

Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products (DPCPs): The urgent need for bans to protect public safety

What are Derived Psychoactive Cannabis Products (DPCPs)?

- DPCPs have intoxicating properties similar to marijuana (Δ -9 THC), but they are **chemically created, not grown**.¹⁻²
- Due to a definition in the 2018 Farm Bill, these compounds **are being classified as "hemp" despite their intoxicating effects** (because they have < 0.3% Δ -9 THC by weight – the most naturally abundant intoxicant in cannabis).¹⁻³

Companies now market **at least 26 different intoxicating cannabinoids** including Δ -8 THC, Δ -9 THC, Δ -10 THC, THC-A, THC-B, THC-H, THC-JD, THC-O, THC-P and HHC.⁴

- In 2023, **one-in-nine 12th graders reported Δ -8 THC use** in the past year.⁵

DPCPs carry risk of harm, especially to young people.^{1,6-9}

- DPCPs are commonly created using **harsh chemical solvents known to be hazardous to human health**.¹
- DPCP use is associated with **acute psychiatric disorders, severe psychosis, injuries, poisonings, and lung, chest and heart disorders**.⁶⁻⁸
- DPCPs are new, so **we do not know all the short- and long-term risks from use**.¹

- Some DPCPs are marketed as being **far more potent than Δ -9 THC**, and more potent products carry **higher risk of harm**.¹

These products are marketed to young people.

- **DPCPs are marketed in ways that are extremely likely to attract children**, such as added in candy, chips and chocolates.
- Some **mimic well-known food brands and flavors that appeal to children**, including Cap'n Crunch, Nerds Rope, Starburst and Sour Patch Kids.¹⁰

DPCPs are available in nearly every state, including to children.^{1,11}

- DPCPs are easy to buy online: **age verification measures are rarely used and easily circumvented**.^{12,13}
- **DPCPs are often consumed accidentally by children**.⁹
- The problem is worsening: In 2022, U.S. Poison Centers managed **82% more Δ -8 THC cases than in 2021**.¹⁴
- DPCPs are inexpensive (sometimes < \$5), and stores selling **DPCPs are disproportionately located in low-income areas**.¹⁵⁻¹⁷

BANS WORK

In states without bans, vape shops had **16 times the odds** of selling intoxicating cannabis products, compared to states with bans.¹¹

Bans need to be comprehensive and enforced.

In states with bans, 43% of vape shops still sold some type of intoxicating cannabis product.¹¹

State efforts to regulate potency and availability without an outright ban do not work.¹¹

There was only a 2 percentage point difference in how many vape shops sold intoxicating cannabis products, which was **not statistically significant**.¹¹

92% of vape shops in states with limited/no regulations.¹¹

VERSUS

90% of vape shops in states with laws designed to limit potency/availability.¹¹

This is because companies continuously create new types of DPCPs to circumvent regulations.¹¹

The 2024 Farm Bill should explicitly exclude DPCPs from the definition of hemp.

Each state needs well-enforced laws banning DPCPs, requiring product testing, and levying large fines for non-compliance.

WEBSITE



REFERENCES



Questions or concerns?
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