

Evidence mounts that young children are not being protected from THC Hemp-derived edibles

This research report from *Pediatrics* (Tweet et al., 2023) takes a very rigorous look at this issue. The authors evaluated trends for the years 2017-2021 in pediatric cannabis edible ingestions in children younger than age 6 years with regard to toxicity, medical outcome, and health care utilization for the years 2017–2021.

Specifically, the authors analyzed **data from the National Poison Data System for pediatric exposures to edible cannabis products in children less than 6 years.**

The analysis focused on incidence (that is, new cases), common clinical effects, medical outcomes, health care utilization, and changes in acute toxicity between the pre-COVID years (2017–2019) to the COVID years (2020–2021).

There were a total of 7,043 exposures reported during 2017–2021. A striking finding was that **in 2017 there were 207 reported cases, but in 2021 there were 3,054 cases, an increase of 1,375.0%.**

Most exposures (97.7%) occurred in a home setting. Of all reported cases, 22.7% of child patients were admitted to the hospital, and for cases that were followed, 70% of the children were known to have suffered “central nervous system depression.”

As the authors note, this increase in pediatric edible cannabis exposures, with the potential for significant toxicity, is **a major pediatric health issue.**



Examples of THC Cannabis products from legal states.

