

THC CARTRIDGES AND DAB PENS



WHAT IS A DAB?

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS WAX OR OIL

Dabs are cannabis concentrates with a high levels of THC (the psychoactive chemical in cannabis that produces the feeling of being high). Concentrates can be over 90% THC as compared to the cannabis leaf which ranges between 10-35% THC nowadays. In the 1970's, cannabis leaf only contained around 4% THC.

WHAT IS A DAB PEN?

A dab pen is a vaporizing device containing cannabis concentrates and other additives such as thinning and preservative agents. Popular thinning agents are propylene glycol, glycerin, and polyethylene glycol. Heating these compounds commonly creates the by-product formaldehyde, a known cancer-causing chemical. Vitamin E acetate is another agent that has recently caused lung injury called e-cigarette or vaping associated lung injury (EVALI) in over 2600 people.



WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS?



In the short-term, THC has been show to impair attention, memory, learning, and decision-making. Heavy users- those who reported smoking five of the last seven days- had damage to their brains' white matter. Those white matter changes were correlated with higher impulsivity, particularly in those who began smoking before age 16. Highly concentrated THC can cause more psychologically and physically intense effects such as paranoia, anxiety, panic attacks, and hallucinations.

WHO IS USING THEM?

According to focus groups conducted around the Greater Cincinnati area, THC cartridges or dab pens have been the most reported substance seen by peers. Especially with the marketing tactic of using fruity or candy flavors can make this product even more appealing. We encourage guardians, caregivers, and role models to talk with youth about the effects THC can have on the brain and provide them with accurate information to make informed decisions.



WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?

With the ability to obtain these products online or from a third party source, there can be additional health risks. Black market cartridges can look very similar to dispensary cartridges making it nearly impossible to know if the additives are being accurately represented. on labeling

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2015/11/marijuana-brain>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5679763/>
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6902e2.htm?s_cid=mm6902e2_w
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28522559t>