



# CANNABIS PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

## Prevention System of Services, Community Youth Engagement

### PROVIDING COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS REGARDING THE RISKS AND HARMS OF UNDERAGE MARIJUANA USE.

- All SAPC-contracted Prevention Providers conduct **evidence based and locally innovative programs** which include youth marijuana use prevention curriculum for the communities that they serve.

### BUILDING COUNTYWIDE PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE A COORDINATED PREVENTION RESPONSE TO CANNABIS-RELATED HARMS ON YOUTH

- All SPAs participated in the **Rethinking Access to Marijuana (RAM) workgroup** providing various services to the community through their Policy, Research, Education, and Media committees including a Photovoice research project, Community Health Environmental Survey Scan of marijuana dispensaries, development of a Responsible Cannabis Vendor Training curriculum, development of CannaBASICS 101 educational fact cards, as well as working with County and City officials to help prevent sales to minors by licensed retailers.

### ENGAGING LICENSED CANNABIS RETAIL BUSINESSES TO ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE AND BEST PRACTICES

- All SPA cannabis coalitions continued to **meet with cannabis retail businesses to ensure signage complies with current County guidelines** and that the signage should be functional rather than promotional and shall reduce appeal to children and youth, and nuisance to neighborhoods.

### DEVELOPMENT AND/OR ADVOCACY OF CANNABIS MISUSE/ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY TO ENSURE THE OVERSATURATION OF CANNABIS RETAIL OUTLETS, ESPECIALLY IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

- All SPA cannabis coalitions continued to meet with local officials to **ensure the density of cannabis retailers can be controlled** by requiring that a cannabis retailer be located a minimum specified distance from other cannabis retailers, by limiting the overall number of cannabis retail licenses offered within any one census tract or neighborhood, or other strategies.

SAPC Vision: Healthy Communities that are safe and free from Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) problems

#### WHAT IS CANNABIS?

Cannabis is a cannabinoid drug. It primarily contains the psychoactive cannabinoid THC (delta9 tetrahydrocannabinol) and the non psychoactive cannabidiol (CBD) It's most commonly known as marijuana. There are other types of cannabinoids such as Butane hash oil, Cannabidiol, Medicinal cannabis, and Synthetic cannabinoids.



#### HOW IS CANNABIS USED?

Cannabis can be smoked, eaten or vaporized and comes in different forms. The effects of cannabis vary significantly depending on the form consumed.

- **Marijuana** — the dried leaves and flowers (buds) of the cannabis plant that are smoked in a joint or a bong. This is the most common form.
- **Hashish** — the dried plant resin that is usually mixed with tobacco and smoked or added to foods and baked goods, such as cookies and brownies.
- **Hash oil** — liquid that is used sparingly (due to high potency) and added to the tip of a joint or cigarette and smoked.
- **Concentrates** — extracts (dabs, wax or shatter) typically using butane hash oil as a solvent, often vaporized in small quantities due to high THC content.

#### WHAT ELSE IS CANNABIS USED FOR?

Cannabis can be put into various foods generally called 'edibles.' It usually takes between one to three hours to feel its effects. Some users might think they have not taken enough to feel the effects and may consume more which may result in unpleasantly strong psychoactive effects. When edible products have inconsistent levels of THC, many experienced users may find it difficult to control the amount consumed. Cannabis can also be found in the form of beverages containing marijuana products.

When smoked or vaporized, the effects are usually felt straight away.

There are health concerns about the impact of smoking cannabis, especially in the long term.

Cannabis can also come in synthetic form, which may be more harmful than real cannabis.





# CANNABIS

## PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

### ENSURING SAFER COMMUNITIES, BY ADVOCATING FOR POLICY CHANGE AROUND IMPROVING BUSINESS BEST PRACTICES

- All SPA cannabis coalitions continued to meet with local officials to **prevent the harms from delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol**, also known as delta-8 THC.
- All SPA cannabis coalitions continued to meet with local officials to **safeguard/change manufacturers' packaging and labeling of cannabis products in ways that may appeal to children** (gummies, chocolates, cookies, candies, etc.) and may be purchased online, as well as at a variety of retailers, including convenience stores and gas stations, where there may not be age limits on who can purchase these products.
- All SPA cannabis coalitions continued to meet with local officials to **ensure that all retail cannabis sales personnel to complete documented training** on age verification requirements, accepted age-verification practices, including but not limited to electronic age verification practices and other techniques to prevent underage youth from entering or loitering in the vicinity of retail outlets.
- All SPA cannabis coalitions continued to meet with local officials to **require cannabis retail businesses to have a security plan in place** to prevent the misuse of recreational cannabis consumption by employees, and to prevent loitering, and cannabis consumption in parking lots, alleys, and other open areas adjacent to their businesses. The respective business should be well-lit and kept clean, and debris-free by the business operator. Businesses should clearly display signs with "no loitering, no public drinking, and no public cannabis use" in the business and immediately outside.

### DATA COLLECTION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE LA COUNTY LANDSCAPE POST ADULT USE MARIJUANA ACT.

- The **Marijuana Public Smoking Initiative** was launched to document the prevalence and issues of marijuana smoking in shared spaces (e.g. multi-unit dwellings, parks, businesses, and schools, colleges or universities).

### CONTINUED PROMOTION OF THE COUNTYWIDE YOUTH MARIJUANA USE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

- With the perception of marijuana related harms continuing to decrease, coupled with the increase in use among youth, strategies to counteract these trends were employed with **the first ever youth marijuana use prevention campaign, Bigger Choices**, launched in LA County in 2018 and relaunched in subsequent years.
- **Providers continued to promote media campaign messaging** to counteract trends exacerbated by Adult Use Marijuana Act, through continued use of the Bigger Choices and locally created social/digital media campaign efforts.

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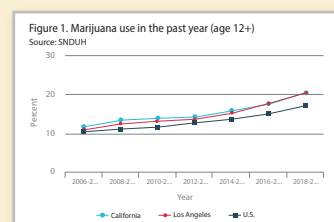
### CANNABIS EFFECTS

Cannabis affects every individual differently. Users may have a different experience on separate occasions or over their lifetime. Some people report feelings of relaxation and euphoria while others report anxiety and paranoia. Some factors that might influence these differences could be:

- The size, weight, and health of the individual
- The amount taken
- The strength of the drug
- The environment of the individual
- Feelings of relaxation and euphoria
- Feeling of paranoia
- Increase in appetite
- Dry mouth
- Memory impairment

### WHAT NAMES ARE USED TO DESCRIBE CANNABIS?

Names used to describe cannabis include marijuana, weed, pot, spliffs, joint, or the name of the strain of the plant. There are also synthetic (man-made) marijuana-like drugs such as "K2" and "Spice." These drugs are different from marijuana and are more dangerous. Additionally, the products sold in dispensaries currently are not subject to Food and Drug Administration standards and are not purely isolated cannabinoids; they are therefore not reliable in their potency/concentration of CBD or THC, or the inclusion of other ingredients.



### TIPS ON DISCUSSING CANNABIS WITH YOUR CHILD

- Ask what they have heard about using cannabis. Listen carefully, pay attention, and try not to interrupt. Avoid making negative or angry comments.
- Offer your child facts about the risks and consequences of smoking cannabis.
- Ask your child to give examples of the effects of cannabis. This will help you make sure that your child understands what you talked about.
- Explain that research tells us that the brain continues to mature into the 20s. While it is developing, there is greater risk of harm from cannabis use.

THERE ARE  
**#BIGGERCHOICES**  
THAN **WEED**