

YOUTH AND DRUGS

INCREASING PREVALANCE

Local law enforcement and community outreach programs have seen a concerning increase in the use of drugs by youth in the community. Vaping and edibles are the primary items being used, but other substances are also available such as meth, illegally obtained prescription drugs, and others. It is important that our parents, school staff, and all who work with youth are aware of the situation. Parents should also be aware that even elementary-age children are at risk, particularly those who are around older children, or who are unaware of the existence of edibles.



EDIBLES: IT'S NOT JUST BROWNIES ANYMORE

Edibles are everyday snacks with THC and other drugs added. They are packaged and labeled in ways that may appeal to children (gummies, chocolates, cookies, candies, etc.). There has been an increase in poison control center alerts involving pediatric patients who were exposed to food items containing THC products. Additionally, animal poison control centers have indicated a sharp overall increase in accidental exposure of pets to these products. Keep these products out of reach of children and pets. **It is important for parents to advise children not to consume snacks given to them by other students, particularly homemade treats.**



FACTS ABOUT DELTA-8 THC



- Delta-8 is not approved by the FDA for safe use in any context. Concerns include variability in product formulations and product labeling, other cannabinoid and terpene content, and variable delta-8 THC concentrations.
- Adverse event reports involving delta-8 THC-containing products have been received by the FDA and poison control centers, with reactions that included hallucinations, vomiting, tremor, anxiety, dizziness, confusion, and loss of consciousness, and death.
- Delta-8 THC has psychoactive and intoxicating effects. Delta-8 THC products likely expose consumers to much higher levels of the substance than are naturally occurring in hemp cannabis raw extracts. Historical use of cannabis cannot be relied upon in establishing a level of safety for these products in humans.
- Delta-8 THC products often involve use of potentially harmful chemicals to create the concentrations of delta-8 THC claimed in the marketplace. The final delta-8 THC product may have potentially harmful by-products

RESPONSE TO ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DELTA-8

- If you think you are having a **serious side effect that is an immediate danger to your health, call 9-1-1 or go to your local emergency room.** Health care professionals and patients are encouraged to report complaints and cases of accidental exposure and adverse events to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:
- Call an FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator if you wish to speak directly to a person about your problem.
- Complete an electronic Voluntary MedWatch form online or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on the form, or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178.
- Complete a paper Voluntary MedWatch form and mail it to the FDA.
- To report adverse events in animals to the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, please download and submit Form FDA 1932a found at: www.fda.gov/ReportAnimalAE.



LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

In addition to the physical risks of using delta-8, those who are caught may face the legal consequences. Statute Texas Health and Safety sec.481.032, et seq. For example, possession charges are as follows:

- Under 2 oz.: Class B misdemeanor
- 2-4 oz.: Class A misdemeanor
- 4 oz. to 5 lbs.: State jail felony
- 5-50 lbs.: 3rd degree felony
- 50-2000 lbs.: 2nd degree felony
- Over 2000 lbs.: Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice institution for life or 5-99 yrs. and \$50,000

Visit <https://bit.ly/36w3nek> for more information.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE

In recent years, prescription drugs have become a growing epidemic and one of the biggest issues in the U.S. today. Opioid addiction is a major gateway into addiction to illegal drugs. Drugs like oxycodone can be overused and start to have no effect on people. They act as a gateway to heavier illegal drugs such as heroin and methamphetamine. Currently there is no line between where prescription drug use ends and becomes illegal drug abuse. Considered to be a gateway drug, it has surpassed weed in initiating drug abuse. There are many reasons for this, but the primary cause is easy access from doctors and pharmacies, which place few restrictions on obtaining the prescriptions.



DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE NEED ASSISTANCE WITH ADDICTION RECOVERY RESOURCES?

Help is available. Contact the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889. SAMHSA is a confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. Visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline> for more information.

