

Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association

Emerging Drug Threats

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Marijuana Edibles

With the increase of states legalizing the recreational use of marijuana we have been seeing an uptick in the use of marijuana infused products such as drinks, candy and other foods. The products are sold in those states but are showing up in other states as well.

What are marijuana edibles

Marijuana or hash oil that is infused in food or beverages are commonly called “edibles.” Brownies, cookies, candy, sodas and tea are some of the popular forms. People often view edibles as safer than smoking marijuana, but they can actually be more dangerous because the actual amount of THC varies widely in each batch.

How is it used

These are consumed like you would any other food or beverage product.

Signs of use

Users of edibles also avoid the telltale scent of marijuana smoke on their hair and clothing, making it harder for parents to notice and recognize marijuana use.

If consumed in the normal dose, it will lead to the same effects of marijuana use: poor muscle and limb coordination; delayed reaction time and abilities; increased heart rate; red eyes; distorted sense of perception.

What are the dangers

When a person smokes marijuana, he feels the effects immediately. When a person eats or drinks marijuana mixed food or drinks, it may take 30 to 45 minutes to digest, so the length of time for the drug to become activated is longer. In other words, the person doesn't feel the effects immediately. Because of this, people often eat more. When the effects finally hit, the chances of becoming extremely intoxicated and even having a psychotic episode are greatly increased.

The packaging on legal edibles often appeals to kids and teens and gives the appearance of being a harmless treat. The amount of marijuana in edibles can also vary widely, and the amount of THC can be so great, people have reported extreme paranoia and anxiety bordering on psychotic behavior as a result.



