

Overview

There is a significant presence of marijuana candy and other edible forms in New Jersey and nearby states. The presence of these edible forms of marijuana poses a great risk to users, especially to children, who may accidentally receive marijuana candy during Halloween. Marijuana candy is illegal in New Jersey. It contains Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the main active ingredient that causes a high. Marijuana candy often imitates hard or gummy candy or chocolate. THC levels in marijuana candy can be as high as 90% compared to 10 to 20% found in marijuana vegetation.

Detection

Adults should check for unusual candy packaging (e.g. homemade packages, such as plastic bags). Because of the similarities between marijuana candy and brand name candy, it is often difficult to distinguish the difference based on appearance alone. In addition to the packaging, marijuana candy can have an odor similar to that of the marijuana plant making it easier to identify.



PUBLIC AWARENESS MARIJUANA CANDY October 2017



Accidental Overdose

In May 2017, a 10-year-old boy from Ramapo, New York was sent to the emergency room after ingesting a marijuana infused sour gummy candy. The boy experienced symptoms of nervousness and nausea.

<http://abc7ny.com/news/10-year-old-boy-overdoses-on-cannabis-infused-sour-candy/1993401/>



Indications & Physical Effects

Physical effects of marijuana use include dizziness, shallow breathing, red eyes and dilated pupils, dry mouth, increased appetite and slow reaction time. Other effects can be distorted sense of time, random thinking, paranoia, anxiety, depression and short-term forgetfulness.

Recommendations:

- If you believe you or your child has received marijuana candy, **immediately** contact your local police department.
- Wear vinyl or non-latex gloves if handling possible marijuana candy.
- Thoroughly wash hands after removing *and* disposing of the gloves properly to prevent potential ingestion of any drug particles.



It should be noted that the Compassionate Use of Medical Marijuana Act (CUMMA) was signed into law in New Jersey to protect those who are authorized to use or produce marijuana for medical purposes from criminal proceedings. For more information, visit (<http://www.njdcj.org/agguide.htm>).