BRIEFING: CHILD AND YOUTH APPEAL AND ACCESS TO MARIJUANA PRODUCTS

Sarah Ross-Viles Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program Public Health - Seattle & King County



Why is youth cannabis use a public health issue?

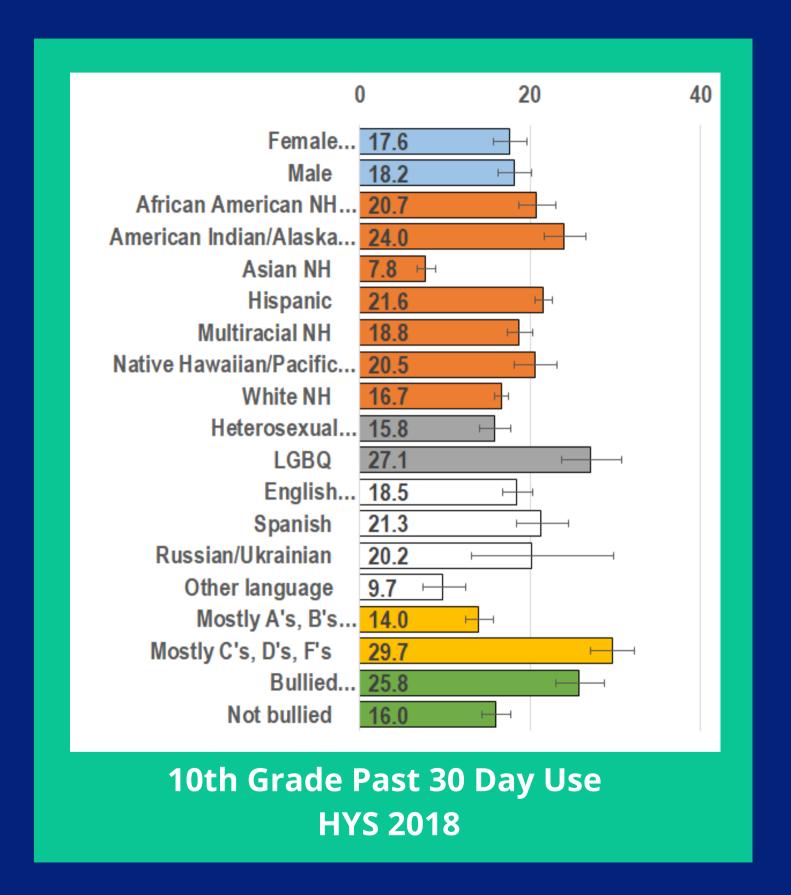
Existing research supports links to:

- Learning and memory impairment;
- Mental health disorders;
- Psychotic symptoms and disorders;
- Problem cannabis use;
- Motor vehicle crashes;
- Use of other drugs and tobacco;
- Overdose injuries, including respiratory distress.

Younger initiation and more frequent use are associated with increased risks.

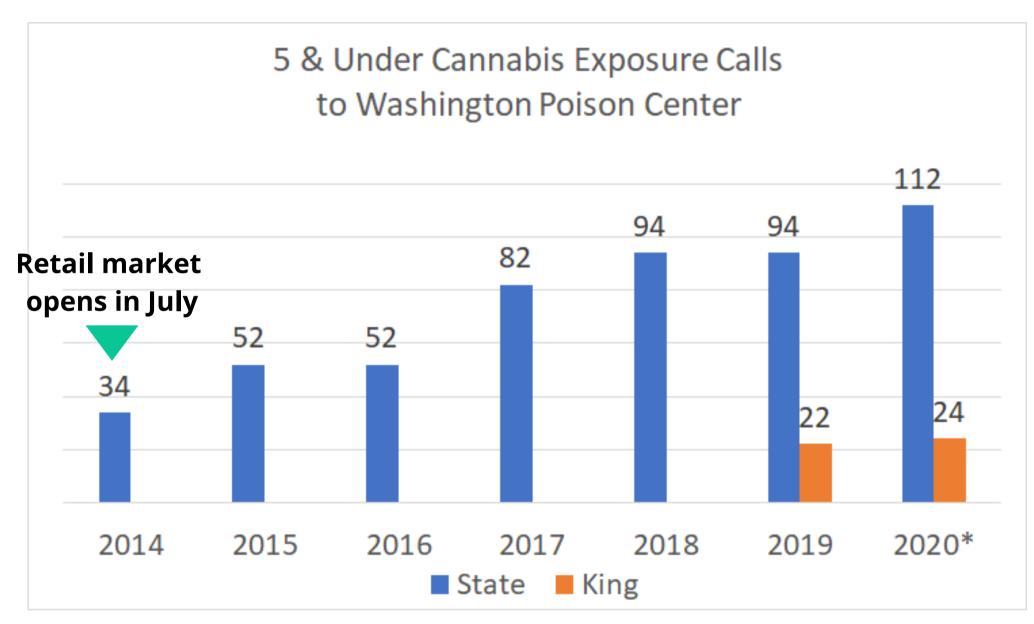
Youth & Cannabis in King County

- Non-significant increase in 2018.
- Use inequitable, with highest rates among:
 - American Indian and Alaskan Native students;
 - LGBQ students;
 - Those who got lower grades;
 - Those who were bullied.
- Perception of harm decreasing.
- Edibles are second most common use.



Increase in Unintentional Pediatric Exposure

- Very young exposure has increased with retail market.
- Accessible product is the largest avenue of exposure for this age group.



Washington Poison Center *2020 through early November

Levels of Influence on Youth Use

Upstream:

- Access & retail laws
- Product codes
- Protective policies

Midstream:

- Community norms
- Risk and protective exposures in institutions

Downstream:

- Interpersonal influence
- Individual knowledge and beliefs

Product and packaging can affect youth consumption

- Candy-like edibles may be most appealing to young people.
- Seen as designed for youth appeal.
- Fully-branded packaging found more attractive than plain or logo-only packaging:
 - Plain packaging is a best practice from tobacco prevention.
 - Packaging is carried out of 21+ stores.
- Decades of commercial tobacco research show warning label best practices.

FULL BRANDING



BRAND LOGO ONLY



Goodman, S., Leos-Toro, C., & Hammond, D. (2019)

NO BRANDING



cannabis.ca/cannabis

Rules on Youth Appeal of Edibles WAC-314-55-105, adopted 12/19

"Especially appealing to persons under the age of twenty-one" means a product or label that includes, but is not limited to:

- The use of cartoons;
- Bubble-type or other cartoon-like font;
- A design, brand, or name that resembles a non-cannabis consumer product that is marketed to persons under the age of twenty-one;
- Symbols or celebrities that are commonly used to market products to persons under the age of twenty-one;
- Images of persons under the age of twenty-one; or
- Similarities to products or words that refer to products that are commonly associated or marketed to persons under the age of twentyone.

LCB Product Review

- Licensees apply to Liquor Cannabis Board product, submitting product, package and labeling images.
- Packaging and Labeling Specialist makes approval determination using WAC:
 - "Commonly associated or marketed" to those under 21 applied as products specifically designed to get youth's attention;
 - o Grey areas where marketing overlaps: both kids and adults like brownies;
 - o Specialist conducts research (searching for similar products) if needed;
 - Consults with Compliance and Adjudication manager and then Agency Director if necessary.
- Applicant can appeal any non-approved product.
- Approval determinations made to be defensible in hearing or legal action.

Approved Products





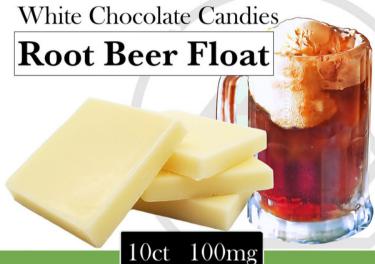
To ensure product quality, please keep this package stored in a cool place at or below 6

WARNING: May be habit forming. Unlawful outside Washington State. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. CAUTION: Intoxicating effects may be delayed by 2+ hours.

Contains 10 servings - 5.5g/10mg THC each - 100mg THC total

Serving size = 1 piece/10mg THC

SUMMIT CANDIES



Net Weight - 1.94 oz (55g)

Contains 10 servings - 5.5g/10mg THC each - 100mg THC



INGREDIENTS: White Chocolate compound (sugar, pa soy lecithin, natural flavor(s)), Flavoring (artificial flavo Contains: Milk and Soy Manufactured on equipment that processes products

Processed and Distributed by Emerald Mountain, LLC

https://www.seattlehashtag.com/blog/2020/2/5/bedibles-of-2019-in-washington-state

snickerdoodle triple chocolate peanut butter





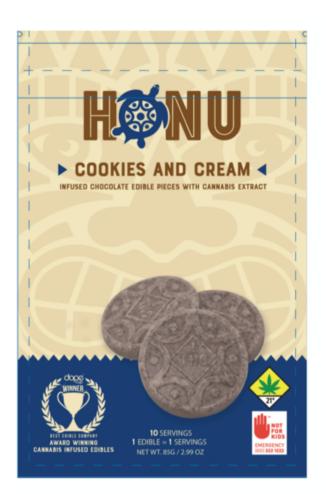
peanut butter



Good choice. Ten times the fun of a single cookie in three tasty flavors. If you're ready to cruise - sit down, kick back, and let Journeyman guide the way.

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Approved Products







WHAT'S IN **SWIFTS GUMMIES?**

Treating yourself has never been so sweet. Handcrafted from scratch using real gelatin combined with the finest all-natural ingredi-ents and infused to the core. Swifts Gummies deliver an always extraordinary. flavor-packed chewing experience. These are the collagen rich gummies you've been

> This is one of those times. This is your moment.









King County Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program

- Consumer assessment:
 - Point of sale education;
 - Safe storage readiness.
- Youth environmental scans:
 - Youth identify risk and protective factors in communities and educate decision-makers.
- Partnership with Gay City Youth Action Committee for LGBTQ youth assessment.
- Policy and evidence review and analysis for youth health equity impact.

References

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