

## YOUTH CANNABIS USE

Currently, there are several types of cannabis-based products available that cause impairment. As attitudes and policies about cannabis become more relaxed, it's becoming even easier for kids to gain access to these products.

**14%**

In Texas, 14% of 7th - 12th graders have used marijuana at some point in their lives.

Nearly 9% of high school seniors are current marijuana users.

**9%**

**15%**

In 2023, the average age of first marijuana use in Texas was 15.2 years old.

**↑ 49%**

200+ children under six exposed to cannabis edibles in early 2024, showing 49% increase from 2023 across legalized states, with pediatric exposures rising 27-30% annually in states with legal marijuana.



## WHY PREVENTION MATTERS



### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Kids who start using cannabis before age 18 are 4-7 times more likely to develop a cannabis use disorder (CUD) than adults. Research indicates that CUD among young people in "legal" states grew 25% following legalization.



### IMPAIRED DRIVING

Many young people believe driving while high isn't as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol. However, driving under the influence of cannabis is both illegal and dangerous. It slows reaction time and affects drivers' abilities to make safe decisions, impairs coordination, and distorts perception.



### COORDINATION AND CONCENTRATION

Cannabis use dulls reaction time, coordination, and concentration, all of which affect things like driving and athletic abilities.



### BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Teen marijuana use can result in difficulty with thinking, problem-solving, memory, academic performance, and social life.



### MENTAL HEALTH

Cannabis use is associated with depression, social anxiety, and psychosis. There is also a stronger association between cannabis and schizophrenia in people who begin using the drug at earlier ages.

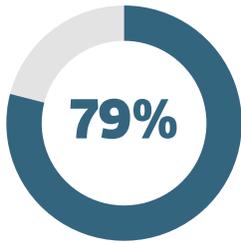
# WHAT DO TEXANS WANT?

Loopholes in legislation have resulted in an influx of “legal” cannabis products being regulated as “hemp” (e.g., Delta-8), even though they have psychoactive, impairing properties.

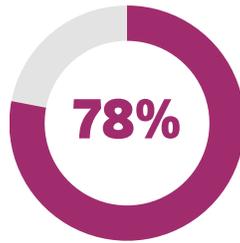


Examples of Stores & Products in Texas

A 2022 survey conducted by Baselice & Associates shows an overwhelming number of Texans support regulatory measures that would protect Texas kids from harms related to cannabis legalization.



79% of Texans favor regulations on where stores that sell cannabis can be located.



78% of Texans favor regulations on cannabis marketing.



76% of Texans favor regulations on THC content.

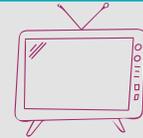
# WHAT SHOULD REGULATIONS INCLUDE?



Limiting the number and location of stores that sell cannabis.



Banning the use of characters/heroes, celebrities, images of pot leaves, and depictions of cannabis use in ads.



Banning advertising on television, radio, billboards, and direct mail.



Capping the THC percentage in products.



Establishing a THC “dose” or “serving” at 10 mg and requiring separate packaging for each dose.



Taxing products based on THC content.



Requiring accurate packaging with prominent warning labels that the product will get you high or contains THC.



Requiring adequate product testing conducted by state-approved and inspected facilities.



Establishing minimum pricing and banning promotions that encourage youth to purchase cannabis.

To support our efforts to keep kids healthy, safe, and drug free, visit [txsdy.org](https://txsdy.org).

Sources: 1. Wood, S. M., Marchbanks, Pearison, S., & Rhodes, S. (2023). Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use State Report. 2. Smart Approaches to Marijuana (2023). Youth Marijuana Use. 3. Trangenstein PJ, Whitehill JM, Jenkins MC, Jernigan DH, Moreno MA. Active cannabis marketing and adolescent past-year cannabis use. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2019 Nov 1;204:107548. 4. Donnan, J.R., Drakes, D.H., Rowe, E.C. et al. Driving under the influence of cannabis: perceptions from Canadian youth. BMC Public Health 22, 2384 (2022); Jennifer C. Duckworth, Devon A. Abdallah, Michael S. Gilson & Christine M. Lee (2022): Alcohol and marijuana use, consequences, and perceived descriptive norms: Differences between two- and four-year college students, Journal of American College Health. 5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022). Marijuana and Public Health: Driving. 6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). Marijuana and Public Health: Teens. 7. Jernigan, D.H., Ramirez, R.L., et al. (2023). Cannabis: Moving forward, protecting health. Am. Pub. Health