

Sponsorship Opportunity:

National Statistical Report on Cannabis Store Robberies

In December 2022, StoptheDrugWar.org published the first study on characteristics of armed robberies of cannabis stores: "*Dangerous Delays: What Washington (Re)Teaches Us About Cash and Cannabis Store Robberies.*" We are currently seeking sponsors for our second study on this topic, which will examine these robberies nationally and by state.

Dangerous Delays II supports advocacy for banking and cashless purchase options for the cannabis industry, in part by quantifying the profile of cash in cannabis store robberies and burglaries. It also supports efforts to ensure Congress does not block rescheduling to Schedule III or the elimination of the 280E tax, and to reduce other high costs imposed on the industry by providing a worker-safety case for the need to improve the industry's financial condition.

To enable research to commence, we are offering a \$1,000 sponsorship level (text listing) until 1/31/26. If a business later decides to increase its support by purchasing a logo sponsorship, the \$1,000 can be applied, for as long as logo sponsorships are available.

The major sponsorships are \$50,000 (one-only), \$25,000 (up to two), \$10,000 and \$5,000:

- A \$50,000 sponsor would be noted in the second paragraph of the report's initial news release, which can include a one to two sentence description of the sponsor. We will only offer one \$50,000 sponsorship.
- Our \$25,000 sponsors will be noted by name at the end of the second paragraph of the news release. If there is no \$50,000 sponsor, the paragraph will include one sentence descriptions of the \$25,000 sponsors.
- All major sponsor logos will appear on the first interior page of the report (e.g., the flip side of the title page), and sponsor names will be listed at the end of the report.
- \$1,000 sponsors will be listed in text on the first interior page of the report, and at the end.

We are seeking \$50,000-\$100,000 in sponsorships, at least \$7,500 of which will be spent on media relations support. We hope to release the report during late spring 2026, but it could require longer. We see a continued need for this information in 2027 and beyond, to fully normalize payments and support other positive changes for cannabis.

Visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/cannabis> to find the first Dangerous Delays report and other resources. To purchase a \$1,000 sponsorship before 1/31/26, visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/donate>, click on either of two companies' donation links, and note in the comment field that it is for a report sponsorship. If you prefer to pay by mail or would like info on other payment methods, contact David Borden at borden@drcnet.org or +1 202-236-8620. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 9853, Washington, DC 20016. We also welcome donations.

About the Study

Looking at the surge of such robberies that affected Washington State from November 2021 through the following April, Dangerous Delays found that:

- There is a substantial set of robberies in which cash only was targeted.
- Product-only robberies were rare.
- Most burglaries, by contrast, only targeted product. (A finding that may account for some observers' mistaken belief that robberies are product-driven.)
- Robberies which targeted the back of a store, which in the great majority of cases was done to target cash held in a safe, exhibited greater than average aggression levels than robberies which focused only on the front of a store.
- Weapons fire occurred for a wider set of reasons than other types of aggression, but in many cases took place in the context of cash-focused thefts.

Dangerous Delays II (working title) will probe the following questions:

- What are the armed robbery numbers for licensed cannabis stores in the US as a whole, and in individual states?
- Is there a correlation between the regions with the most robberies and regions where the industry's financial difficulties are the greatest?
- What are the burglary numbers for licensed cannabis stores in the US as a whole, and in individual states?
- Do the patterns of property targeted and aggressive behavior found in the Washington surge hold in the US as a whole?
- How do these patterns vary from state to state? (Or, possibly, just from region to region, depending on what the available data can statistically support.)

Dangerous Delays II will produce the first national database of criminal victimizations of cannabis stores. It will do so through Google searches on a set of relevant search terms, following the results thoroughly through all pages. For consistency, our statistical analysis will only include incidents showing in these searches, and only licensed stores. However, the database will make note of other incidents that come to our attention.

The report will be helpful in protecting rescheduling and the ending of 280E, and for addressing other avoidable high costs currently imposed on the industry. It will do so by quantifying how armed robberies of cannabis stores occur disproportionately in western states, where the industry's financial health is at its weakest. Despite the clear appearance that this is the case, numbers are needed for the argument to gain traction.

Contact David Borden at borden@drcnet.org or (202) 236-8620 to discuss sponsoring or for other information. Note that we are also seeking 501(c)(4) donations to allow us to do lobbying work highlighting this research to congressional offices.