



## **TEXAS POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION** **CONSUMABLE THC CONCERNS**

### FAQs

- HEMP
  - Grown specifically for industrial uses
  - **Contains very low levels of THC (generally less than 0.3%)**
  - Does not produce psychoactive effects
- CBD
  - Non-psychoactive compound found in cannabis plants
  - **Does not produce a "high"**
  - Used in various wellness products and does not affect mental clarity
- THC
  - Cannabinoid found in cannabis plants
  - **Psychoactive and produces a "high"**
  - 0.3% THC = 3 mg of THC (per 1 gram of dry weight)
  - **1 gummy that weighs 3.2 grams = 9.6 mg of THC**
- MARIJUANA
  - Typically contains higher levels of THC
  - Consumed for psychoactive effects and medicinal benefits

### HISTORY

- 2018 Farm Bill - Legalized hemp which legalized CBD which allows up to 0.3% Delta-9-THC by dry weight
- 2019 - Texas Legislature authorized the commercialization of hemp products to help Texas farmers
- **Has evolved into an unregulated industry now selling high-potency forms of consumable Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products**

### RISKS OF THC CONSUMABLES

- **Unknown potency and long-lasting effects**
- Serious side effects and increased likelihood to cause self-harm or hurt others  
[Marijuana Edibles: Risks, Dangers & Effects of Edibles](#)

### PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

- **Unregulated industry with unknown potency in retail products**
- No established guidelines on how much THC is safe to consume
- **Undercover police investigations found THC consumable products testing up to 78% THC concentration - well above the legal amount of 0.3% for hemp products or naturally grown marijuana from the past that had a THC concentrate of less than 5%**

- Fast and easy-to-use delivery systems, such as vapes and edibles
- **Cannabinoid variants are being chemically modified from industrial hemp then mislabeled as edibles or consumables and openly sold in Texas**
- THC is infused into normal-looking foods with packaging and sugary flavors often targeted at youth consumers
- **Unsafe cannabis derivatives easily accessible to minors with data showing consumable THC may be associated with changes in brain structure in young people associated with decision-making and executive function**
- Evidence suggests heavy and early use of cannabis is associated with an increased risk of developing schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and anxiety
- **Data suggests that as cannabis becomes more available in the environment for adults, its access also increases for children and young adults**
- May be associated with a higher risk of heart attacks  
[Marijuana: Rising THC Concentrations in Cannabis Can Pose Health Risks < Yale School of Medicine](#)
- Emerging studies suggest cannabis use leads to increased risk of psychotic symptoms
- Today's cannabis variants are isolating higher amounts of psychoactive compounds making it more likely a person develops an addiction
- Some studies have shown underage consumption may lower IQ in young adulthood
- **Marijuana use disorder is 4 to 7 times more likely to develop in individuals who begin using the drug before age 18**  
[Weed Is Stronger Now Than Ever Before](#)

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGES

- Loopholes in the current law allow THC compounds to be sold as “hemp” and have created a vast retail market for these unregulated products
- **Manufacturers make the erroneous argument that Delta-8-THC variant products are “hemp products” and not “cannabis products” therefore making them legal**
- Vapes, beverages, edibles, waxes, and in other forms are significantly more potent than ever before
- **Mislabeling can lead to accidental intoxications, overdoses, and addiction**
- Police canines cannot distinguish between THC consumables and hemp
- **Labels on many Delta-8-THC products do not reflect the level of actual Delta-9-THC inside the package**
- If edibles are seized by law enforcement, charges cannot be filed until the contents are tested by a certified crime lab which creates a significant expense for law enforcement
- **Minimal data is available on how these consumable THC products affect driving behavior and intoxication levels are often times difficult to detect**
- Cannabis plants naturally create over 100 compounds called cannabinoids, therefore making it impossible for police officers to distinguish between each

#### RECOMMENDATION

- **Support the passage of Senate Bill 3 to ban all forms of consumable Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products from being sold in Texas**