

## 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.



Stores, Products, and Vending Machines in Texas

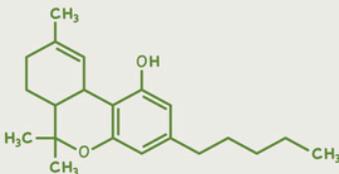
A 2022 Baseline & Associates survey shows an overwhelming number of Texans support measures to protect Texas kids from cannabis-related harms.



Nearly 80% of Texans support policies that protect kids from cannabis and its related harms, including banning kid-friendly packaging and marketing.

## WHAT SHOULD A BAN INCLUDE?

Research shows that implementing a comprehensive ban is the most effective way to protect youth and communities.



Ban all intoxicating cannabis-derived products.



Don't allow stores to sell any form of cannabis near schools.



Ban youth-friendly products and marketing of cannabis or related items.



Require testing by qualified, third-party labs to ensure prompt and accurate results.



Establish swift and certain penalties



Provide adequate funding to enforce laws and remove illegal products from shelves.

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