



# The Dangers of Marijuana Edibles

## Did You Know?

- Marijuana edibles are food and drink products like soda, baked goods, and candy, that have been infused with marijuana.
- Marijuana edibles, also known as cannabis or THC edibles, contain THC, which is the main psychoactive compound in marijuana.
- Edible marijuana products have become a stealth way of getting high for some teens.
- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 17% of those who begin using marijuana in adolescence become addicted, and this rises to between 25% and 50% among teenagers who smoke marijuana daily.
- Federal statistics show that as more states legalize marijuana, fewer young people view it as harmful.
- University of Colorado School of Medicine researchers found that after recreational marijuana became legal in Colorado in 2012, marijuana-related ER visits tripled over the next four years.
- Marijuana edibles, unlike inhaled cannabis, must be digested first before being absorbed and entering the bloodstream. This delay can cause inexperienced users to continue ingesting edibles because they don't immediately feel the intended effects.
- The CDC warns that in edibles, the amount, concentration, and strength of THC is very difficult to measure and is often unknown.
- Symptoms of severe THC poisoning can include respiratory distress, loss of coordination, lethargy, and loss of consciousness, or in milder cases, anxiety, paranoia, and heart palpitations.
- In 2020, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported more than 3,000 exposures to edible marijuana products involving children in the United States ages 12 and under. Most of these exposures were in kids 5 years old or younger.

## How to Keep Marijuana Edibles Out of the Hands of Kids

- Store marijuana edibles in out-of-reach or locked locations. They should also be in child-resistant packaging or containers.
- Avoid buying marijuana edibles that come in packages that look just like real candy.
- Marijuana edibles should not be consumed in front of children.
- Talk with those who spend time with your children regarding your concerns about the use of marijuana edibles around your children.



**If your child eats a marijuana edible, immediately call the free poison control hotline.**

**1-800-222-1222**

**If their symptoms are severe, call 911 or seek medical attention right away.**