana industry in Colorado to operate not only in black-market marijuana cultivation and distribution, but also many other criminal related activities."xi

Figure 10 describes the sales of legal cannabis and the amount of cannabis seized by the CSP. Sales of legal cannabis have increased 166% since 2014, but, beginning in 2021, sales appear to have peaked and are beginning to fall. Illegal cannabis seized by the CSP, which is only a fraction of the total illegal cannabis available, has increased by at least 8 times as much as the increase in legal sales. Despite claims that legalization of cannabis would shrink the illegal market for cannabis, it appears to have proliferated.

Figure 10 – Sales of Cannabis and Cannabis Seized by the Colorado State Patrol, 2014–2022 Est.





Correctional Population Data

From 2010 to 2019, the total population in correctional facilities remained relatively consistent (30,000 to 31,000 people). From the beginning of the pandemic, however, all categories of adult correctional populations have declined (see Figure 11).

Figure 11 - Colorado Correctional Populations



As Table 9 shows, incarcerations in Department of Corrections facilities dropped by 20.3%, offenders on parole by 14.1%, and offenders on probation by 14.4%.

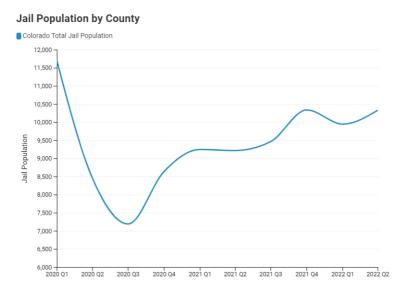
Table 9 - Prison Population in ColoradoSource: Quarterly Correctional Populations – Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado.gov

	_					
	6/30/2021	6/30/2022	Change 6/30 2021 to 6/30/2022	% Change 6/30 2021 to 6/30 2022	Start of Pandemic (3/31/2020 to 6/30/22)	% Change Since Start of the Pandemic
DOC Facilities	11,107	12,326	1,219	11.0%	1833	12.9%
Contract Facilities	2,554	2,554	-	0.0%	614	-19.4%
Off-Grounds	69	131	62	89.9%	-46	54.1%
Jail Backlog/Contracts	333	205	(128)	-38.4%	46	-18.3%
Fugitive	113	74	(39)	-34.5%	81	-52.3%
Community/ISP Inmate	1,258	1,071	(187)	-14.9%	468	-30.4%
Dept. of Corrections Total	15,434	16,361	927	6.0%	2996	-15.5%
Tat Vauthful Offender Custom	217	234	17	7.8%	-17	7.8%
Tot. Youthful Offender System	21/	234	1/	7.8%	-1/	7.8%
Domestic	0 620	7 470	(1.150)	-13.4%	1163	-13.5%
Intensive Supervision Parole	8,638 560	7,479 383	(1,159) (177)	-31.6%	562	-13.5% -59.5
Intensive Supervision Parole Interstate	1,086	976	(110)	-31.6%	347	-26.2%
			` ,		-426	54.2%
Absconders Total Parole	1,442	1,212 10,050	(230)	-16.0% -14.3%	1,646	-14.1%
Total Parole	11,726	10,050	(1,676)	-14.3%	1,040	-14.1%
Regular Supervision	49,287	47,434	47,434	-3.8%	8,983	-15.9%
Intensive Supervision Probation	707	606	606	-14.2%	321	-34.6%
Private Probation (including DUI's)	8,693	8,818	8,818	4.8%	1637	-15.7%
Sex Offender ISP (SOISP)	1,553	1.768	1,768	1.4%	-333	23.2%
Interstate	2,497	2,647	2,647	6.0%	-68	2.6%
Total Probation Census	63,772	62,352	62,352	-2.2%	10,497	-14.4%
	ĺ	,	ĺ		,	
Total Correctional	27,377	26,645	(732)	-2.7%	4,625	-14.8%
Residential Diversion	1,177	1,264	87	7.4%	536	-29.8
Non-Residential Diversion	758	700	(58)	-7.7%	169	-19.4%
Residential IRT Diversion	133	130	(3)	-2.3%	33	-20.2
Residential Transition	880	763	(117)	-13.3%	466	-37.9%
Residential Parole Revocation	56	-	(56)	-24.5%	32	-100%
Residential Parole	98	74	(24)	-24.5%	26	-40.3%
Transition Outpatient	17	20	3	17.6%	15	-37.5%
Total Community Corrections	3,118	2,990	(128)	-4.1%	1173	-30.3%

Jail Population

Figure 12 shows an 11.6% decline in Colorado's total jail population (from 11,698 to 10,337) in Q2 of 2022. Following a 28% drop in Q2 of 2020, the jail population has steadily increased.

Figure 12 - Jail Population by County



Among the 18 largest county jail populations, which together account for 90 percent of the total population, the jailed population declined in 15 counties. Denver has the largest jail population (16.5% of the state total).

	Table 1	0 - Number of 1	Inmates in Colora	ido Counties from 2	020-2022
City	2020 Q1	2022 Q2	Change 2020 Q1 to 2022 Q2	% Change 2020 Q1 to 2022 Q2	Cumulative % of Jail Population 2022 Q2
Denver	1,789	1,688	-101	-5.6%	16.5%
El Paso	1,519	1,331	-188	-12.4%	29.4%
Jefferson	1,129	1,000	-129	-11.4%	39.2%
Adams	956	825	-131	-13.7%	47.2%
Arapahoe	1,115	791	-324	-29.1%	54.9%
Weld	734	570	-164	-22.3%	60.5%
Pueblo	651	525	-126	-19.4%	65.6%
Douglas	338	462	124	36.7%	70.1%
Larimer	489	449	-40	-8.2%	74.5%
Mesa	526	449	-77	-14.6%	78.9%
Boulder	400	321	-79	-19.8%	82.0%
Moffat	34	232	198	582.4%	84.2%
Washington	113	126	13	11.5%	85.5%
La Plata	196	117	-79	-40.3%	86.6%
Garfield	100	99	-1	-1.0%	87.6%
Fremont	111	91	-20	-18.0%	88.5%
Montezuma	122	86	-36	-29.5%	89.3%
Broomfield	122	85	-37	-30.3%	90.1%
Total Colorado	11,698	10,337	-1,361	-11.6%	100.0%

Concluding Remarks & Recommendations

This report is based on crime data that is publicly available and verifiable as of September 2022. The continued increase in crime throughout Colorado is troubling. There seems to be a direct correlation between criminal justice reforms that have made punishments for committing crimes less severe and allowed more criminals back on the streets. Predictably, the number of crimes and crime rates have escalated.

Crime in Colorado has increased substantially since 2008. Over the last 14 years, the overall crime rate has continued its steady and inexorable climb, increasing 1.4% per year on average. Denver, Aurora, and Pueblo, mid-sized cities, rank at the top in several crime categories. Denver's homicide rate rose this year, even as other major cities have seen declines.

Overdose deaths, fentanyl, have increased. The amounts of fentanyl and marijuana seized by law enforcement have risen substantially. The former's increase is alarming because of the lethality of the synthetic opioid. The increase of the latter is surprising; proponents of cannabis legalization assured the public that black market marijuana sales would decrease.

Despite Colorado's rising crime rates, incarceration in Department of Corrections facilities has dropped. Since the beginning of the pandemic, all categories of adult correctional populations have declined.

The public has the right to question Colorado's persistently high rates of crime and whether policymakers' decisions have facilitated this crime tsunami. Is the surge in fentanyl related to relaxed penalties? Is there a correlation between the rise in lawless behavior such as vandalism and vagrancy and the rise in serious crime? Why are police departments experiencing staff shortages and low morale? Why has the legalization of marijuana not extinguished the black market and why is illegal marijuana trafficking on the rise? Given the increase in crime, the public should expect an increase in incarceration and yet, the number of incarcerated adults has decreased. Why has it?

In early fall 2022, some elected officials in Colorado began to take steps towards reversing this trend. The City of Aurora has voted to revise auto theft penalties and theft ordinances in an attempt to address crime. The revisions to auto theft penalties includes increased penalties for first-time offenders to a mandatory minimum sentence of 60 days in jail and repeat offenders will be sentenced to a mandatory minimum of 120 days in jail. Revisions to theft include a requirement that people convicted of stealing \$300 or more face a minimum 3 days in jail.

Following the recent release of CSI's report on motor vehicle theft^{xii} in early September, Governor Jared Polis penned a letter just a week later, to the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice calling for increased penalties for people convicted of auto theft. The Commission makes recommendations which the legislature can choose to address but is not required to.

Crime harms individuals and families, devastates communities, and diminishes our state's economic growth. Trends in crime, drug overdoses, and incarceration of criminals are moving in the wrong directions. The public deserves better.

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- 412 pounds * 1 kg/2.205 pounds * 500,000 people/kg = 93,424,036 people
 - o Enough to kill every Coloradoan 15 times over.
- 618 pounds * 1 kg/2.205 pounds * 500,000 people/kg = 140,136,054 people
 - o Enough to kill every Coloradoan 23 times over.

Denver Post, April 18, 2022 "The Big Payout: Fraud was so rampant in Covid relief programs that Colorado still doesn't know how much was stolen.".

https://www.axios.com/local/denver/2022/09/13/denver-murders-rose-2022-major-cities

Facts about Fentanyl (dea.gov). According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), two milligrams of fentanyl is a lethal dosage in most people and one kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill 500,000ⁱⁱⁱ. One kilogram equals 2.205 pounds Therefore, one pound of fentanyl can kill 227,000 people, so the potential number of deaths from just the seized fentanyl is:

^{iv} https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Midyear.pdf

v Ibid.

vii <u>Products - Vital Statistics Rapid Release - Provisional Drug Overdose Data (cdc.gov)</u>

viii CSP 2021 Annual Report (colorado.gov)

ix Facts about Fentanyl (dea.gov)

x https://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/fentanyl-seizures-first-five-months-2022-surpass-all-2021

xi Denver DEA and Auto Theft Task Force take down black market marijuana & auto theft ring

xii Microsoft Word - CSI CO REPORT CAR THEFT FINAL.docx (commonsenseinstituteco.org)