



COLLEGE OF
PHARMACY

NEW MEXICO POISON &
DRUG INFORMATION CENTER

Supported by
UNM Children's Hospital

NEWSLETTER

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CANNABIS AND CHILDREN

The cannabis plant grows wild all over the world, and many countries cultivate it. Some of the most potent strains of cannabis sativa are grown on American soil.

The earliest written record of cannabis dates back to 2727 B.C. during the reign of the Chinese Emperor, Shen Nung. Cannabis then spread to the Islamic empire, northern Africa, and to some parts of Europe. In the early history of the United States, the hemp plant was grown on many plantations to make ropes, paper, and clothing (<https://museum.dea.gov/>).

Fast forward to today. Cannabis is legal both medically and recreationally in some states, and Cannabis products come in all forms from edible products to smoke products.

Edible products can be real concerning. If stored improperly, children can get into what they think is just a cookie, brownie, or gummies. Cannabis edibles vary in their THC concentrations, and serving sizes aren't always intuitive. When you consider the strength and number of edibles in a package, it's easy to see why children can have severe adverse reactions.

More importantly, children have very different reactions to cannabis than adults do. For example, symptoms of THC toxicity in children include extreme drowsiness that can sometimes make it hard to breathe. To add, it's questionable as to whether the edibles come in child-resistant packaging.

If you are concerned that your child has consumed cannabis products, call **1-800-222-1222**. Call right away, never wait for symptoms to appear.

Contact: Jacq Kakos 505.272.1364

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YOUR POISON CENTER...

Is open 24 hours/day, 365 days/year

Is a free public service program

Is offered in over 80 different languages, including Navajo

Is staffed by pharmacists expertly trained in toxicology

Is your one stop shop for questions about poisons, help with poisonings, and questions about your medications

Serves the entire state of New Mexico



New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center

PREVENTION

Store cannabis products out of sight and reach of children. If possible, store them in a medicine lock box or bag.

Store cannabis edibles away from other foods and drinks.

Keep labels on all cannabis products. If you make your own, be sure to label them.

Children should know that cannabis is only legal for adults.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

What do you call an old gas station that turned into a dispensary?

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