



# Cannabis and Public Health

Opportunities for  
Equitable Policies and  
Approaches



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ChangeLab Solutions is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that educates and informs the public through objective, non-partisan analysis, study, and/or research. The primary purpose of this discussion is to address legal and/or policy options to improve public health. There is no intent to reflect a view on specific legislation.



Our mission:  
Healthy communities for all  
through better laws & policies

# Applying an Equity Lens to Cannabis Policymaking



Who has been  
harmed?



Who stands  
to benefit  
and how?



How to prevent  
future harm?

# Proposition 64 Does A Lot...



Legalizes Recreational Cannabis Use, Cultivation, and Distribution



Packaging, Labeling, Advertising, and Marketing Standards and Restrictions



Requires State *and* Local Approval for All Cannabis Businesses



Provides Expansive Local Regulatory Authority



Restricts Cannabis Use in Specified Locations



# But Where's the Equity?

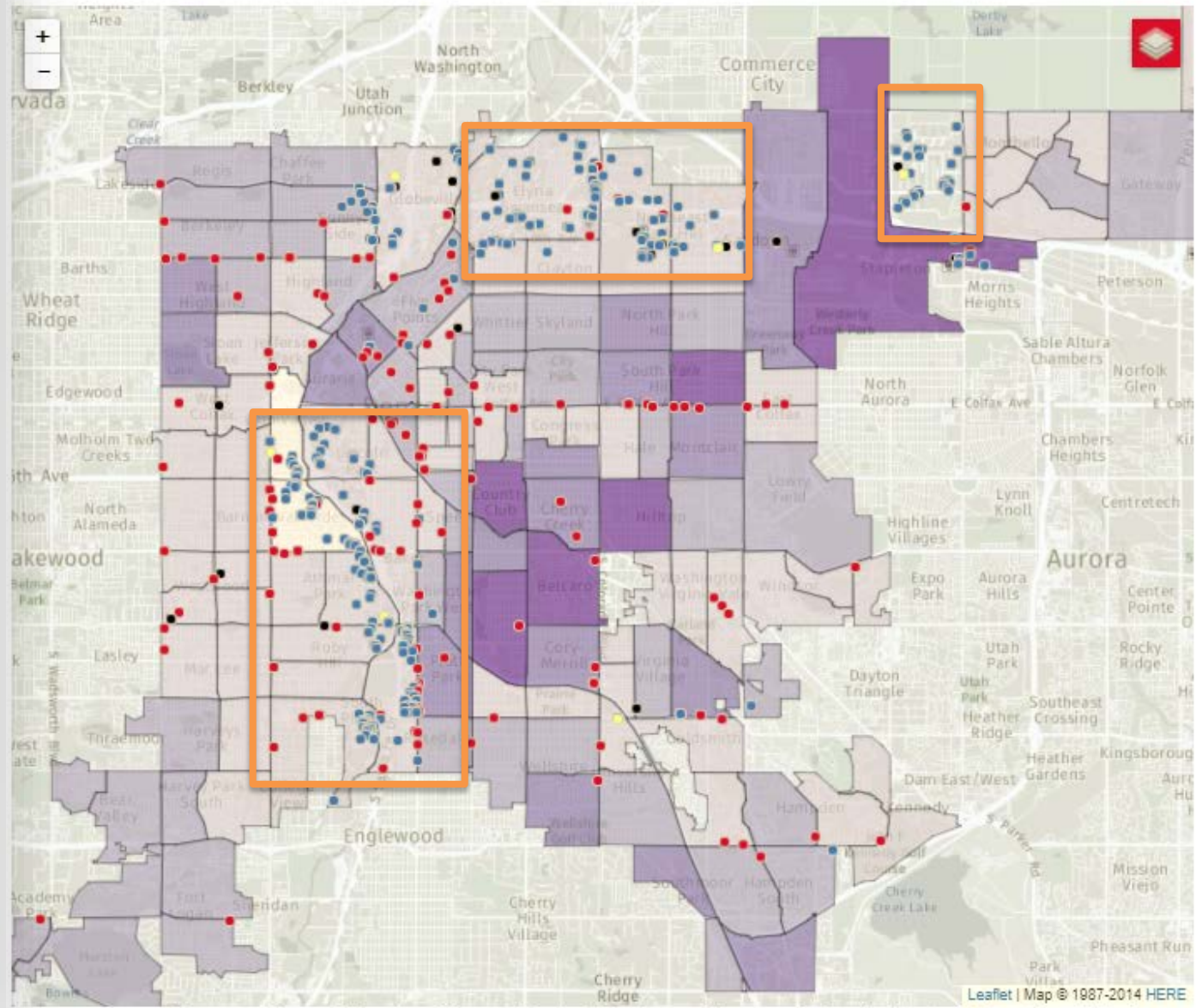
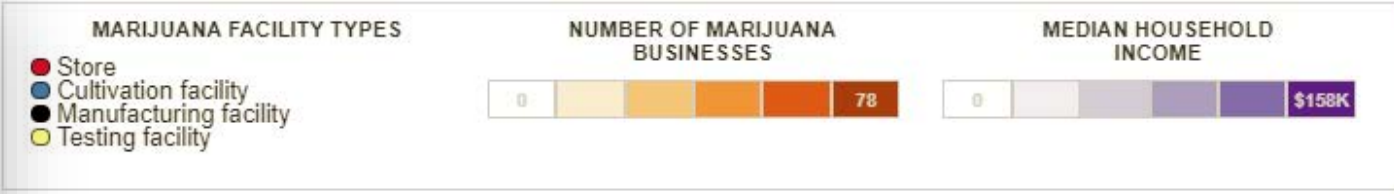
Local Communities  
Should Lead the Way



Preventing Future Harm  
Avoiding Unintended  
Consequences



# Clustering in Low-Income Communities Denver, CO



Sources: City and County of Denver Dept. of Excise and License, Colorado Dept. of Education, U.S. Census



## Restrictions on Cannabis Use\*

- Consumption prohibited in all public places
- Smoking prohibited wherever tobacco smoking is prohibited by state or local law

\* not an exhaustive list

# Addressing Health Inequities Requires Equitable Enforcement

## Strong Public Health Policies Can Help Address Health Inequities

- **Smokefree Housing:** Communities of color & low-income communities are significantly more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke at home.

## But Enforcement Must Be Equitable

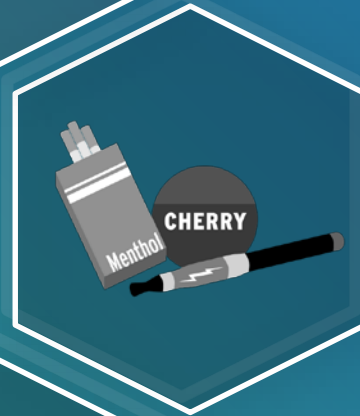
- Racially inequitable enforcement persisted in Colorado, Washington State
- Housing security
- Immigration status
- Inability to pay fines



# Additional Equity Considerations



Exposure to  
Cannabis  
Advertising



Predatory  
Industry  
Practices



Allocation of  
Tax Revenues