

New Castle Update

Total Clients: 1169) An additional 1,755 family members were affected by YouthZone services.
Of the 1169 clients

- 11.4% are from New Castle (155 clients) (Increase of 1.4 % from previous year.
- Youth were 53% Caucasian, 44% Hispanic/Latino, and 3% other.
- Adults were 85% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic/Latino, and 2% other.
- 68% of youth were referred by the juvenile justice system, 32% were referred by parents, schools, self and other youth organizations.
- 47% were boys, 24% were girls and 29% were adults (parents/guardians).
- 80% of YouthZone clients reside in Garfield County, 12% in Pitkin County, and 8% in Rio Blanco and west Eagle Counties.
- In the most recent evaluation, covering July 2010 through June 2013, according to Dr. Evans "YouthZone has the best collection of data anywhere, and I evaluate youth programs all over the country. This is the best evaluation I've seen in 15 years covering YouthZone's programs. *The youth that are at risk for high substance abuse showed the biggest change* using a one-on-one holistic approach." YouthZone clients also showed *statistically significant improvement* on the other four areas measured by the YouthZone screening.
- Our cost per client is approx. \$1100 for 3-6 months of services compared to if that same youth were to be in a juvenile center for 6 months would be \$25,000!
- Our success rate for kids not to reoffend is 90 % while at YZ compared to a 49% re-offense rate for kids that stay in the system.



YouthZone

CONNECT AND GROW

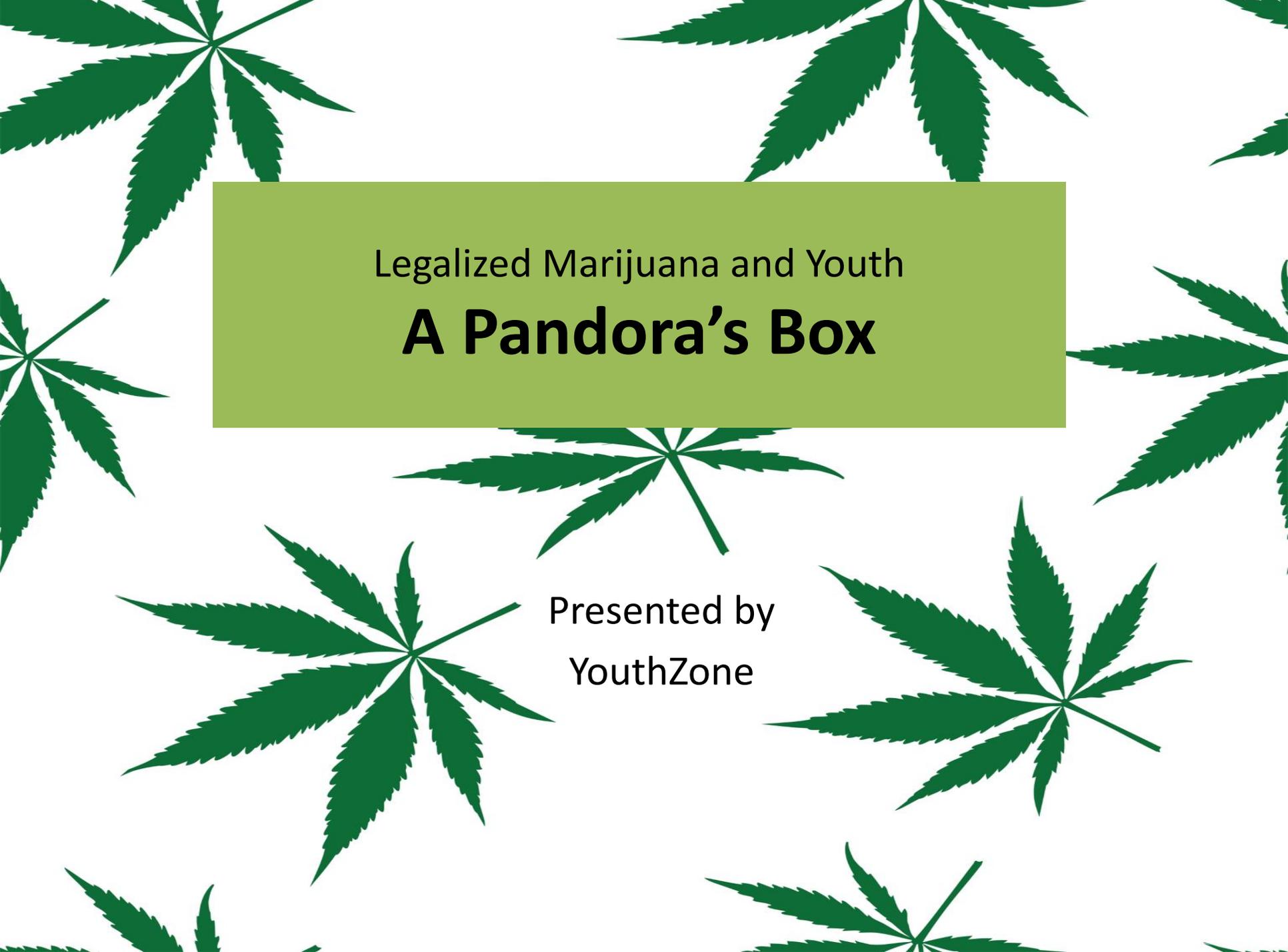
Non-profit agency.
Incorporated in 1976.

Serving Garfield and Pitkin Counties and limited services in Rio Blanco County.
Around 700 youth served a year.

12 years of evaluations showing significant impact on young lives.

www.youthzone.com

Facebook: YouthZoneGlenwood



Legalized Marijuana and Youth

A Pandora's Box

Presented by
YouthZone



Why We're Here

- Current statistics on teen marijuana use
- Youth perception of marijuana use
- Impacts to youth and families
- Role of community involvement

Did You Know ?

Street Names for Marijuana

Pot, herb, weed, grass, widow, boom, ganja, hash, Mary Jane, cannabis, bubble gum, northern lights, fruity juice, gangster, afghani #1, skunk, chronic, reefer, roach

FACTS

- Marijuana is an illegal drug for anyone under the age of 21
- There are much stronger forms of marijuana available to adolescents today than in the 1970s or 1980s. Stronger marijuana means stronger effects.
- Research shows that more than 40% of teens try marijuana before they graduate from high school.



Marijuana Usage

- Since 2006, marijuana use by 12-17 year olds has risen nationwide.
- The national average monthly usage has increased approximately 13.5% from 2006 – 2011.
- In Colorado, the average monthly usage has increased approximately 44% from 2006-2011.
- At Youthzone, we saw a 50% increase of clients with marijuana charges and an overall decrease in alcohol charges in 2012.

Did You Know ?

Marijuana is addictive

1 in 6 people who start using as a teen and
25-50 percent of those who use marijuana every
day, become addicted to it

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse



www.youthzone.com



What Message Are We Sending Our Youth

Medicinal Marijuana: "If it's medicine, it must be okay."

Legalized Marijuana: "If it's legal, it must be safe."

Teens are perceiving marijuana as less harmful:

- Only 41.7% of eighth graders see occasional use of marijuana as harmful.
- Only 20.6 percent of 12th graders see occasional use of marijuana as harmful.
- Decreased perception of harm = increased amount of use.



Signs and Symptoms of Marijuana Use

- ◆ Red eyes
- ◆ Often hungry and gains weight
- ◆ Less motivated and has an "I don't care" attitude
- ◆ Withdraws from the family
- ◆ Has trouble paying attention or communicating
- ◆ Starts missing school or shows a drop in school grades
- ◆ Has new friends and interests; gives up old hobbies, sports, or other activities



Effects of Marijuana on Youth

Short-term Hazards

- ◆ Anxiety
- ◆ Impaired short-term memory
- ◆ Learning difficulties, lack of attention
- ◆ Impaired perception and judgment
- ◆ Impaired motor skills

Long-Term Hazards

- ◆ Respiratory problems
- ◆ Inability to understand complex information
- ◆ An increased risk of developing lung, head and neck cancers
- ◆ Lack of motivation
- ◆ Paranoia and psychosis



Facts Regarding Young People Nationwide

- Substance use is linked to anti-social behavior.
- Incarcerated youth are 3 times more likely to be involved in substance use.
- 50% of youth reported using when committing their crime.
- Substance abuse increases recidivism rates.

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



Facts Regarding Young People in Our Valley

Facts from our 2013 three year program evaluation conducted by Dr. Jerome Evans, Ph.D

- 52.9% of YouthZone clients have a substance-related charge (marijuana and alcohol) and more than ½ of those are 16 or older.
- Substance use from Aspen to Parachute is approximately the same
- 10% of young people receiving services from YouthZone in 2009 had a Minor in Possession charge. Today that has increased to 23%.
- Across age groups, 9.9% of YouthZone clients report using marijuana once a month or more often. This is at a rate 21.5% higher than for youth in Colorado and 48.4% higher than for US youth.



Facts continued

- Youth who are receiving YouthZone services show a decline in their use.
- The youth who are at risk for high substance abuse showed the biggest change while receiving holistic and evidence based services.
- Youth who are using have the highest recidivism rate.
- Girls and boys use at the same rate
- Caucasian youth are at greater risk for a substance related charge

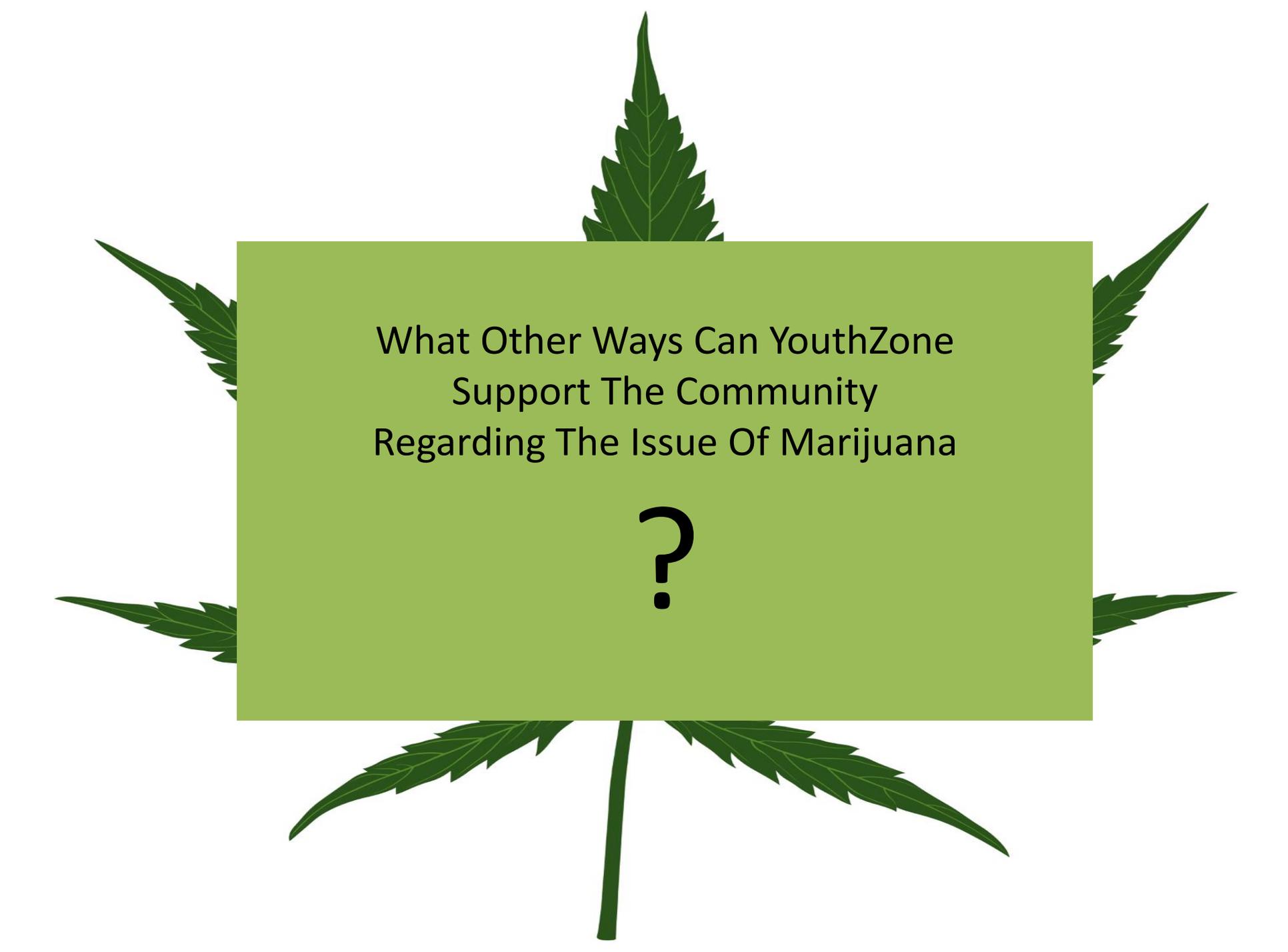
Did You Know ?

Among youth receiving substance abuse treatment, marijuana accounts for the largest percentage of admissions:
61 % of those under 15
56% of those 15-19



YouthZone's Approach

- Using evidenced based programs and practices for young people and their families, including drug and alcohol groups, one-on-one counseling, etc. To date, we've seen a significant decline in marijuana use overall for YouthZone clients from their intake to discharge.
- Sponsoring a public awareness project with Roaring Fork Leadership to educate teens and adults on marijuana use
 - Colorado Teen Weed Brain (more info on Facebook).
- Collaborating with local stakeholders to keep marijuana out of the hands of teens.



What Other Ways Can YouthZone
Support The Community
Regarding The Issue Of Marijuana

?