



1

	<h1>OVERVIEW</h1>	
	<p>Defining Common Terms</p> <p>The Current Landscape of Products & Potential Harms</p> <p>Community Cannabis Monitoring Tool</p> <p>How Products are Marketed</p> <p>Why Bans are Needed</p> <p>Important Components of Policies</p>	

2



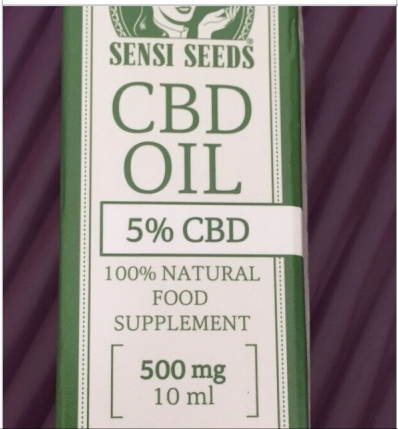

3

CANNABIS SATIVA L: THE CANNABIS PLANT	MARIJUANA: CANNABIS SATIVA L <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contains over 0.3% delta-9 THC• Medically legal in Texas, with restrictions
	HEMP: CANNABIS SATIVA L <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contains 0.3% THC or less• Legal in Texas since 2019


4

<h2>THC/Delta-9 THC</h2> <p>Tetrahydrocannabinol</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary intoxicating chemical of the cannabis plant• Causes the “high”	


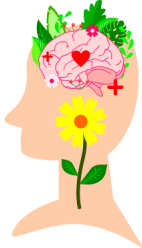


5

<h2>CBD</h2> <p>Cannabidiol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannabinoid• “Non-psychoactive”• Comes from marijuana AND hemp plants
	

6

<h2>Delta-8, Delta-10, THCA, THC-O, THCP, etc.</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other cannabinoids• Natural or synthetic• Intoxicating or non-intoxicating• Legal gray area in TX	

7

<p>BRAIN DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>MENTAL HEALTH</p>	<p>COORDINATION</p>	<p>ADDICTION</p>
			

MORE THC = MORE CONSEQUENCES

8

CENTER for BRAINHEALTH
About Research Programs Newsroom Events Get Involved

Starting Age of Marijuana Use May Have Long-Term Effects on Brain Development

The age at which an adolescent begins using marijuana may have long-term effects on brain development, according to a new study from the Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas. [Cognitive Neuroscience](#) scientists describe how marijuana use affects brain structures that underlie higher-order thinking.

Even a little marijuana may change teen brain, study finds

SHARE THIS — f t e ...

Researchers say even one or two joints cause changes in areas of the brain involved in emotion-related processing, learning and forming memories.

U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain

I, Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adams, am emphasizing the importance of protecting our Nation from the health risks of marijuana use in adolescence and during pregnancy. Recent increases in access to marijuana and in its potency, along with misperceptions of safety of marijuana endanger our most precious resource, our nation’s youth.

KNOW THE RISKS. TAKE ACTION. PROTECT OUR FUTURE.

9

Nationwide, recreational legalization increases cannabis use frequency by about 20%, on average.

10

MONITORING THE FUTURE DATA, 2023



of 12th graders reported **past year cannabis use**.



of 12 graders reported **Delta-8-THC use in the past year**.

In 2024, 8th and 10th graders will also be asked about Delta-8-THC use.

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YOUTH USE

17% of Texas 7th-12th graders have used cannabis



1 in 5 Texas high school seniors regularly use cannabis



Among CO youth who use cannabis, there's been a 113% increase in vaping as the main delivery method



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AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS...

1 in 10

7th-12th graders
reported using cannabis
in the past month



41%

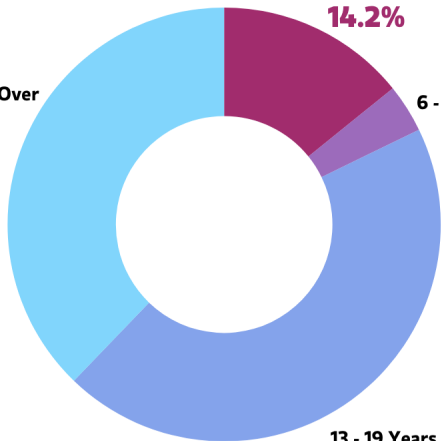
of 12th graders
reported cannabis is
somewhat easy to very
easy to access



Source: Texas School Survey, 2022

13

20 Years and Over
37.8%



Under 5 Years Old
14.2%

6 - 12 Years Old
3.6%

13 - 19 Years Old
44.4%

62.2%

of cannabis-related Poison
Center calls from 2018 to
2022 were for people age

19 and younger

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

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Cannabis Harms

- Mental Health Problems**
Psychosis, paranoia, anxiety, depression
- Addiction, Dependence, Withdrawal Symptoms**
- Cognitive Impairment**
Memory, attention, decision making
- Impaired Driving**
Reduced motor skills and reaction time
- Cardiovascular Risks**
Increased heart rate, potential for heart attacks
- Respiratory Disorders**
Bronchitis, lung infections (especially from smoking)
- Social & Behavioral Problems**
Relationship, employment, school problems
- Interactions with Medications**
- Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes**
Low birth weight, developmental problems

15

Alcohol is the drug most commonly involved in impaired driving crashes. Alcohol combined with cannabis is the second.

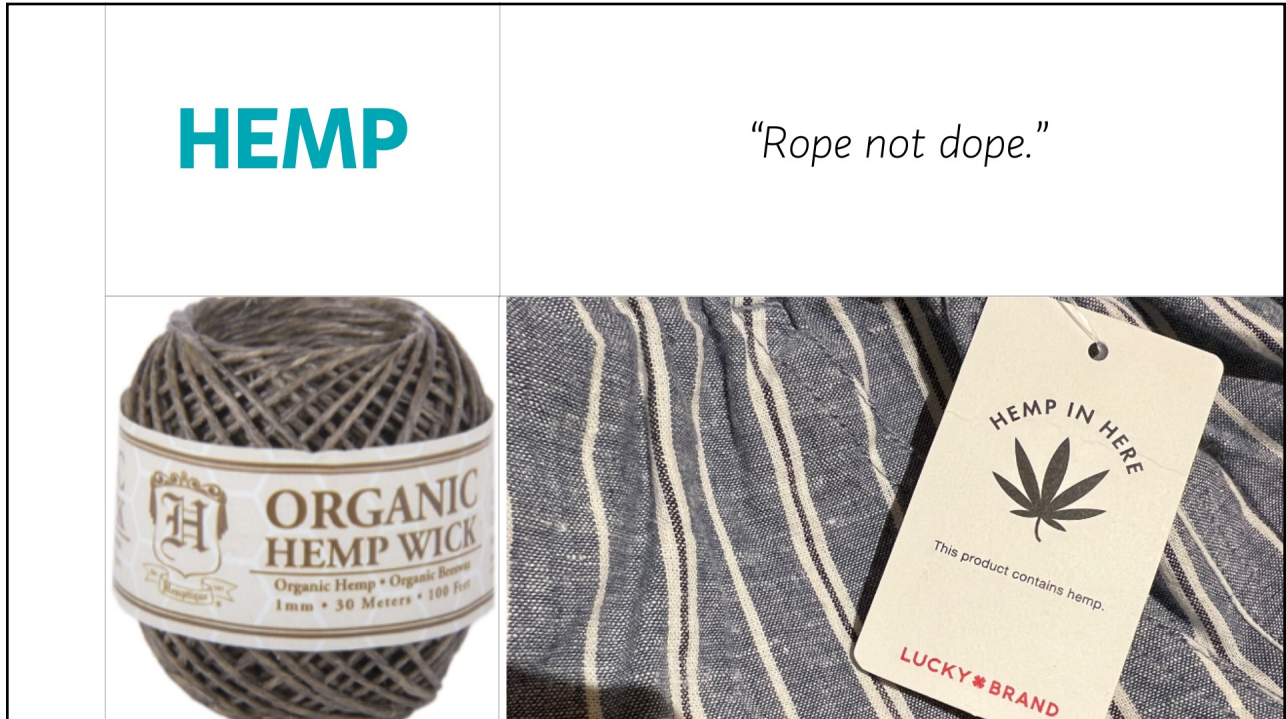
16

It is the most common combination of drugs involved in fatality and serious injury crashes.

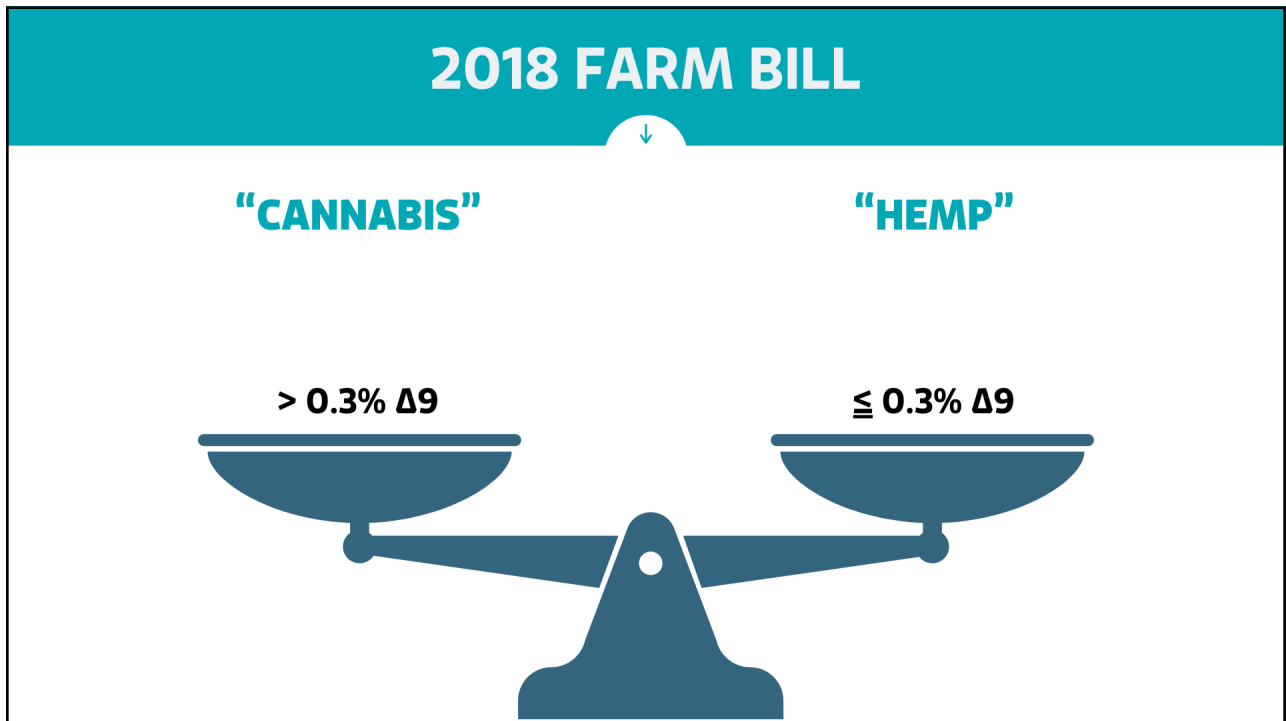
17

SEMI-SYNTHETIC CANNABIS PRODUCTS	BEFORE 2020
	Nearly all intoxicating cannabis products contained delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - it was the most naturally abundant.
	SINCE 2020
	Many new types of “hemp-derived” (i.e., chemically created) intoxicating cannabis products entered the U.S. market.
	Rosshem, M.E., Tillett, K.K., Vasilev, V., LoParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Trangenstein, P.J., Yockey, R.A., Sussman, S.Y., Siegel, M., & Jernigan, D.H. (2024). Types and Brands of Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products: An Online Retail Assessment, 2023. <i>Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research</i> , 1-4, doi: 10.1089/can.2023.0266.

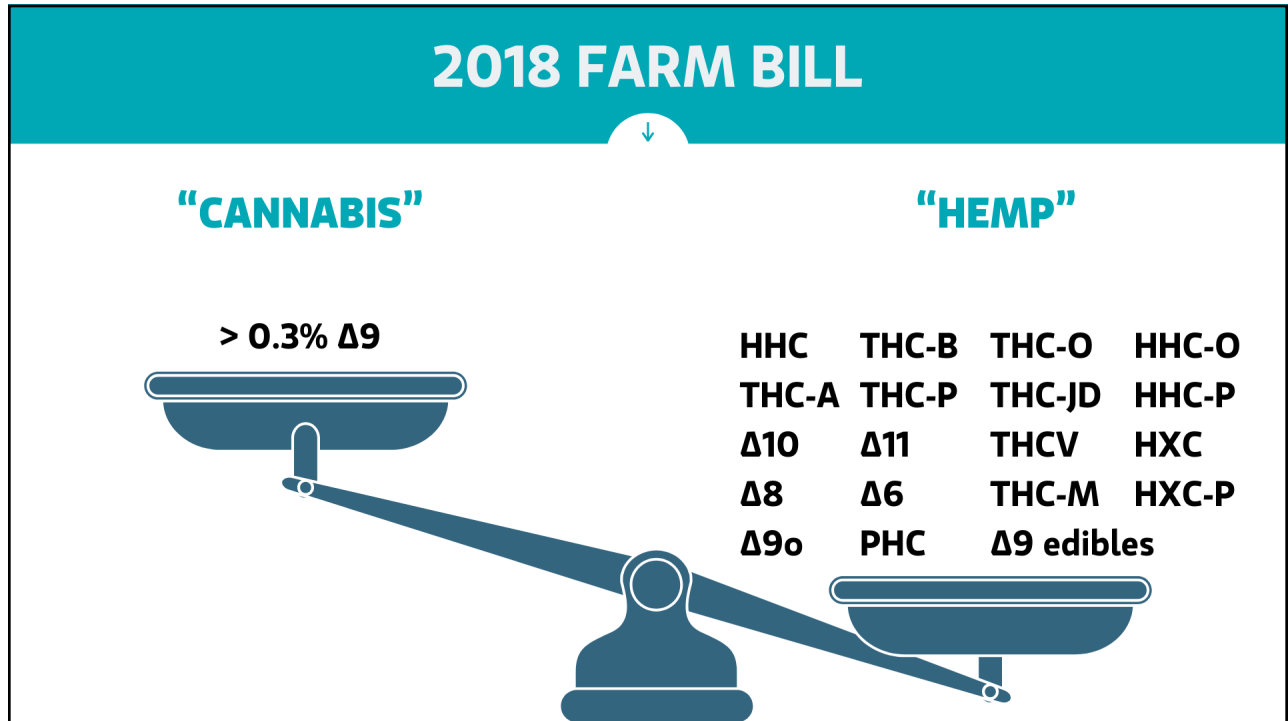
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20



21

<h2 style="margin: 0;">SEMI-SYNTHETIC CANNABIS PRODUCTS</h2>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">INTOXICATING EFFECTS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to Delta-9 THC Some marketed as more or less potent
	<h3 style="margin: 0;">2023 ASSESSMENT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved 3 online cannabis retailers 26 intoxicating compounds documented in hemp-derived ICPs Examples: Delta-8 THC, Delta-10 THC, HHC THC-O-acetate (THCP), “fully synthetic” because it does not naturally exist

Rosshem, M.E., Tillett, K.K., Vasiliev, V., LoParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Trangenstein, P.J., Yockey, R.A., Sussman, S.Y., Siegel, M., & Jernigan, D.H. (2024). Types and Brands of Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products: An Online Retail Assessment, 2023. *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*, 1-4, doi: 10.1089/can.2023.0266.

22

What are they called?

- Semi-Synthetic Cannabis Products
- Hemp-Derived Intoxicating Cannabinoids
- Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products

Rosshem, M.E., LoParco, C., Henry, D., Trangenstein, P.J., & Walters, S.T. (2023). Delta-8, Delta-10, HHC, THC-O, THCP, and THCV: What should we call these products? *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 84(3):357-360. doi: 10.15288/jsad.23.00008

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DPCP

Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products

These products include delta-8 and a number of other intoxicating chemicals.

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Harms from Derived Cannabinoids



- Most are new to market & understudied
- Use is associated with acute psychiatric disorders; lung, chest, heart disorders; Injuries and poisonings
- From 2021 - 2022, US Poison Control Centers managed 82% more cases involving exposure to delta-8 THC
- Studies suggest severe negative health consequences, similar to those from delta-9 THC
- Raises new concerns about product quality and byproducts/contaminants

LoParco, C.R., Rossheim, M.E., Walters, S. T., Zhou, Z., Olsson, S., & Sussman, S. (2023). Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol: a scoping review and commentary. *Addiction*, 118(6):1011-28. doi: 10.1111/add.16142

25

Shapes social norms and perceptions; makes substances more desirable, acceptable, accessible



Availability, price, and advertising are major determinants of use, especially among young people



Important policy levers for prevention include retail availability, pricing strategies, and restricting advertising to youth

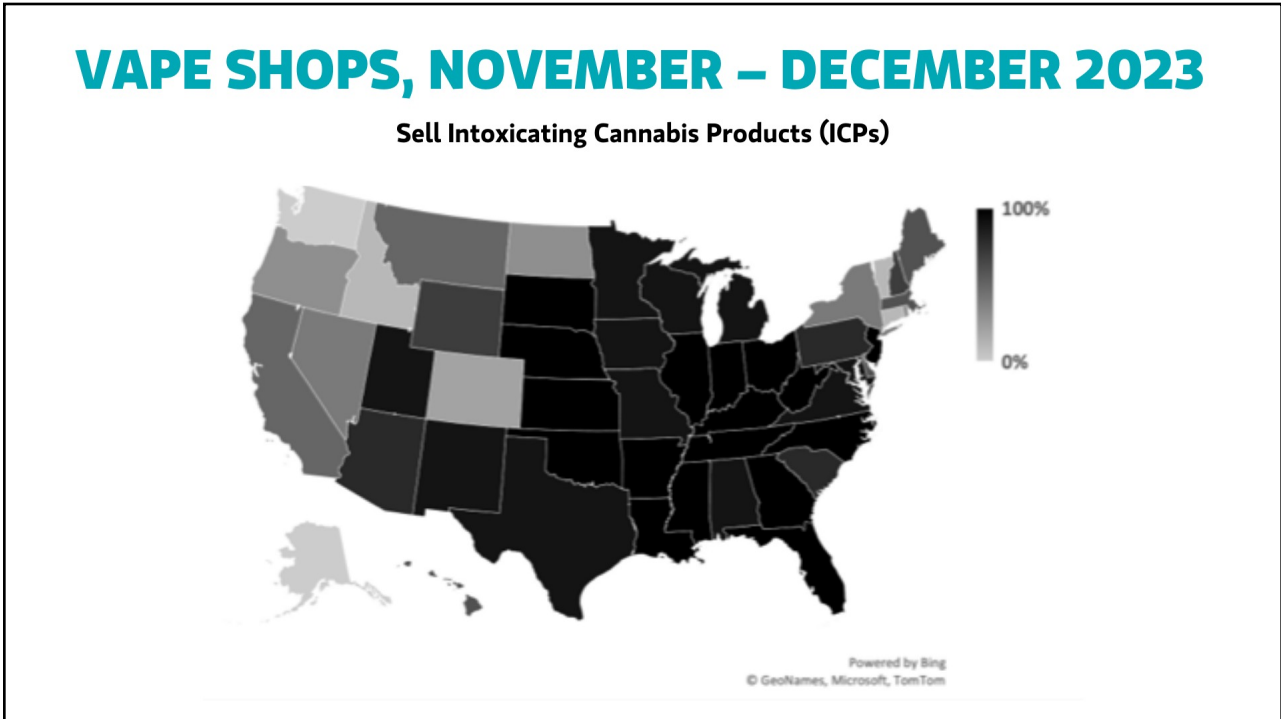


Best practices and best buys



WHY MARKETING MATTERS

26



27



28

“—
| *We basically sell the whole darn alphabet.*

“—
| *We have more blends than stuff on its own.*

-SMOKE SHOP RETAILERS

Rasheim, M.E., LoParco, C.R., Bero, C.J., Tillet, K.K., Trangenstein, P.J., Henry, D., Yockey, R.A., Livingston, M.D., Jernigan, D.H., & Sussman, S.Y. (2024). Derived psychoactive cannabis products and 4/20 specials: An assessment of popular brands and retail price discounts in Fort Worth, Texas, 2023. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 256. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2024.111119

29



30

<h2 style="text-align: center;">DELTA-8 THC RETAIL ASSESSMENT: FT. WORTH, 2021</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;">Rossheim, M.E. LoParco, C.R., Walker, A., Livingston, M.D., Trangenstein, P.J., Olsson, S., McDonald, K.K., Yockey, R.A., Lunningham, J.M., Kong, A.Y., Henry, D., Walters, S.T., Thombs, D.L., & Jennigan, D.H. (2022). Delta-8 THC Retail Availability, Price, and Minimum Purchase Age. <i>Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research</i>. doi: 10.1089/can.2022.0079</p>	<h3 style="color: #00A69F;">CONTACTED 1,223 STORES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 131 selling delta-8 THC at low retail prices 96% sold vapes and/or “flower” 76% sold edibles
	<h3 style="color: #00A69F;">EDIBLES COST LESS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On average, edibles were \$8.58 less than flower/vapes
	<h3 style="color: #00A69F;">LOCATION DISTRIBUTION</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delta-8 outlets in areas with worse economic conditions
	<h3 style="color: #00A69F;">MINIMUM PURCHASE AGE OF 21</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most reported 21 as minimum purchase age 4% reported 18 years or no minimum age

31


<h2 style="text-align: center;">DELTA-8 THC RETAIL ASSESSMENT: FT. WORTH, 2021</h2> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Potentially different than what they actually do... →</p>	<h3 style="color: #00A69F;">CONTACTED 1,223 STORES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 131 selling delta-8 THC at low retail prices 96% sold vapes and/or “flower” 76% sold edibles
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32

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL SIGN IN SUBSCRIBE

Hemp Gummies Are Sending Hundreds of Kids to Hospitals

Surge of THC products, vapes has states struggling to regulate the booming market



Products advertised as containing Delta-8 THC are sold at a smoke shop. GENE JOHNSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHERE CAN KIDS BUY THC?

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Delta-8 THC: Online/Youth Access

8 ONLINE PURCHASES

- Easily accessible online
- Age verification methods are self-reported and easily circumvented
- Contact with the customer was never requested at the point of home delivery
- Policies and their enforcement are needed to prevent youth access from online sources

2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR

- 65 students in one Texas ISD caught with THC vapes
- Some used Snapchat & cash apps

Egan KL, Villani S, Soule EK. Absence of Age Verification for Online Purchases of Cannabidiol and Delta-8: Implications for Youth Access. J Adolesc Health. 2023 Mar 2:S1054-139X(23)00067-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.01.020 and https://www.cbs19.tv/article/news/local/65-students-charged-with-felony-for-bringing-thc-vape-tyler-isd-compuses/5019bfc945-6150-4f49-ad62-4114c6f6db6

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Online Retail Assessment

1

Googled "buy delta thc" in incognito mode

2

Downloaded top 100 results using resultstoexcel.com

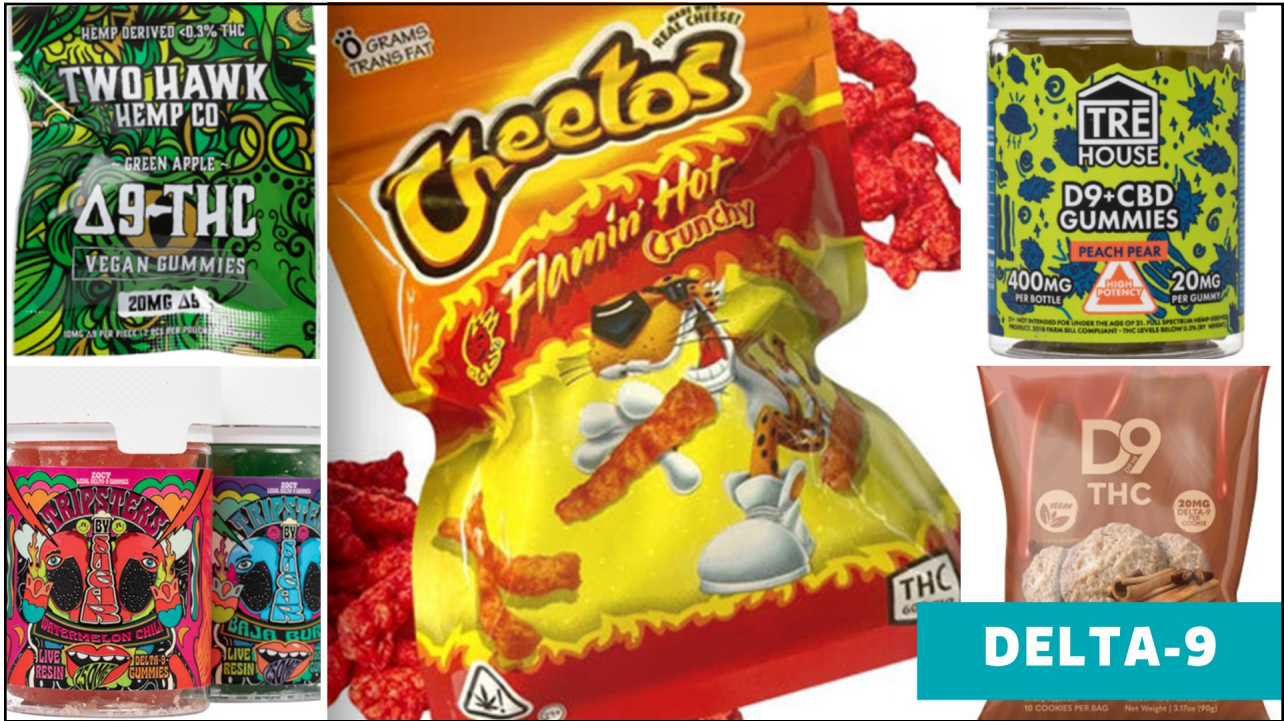
3

Used SimilarWeb to compare web traffic: top 3 sites

35



36



37



38



39



40

Online Retail Assessment



26 distinct intoxicating compounds being marketed



There were 185 different combinations of intoxicating compounds contained within these 804 products



There's little understanding of the health effects from using these compounds individually, let alone in these various combinations

Rosshem, M.E., Tillett, K.K., Vasilev, V., LaParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Trangenstein, P.J., Yockey, R.A., Sussman, S.Y., Siegel, M., & Jernigan, D.H. (2024). Types and Brands of Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products: An Online Retail Assessment, 2023. *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*, 1–4. doi: 10.1089/can.2023.0266.

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4/20 Specials



- None of the gas/convenience stores had 4/20 sales promotions
- 58% of smoke shops had 4/20 specials discounting prices
- Common 4/20 specials included sales on:
 - Intoxicating cannabis products (69%)
 - Glass (43%)
 - Everything in the store (26%)
- Most specials were a fixed percent off, ranging from 10% to 30% off everything in the store, and up to 50% off intoxicating cannabis products and 75% off glass
- Other specials were a fixed amount off (i.e., from \$5 to \$10 off), buy-two-get-one free, buy-one-get-one (BOGO) free, or BOGO half-off
- Seven stores offered giveaways, most often for smoking devices/accessories

Rosshem, M.E., LaParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Tillett, K.K., Trangenstein, P.J., Henry, D., Yockey, R.A., Livingston, M.D., Jernigan, D.H., & Sussman, S.Y. (2024). Derived psychoactive cannabis products and 4/20 specials: An assessment of popular brands and retail price discounts in Fort Worth, Texas, 2023. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 256. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2024.111119

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4/20 Promotional Events

Several stores sponsored 4/20 promotional events, including:

- Free THC gummies
- “Live delta demos where people can test cartridges and try smoking flower in the store”
- In addition to offering 20% off THC products, a “poke and smoke” shop offered \$40 tattoo outlines on 4/20, with numerous tattoo designs related to 4/20 and cannabis
- Another retail store held an event that included food trucks and a DJ

Rosshem, M.E., LaParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Tillet, K.K., Trangenstein, P.J., Henry, D., Yockey, R.A., Livingston, M.D., Jernigan, D.H., & Sosman, S.Y. (2024). Derived psychoactive cannabis products and 4/20 specials: An assessment of popular brands and retail price discounts in Fort Worth, Texas, 2023 *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 256. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2024.111119

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Buy One, Get One Free:
D8 and Gourmet Chocolate Bars

Refresh your stash of delightful dazed chocolate with our Buy One Get One Free sale on D8 and Gourmet Chocolate Bars.

[VIEW CHOCOLATE NOW](#)

Save a bit while you're here

Discount? For Sure!
 Sign up to get \$10 off

Enter email address

Name

[GET MY DISCOUNT](#)

Want 15% Off?

Become an insider

Be the first to know what we're dropping next and save some \$\$\$.

Tell us your name

What's your email

[Get 15% Off](#)

No Thanks

Get 20% off!

Save 20% on your next purchase when you subscribe to our wellness community.

Email

[Get my discount](#)

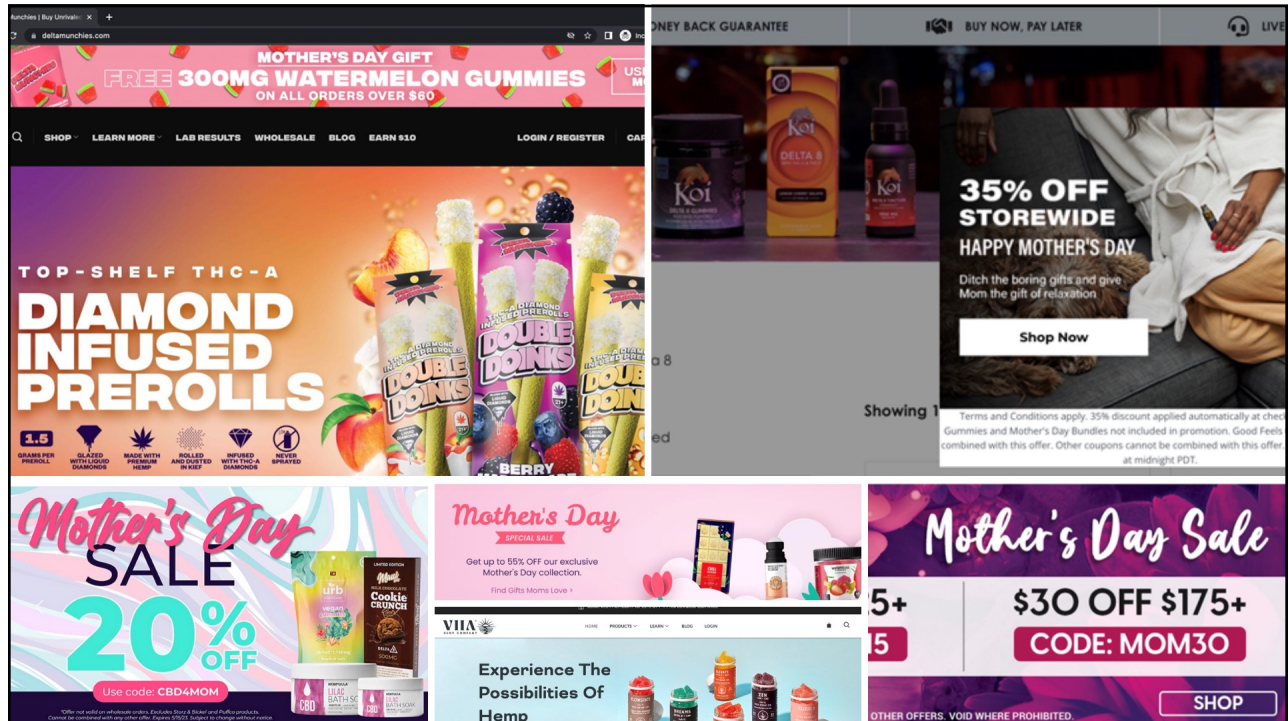
Limited Time 10% off

Save on your first order and get email only offers when you join.

Email

[Submit](#)

44



45

Online Retail Assessment

Modalities

- Disposable vapes (43%)
- Edibles (29%)
- Vape carts (18%)
- Pre-rolls (7%)
- Flower (2%)
- Dabs (1%)
- Vape pods (<1%)

Rosshem, M.E., Tillett, K.K., Vasilev, V., LaParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Trangenstein, P.J., Yockey, R.A., Sussman, S.Y., Siegel, M., & Jernigan, D.H. (2024). Types and Brands of Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products: An Online Retail Assessment, 2023. Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research, 1-4, doi: 10.1089/can.2023.0266.

46

<h2 style="color: #00A0C0;">WHY DO BRANDS MATTER?</h2> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 20px;">Siegel M, Dejong W, Naimi TS, Fortunato EK, Albers AB, Heeren T, Rosenbloom DL, Ross C, Ostrhoff J, Radkin S, King C, Barzekowski DL, Rimal RN, Padon AA, Eck RH, Jernigan DH. Brand-specific consumption of alcohol among underage youth in the United States. <i>Alcohol Clin Exp Res</i>. 2013 Jul;37(7):1195-203. doi: 10.1111/acer.12084. Epub 2013 Feb 7. PMID: 23398208; PMCID: PMC3625257 and O'Hirono, J R, Eddy, J J, Brown, L F, Ryan, J L, & Bogoyavlensky, A (1994). Tobacco Acquisition and Cigarette Brand Selection among Youth. <i>Tobacco Control</i>, 3(4), 334–338. http://www.jstor.org/stable/20207102</p>	<h3 style="color: #00A0C0;">IN THE UNITED STATES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 alcohol brands comprise nearly half of all alcohol consumed by underage youth • The first tobacco brand that youth smoke typically becomes their preferred brand
	<h3 style="color: #00A0C0;">PUBLIC HEALTH & POLICY</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand-related insights have been crucial in crafting targeted public health campaigns and policy measures aimed at curbing use among vulnerable populations • Insights can help inform the development of laws, public health campaigns, and counter-advertising initiatives

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FT. WORTH, TX: BRANDS

- Cake
- Medusa/Modus
- Torch
- Urb
- Kik
- Tyson

- 3Chi
- Casper
- Hidden Hills
- Esco Bars
- Happi
- Hometown Hero

- STNR
- Bomb Bars
- Baked
- Hi On Nature
- Looper
- Space God

Rossheim, M.E., LaParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Tillett, K.K., Trangenstein, P.J., Henry, D., Yackey, R.A., Livingston, M.D., Jernigan, D.H., & Sussman, S.Y. (2024). Derived psychoactive cannabis products and 4/20 specials: An assessment of popular brands and retail price discounts in Fort Worth, Texas, 2023. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 256. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2024.111119

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Online Retail Assessment



Among the 118 brands, the most common were:

- Exhale
- Delta Extrax
- Cake
- URB
- Looper
- TRE House

Rosshem, M.E., Tillet, K.K., Vasilev, V., LaParco, C.R., Berg, C.J., Trangenstein, P.J., Yockey, R.A., Sussman, S.Y., Siegel, M., & Jernigan, D.H. (2024). Types and Brands of Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products: An Online Retail Assessment, 2023. Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research, 1–4, doi: 10.1089/can.2023.0266.

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What we already see in Texas...

53



54





55



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SUBMITTING AN IMAGE

1. Please Enter Your Name:

Betsy Jones

2. Please Enter Your Email Address:

bjones@txsdy.org

3. What kind of image are you sharing?

- A picture of an ad I saw on Social Media
- A picture of an ad I received via email
- A picture of an ad I received in the mail
- A picture of an ad (e.g., billboard, poster, etc.) I saw in my community
- A picture of a store I saw in my community
- A picture of cannabis products I saw in my community
- Other (please specify)



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SUBMITTING AN IMAGE

4. Where did you see the image of the cannabis product or ad you're sharing? (If you're sharing an ad mailed to a home, please provide the street name and zip code of where the ad was mailed.)

Street Name: McCullough Ave.

Zip Code: 78212

5. Please describe how you came across the image you're sharing. (If you saw the ad on Social Media, please indicate which platform - e.g., Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.)

This store is next to my gym, so I see it whenever I go to workout.

6. Please upload your image here.

Choose File No file chosen

Prev Done



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59



60



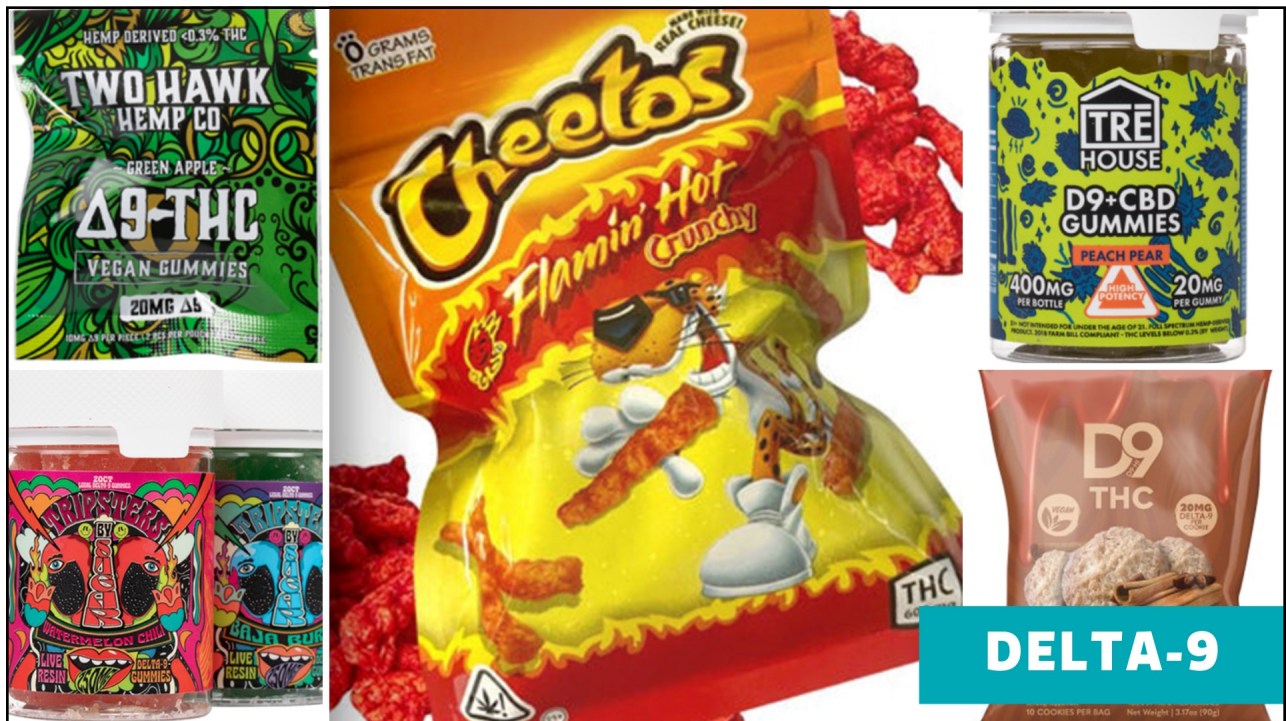
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62



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64



65



66



BLENDS

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★ CONSTITUENT SURVEY ★

I value your opinions and input, and that's why I like to hear from you as much as possible, but especially through a district wide questionnaire.

You can submit your responses electronically via email at district121.allison@house.texas.gov or by mailing this form to our Capitol or District office. Before you mail it in however, please fold and tape it with the return address on the outside.

Your responses to this questionnaire will help my staff and I get a feel for where our district stands on a variety of issues but, as always, feel free to contact our office directly with any questions or concerns. We stand ready to serve you.

1. What issues are important to you? Please circle as many that apply:

2nd Amendment Rights	Border Security	Election Integrity
Criminal Justice Reforms	Education Reforms	Power Grid Reliability
Healthcare Reform	Law Enforcement Support	Human Trafficking Prevention
Reigning in Rogue DAs	Pay Raise for Teachers	Benefits for Retired Teachers
Water	Infrastructure	Transportation
Workforce Development		
Other: _____		

2. Do you support Texas using taxpayer dollars to build its own border wall or other means to address illegal entry? Please circle one. Yes No
Comments: _____

3. Do you support the repeal of the STAAR standardized tests? Please circle one. Yes No
Comments: _____

4. Would you support opting out of spring and fall time changes? Please circle one. Yes No
If yes, do you support Standard or Daylight Savings time? Please circle one. Yes No
Comments: _____

5. Would you support a constitutional amendment to legalize cannabis in Texas? Please circle one. Yes No
If yes, under any age, amount, or other restrictions? Please circle one. Yes No
Comments: _____

6. Do you support casino gambling in Texas? Please circle one. Yes No
Comments: _____

MOOD

100% legal THC

No ID or medical card needed.

★★★★★

"I liked the quality. Gave me the mood I was wanting."

Paul N.

Enjoy **20% OFF** + a **FREE** 5ct of gummies with code: **MOOD20GUMMIES**

Only at hellomood.com

Details on back

MAILERS

68



Submit photos of cannabis products and marketing here.



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How do the 4 Ps apply?

70



71

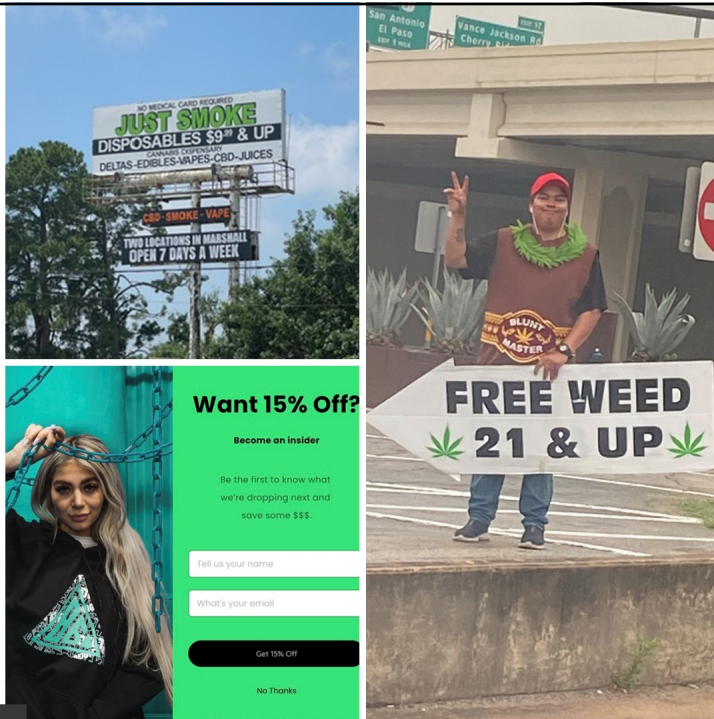
PRODUCT



The marijuana or related products being sold.

72

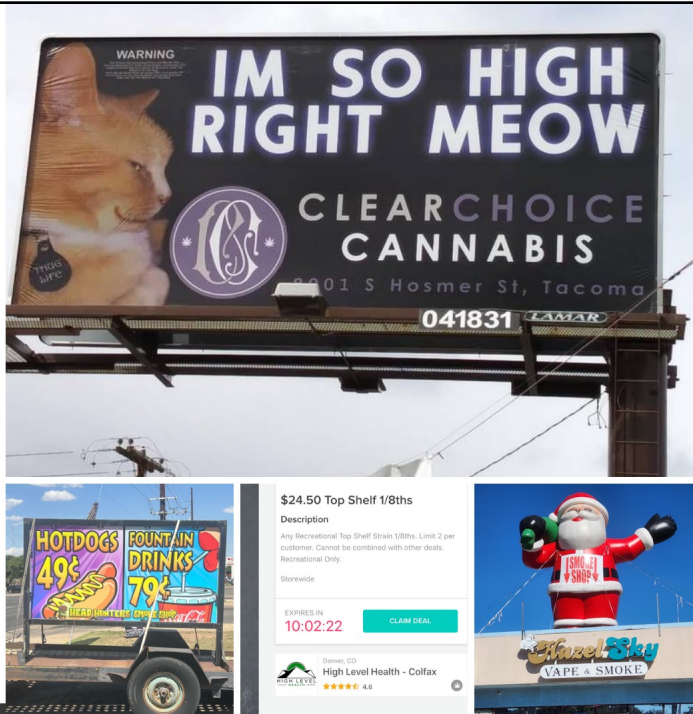
PRICE



The cost of marijuana products. The higher the cost, the lower the rates of consumption, which results in fewer problems.

73

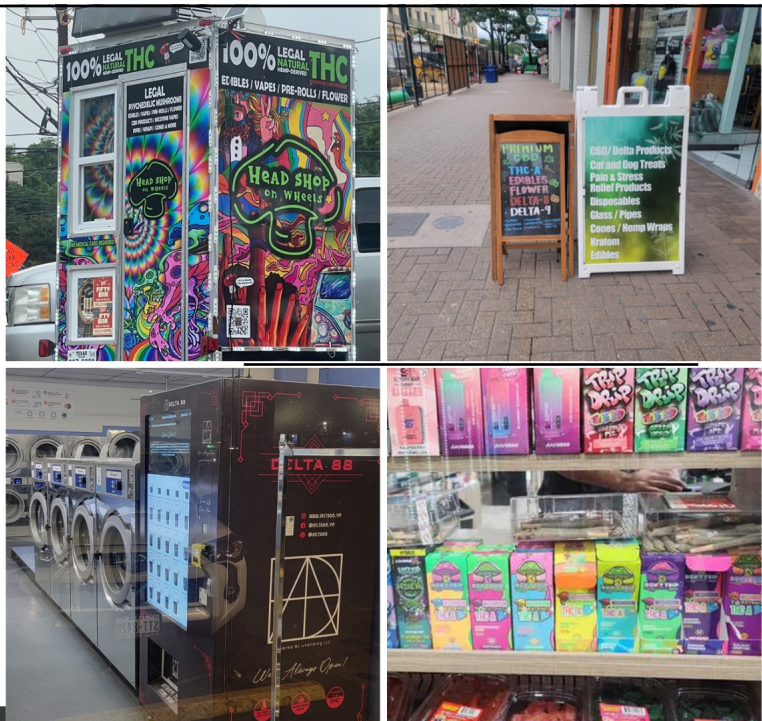
PROMOTION



Raising customer awareness of a marijuana-related product or brand; generates sales and creates brand loyalty.

74

PLACE



The location of sales, service, and smoking. In public health terms, place is known as “cannabis availability.”

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POLICY EFFORTS

DECRIMINALIZATION

Removes criminal penalties for the possession of small amounts of marijuana and imposes penalties other than jail time.


MEDICAL

Permits the use of marijuana to alleviate the symptoms of illnesses.


NON-MEDICAL

Permits the use of marijuana for personal, non-medical purposes.

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<p>Compassionate Use Program</p> <p>Legalization of Industrial Hemp</p>	<h1>TEXAS POLICIES</h1> 
--	--

77

<h2>UNDER TEXAS LAW...</h2> <p>The manufacturing and processing of consumable hemp products for smoking is prohibited. <i>Effective July 5, 2023</i></p> <p>The legal definition of smoking includes vaping</p>	
---	--

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LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW

HUNDREDS OF CANNABINOIDS IN PLANT

There are hundreds of cannabinoids with psychoactive properties, such as Delta-8. These products are commonly seen and widely available in smoke shops and gas stations.



DIFFERENT PROPERTIES OF CANNABINOIDS

Different cannabinoids have psychoactive properties. E.g., tetrahydrocannabinol (THCA) converts to psychoactive Delta-9 when heated.



0.3% THC CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS

Delta-9 is measured in the dried flower of the plant, but products aren't always dry. 0.3% of one gummy bear is a significantly larger amount than 0.3% of a dried flower.



What is an interim study?

1

Directive for legislators to study certain policy issues in advance of next session

2

Lt. Governor's office and Speaker of the House issue lists of interim charges based on citizen or lawmaker requests and state priorities

3

Senate and House committees study these topics through hearings, research, and expert testimony

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Why are interim studies important?

→

- Explore common or emerging issues
- Review recently enacted legislation or failed legislation
- Monitor mandates given to executive agencies
- Hearings are held on interim studies; experts provide testimony
- Sometimes result in a report or recommendations

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Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
President of the Senate

2024 Interim Legislative Charges:

- Border Security Committee
- Business and Commerce Committee
- Criminal Justice Committee
- Education Committee
- Finance Committee
- Health and Human Services Committee
- Higher Education Committee
- Local Government Committee
- Natural Resources Committee
- State Affairs Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee
- Veterans Affairs Committee

April 11, 2024

Banning Delta 8 and 9: Examine the sale of intoxicating hemp products in Texas. Make recommendations to further regulate the sale of these products, and suggest legislation to stop retailers who market these products to children.

HEMP BILL INTERIM STUDY

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TEXAS SENATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



CHAIR
Bryan Hughes
(R, Mineola)



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(D, Laredo)

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Derived Intoxicating Cannabis Products in Texas - Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth

Derived Intoxicating Cannabis Products (DPCs)

Texas for Safe and Drug-Free Youth

Images gathered and submitted by regional volunteers using the **Community Cannabis Monitoring Tool**

Prepared for the Senate Committee on State Affairs, Chair Senator Bryan Hughes
 House Study on Betting Data & 8
 May 28, 2024

District 11: Senator Mayes Middleton

District 27: Senator Morgan LaMantia

District 28 (R, Lubbock): Charles Perry

District 12: Senator Tan Parker

TAILORED INFO FOR COMMITTEE

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We need a total ban on intoxicating cannabinoids.

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Questions



- How do the effects of various DPCPs (and their combinations) compare to Delta-9 THC in terms of potency, mental and physical health effects? (Short- and long-term)
- Are there populations particularly at risk of harms from using DPCPs? (E.g., young people; taken with other substances, prescription medications; others?)
- How prevalent is the use of each semi-synthetic cannabinoid?
- How valid are our measures? Surveys, biological tests, field sobriety tests...

If we don't have these answers, how can we effectively regulate?

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These products are **designed to circumvent any and all regulations!**

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<h1>BANS WORK!</h1>	<h2>VAPE SHOPS WITHOUT BANS</h2> <p>Vape shops in states without bans had approximately 16 times the odds of selling intoxicating cannabis products, compared to states with bans (statistically adjusting for active retail of legal non-medical cannabis)</p>
	<h2>BANS NEED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE AND ENFORCED</h2> <p>In states with Delta-8 THC bans, 43% of vape shops still sold some type of intoxicating cannabis product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta-9 THC 32% • Delta-8 THC 25% • HHC 25% • THCA 21% • Delta-10 THC 19% • THCO 9% <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>Rosshem, M.E., LoParco, C.R., Tillett, K.K., Treffers, R.D., Livingston, M.D., & Berg, C.J. (2024). Intoxicating Cannabis Products in Vape Shops: United States, 2023. American Journal of Preventive Medicine</i></p>

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<h1>Product regulations don't work!!!</h1>	→ For states with other laws designed to limit potency/availability, there was no significant association with the availability of intoxicating cannabis products.
	→ In states with limited/no delta-8 THC regulations, 92% sold intoxicating cannabis products
	→ In states with laws designed to limit potency/availability, 90% sold intoxicating cannabis products
	→ It's no surprise that regulations don't work, because these products are being designed to circumvent regulations

Rosshem, M.E., LoParco, C.R., Tillett, K.K., Treffers, R.D., Livingston, M.D., & Berg, C.J. (2024). Intoxicating Cannabis Products in Vape Shops: United States, 2023. American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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Why hemp-derived intoxicating cannabinoids must be banned, rather than “regulated.”

1

These products are widely accessible, including to children and adolescents.

2

These products are harmful, and we won't know the full extent of these harms for many years.

3

If we don't know all the short- and long-term harms from use, we can't appropriately regulate them.

4

States are unable to “regulate” their way out of this problem, because these products are being innovated specifically to circumvent all regulations.

5

Banning the sale of all hemp-derived ICPs is needed to protect our communities and youth

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Mary Miller Amendment

What would it do?

It would NOT ban CBD (despite industry claims)

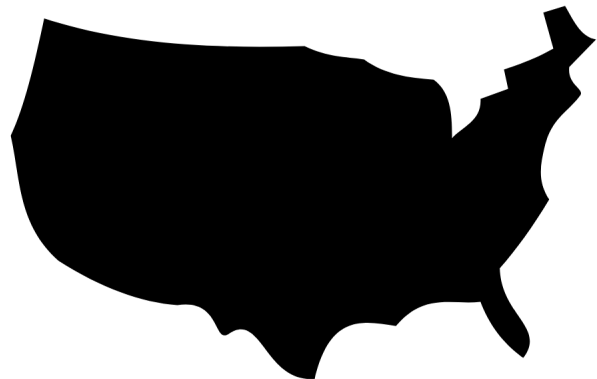
What would rescheduling mean?

Where is this in terms of process?

How likely is it to happen?

What would happen if it happens?

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



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2024 Farm Bill Reauthorization



Major opportunity to address the negative consequences of the 2018 Farm bill.



State (and local) laws are still needed!!!

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Important Components of Laws



BANS ON ALL HEMP-DERIVED ICPs

- Ban, not “regulate” them (because regulations don’t work)
- Comprehensive definition (Not limited to certain ones such as Delta-8 THC)
- Any detectable levels (not some arbitrary threshold)

PRODUCT TESTING

- Of any remaining cannabinoids on the market (such as CBD products)

ENFORCEMENT

- Large fines for those in the supply chain
- Large enough to not just be a cost of doing business, but rather act as a strong deterrent
- Not “purchase, use, possession” (AKA PUP laws) - they don’t change the retail environment, and disproportionately affect young men of color

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WHAT ARE DERIVED PSYCHOACTIVE CANNABIS PRODUCTS (DPCPS)?

- DPCPs have intoxicating properties similar to cannabis, but they are chemically derived, not grown.
- Due to a definition in the 2018 Farm Bill (i.e., Agriculture Improvement Act), these compounds are being regulated as "hemp" despite their intoxicating effects (because they have < 0.3% Δ -9 THC by weight).^{1,2}
 - Companies are now marketing at least 26 different intoxicating cannabis compounds, including Δ -8 THC, Δ -9 THC, Δ -10 THC, Δ -11 THC, THC-A, THC-B, THC-H, THC-JD, THC-O, THC-P, THC-X, HHC and HHC-P.⁴
- In 2023, 1-in-9 12th graders reported Δ -8 THC use in the past year.⁵

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

- DPCPs are available in nearly every state, including most that have banned certain DPCPs such as Δ -8 THC.^{1,2}
 - This is because companies continuously create new types of DPCPs to circumvent these laws.
 - Some of these new DPCPs are marketed as being far more potent than Δ -9 THC.
- DPCPs are easy to buy online: Age verification measures are rarely used and easily circumvented.⁶
- In most states, there are no age laws, so it is up to the retailers whether to sell DPCPs to children.^{1,2}
- DPCPs are marketed in ways that are extremely likely to attract children, such as added in candy, chips and chocolates.
- DPCPs are inexpensive (sometimes < \$5), and stores are disproportionately located in low-income areas.⁴

Questions or concerns? Please contact: Matthew.Rosshelm@unthsc.edu.

DPCPS CARRY RISK OF HARM, ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG PEOPLE.^{1,5-7}

- Most states do not require testing for chemical contaminants, even though DPCPs are commonly synthesized using harsh solvents that are hazardous to human health.¹
- Potency limits are rare, despite conclusive evidence that more potent products carry higher risk of harms.¹
- Research supports that DPCP use is associated with acute psychiatric disorders, including severe psychosis, as well as lung, chest and heart disorders, injuries and poisonings.⁸⁻⁹
- DPCPs are new, so we don't know all the short- and long-term risks from use.¹
- DPCPs are often consumed accidentally by children because of poor labeling and a lack of child-proof containers.⁹
- This problem appears to be getting worse. In 2022, U.S. Poison Centers managed 82% more Δ -8 THC cases than in 2021.¹⁰
- These products are marketed to young people. Some DPCP product packaging mimics well-known food brands and flavors that appeal to children, including Cap'n Crunch, Cocoa Puffs, Froot Loops, Nerds Ropes, Starbursts and Sour Patch Kids, among others.⁹

No psychoactive drug should be sold as "hemp."

The 2024 Farm Bill and state laws should help prevent kids from accessing harmful, psychoactive candy.






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THANK YOU!



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PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



DPCPs Info



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