

FACT SHEET
Emerging Public Health Concern: Delta-8 THC

- Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is a cannabinoid component of *Cannabis sativa*. This chemical is distinct from delta-9 THC, the main psychoactive compound found in marijuana.
- Delta-8 THC can be extracted and made from cannabidiol (CBD) in the hemp plant. However, its effects on the body are different from CBD.
- Although less psychoactive than delta-9 THC, delta-8 THC has psychoactive properties that can cause clinically significant toxicity.
- Federally, delta-8 THC is unregulated since it is different from delta-9 THC.
- Delta-8 THC appeals to youth seeking a 'legal high'. It is available as fruit-flavored gummies and in vape solution. The colorful fruit-flavored gummies can be attractive to young children.
- Recently in a nearby state, two cases of severe adverse reactions to delta-8 THC have been reported in children.
 - The children ingested their father's gummies, purchased at a vape shop.
 - They became symptomatic with deep sedation and slowed breathing with initial increased heart rate progressing to slowed heart rate and blood pressure.
 - Both children were admitted to the intensive care unit for further monitoring and oxygen supplementation.
- Exposures to delta-8 THC have also been reported in adults with products that were mistaken for CBD-like products. These exposures led to symptoms consistent with cannabinoid intoxication.
- Delta-8 THC can cause symptoms similarly observed during cannabinoid intoxication, including:
 - Lethargy
 - Uncoordinated movements, decreased psychomotor activity
 - Slurred speech
 - Increased heart rate progressing to slowed heart rate
 - Low blood pressure
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sedation
 - Coma
- Long-term effects of using delta-8 THC are unknown.
- There is no specific antidote. Treatment is largely symptomatic and supportive care.
- Clinicians should be vigilant in observing patients presenting with marijuana-like symptoms who do not report a marijuana exposure or history of use.
 - Symptomatic patients should be questioned about their use of CBD or delta-8-THC products.
 - It is unclear whether delta-8-THC can be detectable or cross-reacts during routine testing for delta-9-THC.

Seek help for Substance Use Disorder as soon as possible. Call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at 800-662-HELP (4357), or visit www.FindTreatment.gov to locate support and assistance for Substance Use Disorder in your community.

For those who have questions about drug safety or any substance call [your Michigan Poison Center](http://www.mipoisonhelp.org) at

1-800-222-1222

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