

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.

13%

In Texas, 13% of 7th - 12th graders have used cannabis at some point in their lives.

1 in 4 Texas teen drivers who died in a car crash tested positive for THC.



64%

In 2024, 64% of cannabinoid-related calls to the Texas Poison Center Network were for patients 19 or younger



13.6

On average, Texas students first try cannabis for the first time at 13.6 years old.

IMPACT OF UNREGULATED CANNABIS IN TEXAS



EDIBLE DANGERS

In 2024, more than 200 children under age 6 in Texas were exposed to cannabis edibles. That's a 49 percent jump from the previous year.



DEADLY MIX

Among Texans age 25 and younger, 26% of fatal crashes involved both cannabis and alcohol. These products are being used together more often, especially with THC drinks now showing up at bars, parties, and social events where young adults are most likely to experiment.



THC DRIVING BELIEFS

In states where cannabis is legal, nearly 50% of drivers aged 16–20 who tested positive for THC said they didn't believe it affected their ability to drive safely.



BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Some THC products sold in Texas contain over 90% potency, increasing the risk of psychosis, schizophrenia, anxiety, and addiction, especially for teens and young adults.



LAWS AND REGULATION

In states that tried to regulate rather than ban intoxicating cannabis products, the number of stores selling them only dropped from 92% to 90%.

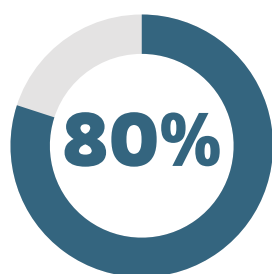
WHAT DO TEXANS WANT?

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

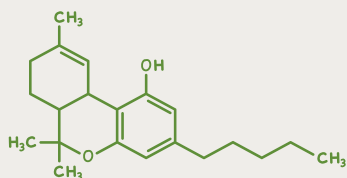
A 2022 Baseline & Associates survey shows an overwhelming number of Texans support measures to protect Texas kids from cannabis-related harms.



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

EFFECTIVE PROTECTIONS SHOULD 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.

SOURCES: 1. WOOD, S. M., MARCHBANKS, PEARSON, S., & RHODES, S. (2022). TEXAS SCHOOL SURVEY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE STATE REPORT (2024). 2. SMART APPROACHES TO MARIJUANA (2021). 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, JR., 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 (2024). MARIJUANA AND PUBLIC HEALTH: DRIVING. 6. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (2024). MARIJUANA AND PUBLIC HEALTH: TEENS. 7. JERNIGAN, D.H., RAMIREZ, R.L., ET AL. (2021). CANNABIS: MOVING FORWARD, PROTECTING HEALTH. AM. PUB. HEALTH. 8. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES. (2024). CANNABINOID-RELATED POISON CENTER CALLS [DATA DASHBOARD]. 9. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE. (2024). TEXAS SCHOOL SURVEY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE: STATE REPORT. 10. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. (2024). CRASH RECORDS INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS). DATA ACCESSED THROUGH AUTHORIZED CRIS QUERY PORTAL.