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The Changing Face of Cannabis Culture: How Marijuana Concentrates are Challenging Prevention Efforts

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First...

Some Questions I Would Like You to Think About…
How many contacts have you had with users of cannabis?

What enforcement options do you have when cannabis is located?

How much experience do you have with students who use cannabis or cannabis concentrates?
The Plan

- Understand the different forms of cannabis concentrates
- Learn about the process to consume concentrates
- Learn about the process to produce concentrates
- Identify clues of use
- Identify some area resources

Why are we talking about cannabis?
26 States currently have laws legalizing cannabis in some form
Conditions for medical cannabis are expanding:
- Chronic Pain
- PTSD
- Muscle Spasms
- Nausea/vomiting

Cannabis Use
- Marijuana use in the past month – people aged 12 or older
  - 6.2% in 2002
  - 8.3% (approximately 22.2 million people) in 2015
- Marijuana use most prevalent among people aged 18 to 25
  - 19.8% using it in the past month
- 7.0% of people aged 12 to 17 reported marijuana use in the past month

Source: NSDUH 2015 – Annual Report

Why is cannabis popularity increasing?
Cannabis isn’t just a drug…it’s a lifestyle
Mainstream Marketing – “Stoned”

Not exactly subtle

Oh look, a pocket for... “money”
What are Cannabis Concentrates?

Cannabis Concentrates

- A number of forms or consistencies that are derived from a process of extraction used to isolate chemical compounds from the cannabis plant.
- Example extracts would be CBD or THC.

CBD and THC

- Cannabidiol (CBD): A compound in Cannabis that lacks or eliminates the "high" effect generally associated with consuming the drug.
- Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC): A compound in Cannabis that provides psychoactive effects within the person consuming the drug.
What do the different forms look like?

“FLOWER” or “BUD”
The Changing Face of Cannabis Culture

Ryan Snow

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Trichomes

“KIEF”

“OIL or BUTANE HASH OIL (BHO)”
Nickname of “710”
“WAX” or “EAR WAX”

“BUDDER”

“SHATTER” or “GLASS”
How are Cannabis Concentrates consumed?

**“Dabbing”**

- Use the “dabber” to collect concentrate from the container.
- Heat the “nail” with the torch until red hot.
- The nail is located in the “rig” or whatever device is used for smoking or vaporizing.
- Use the dabber to place the concentrate on the nail where it is vaporized and consumed.
- Vape pens are also used (concentrate placed on heat coils).
Dabbing - Tools

Silicone containers

“Wand” or “Dabbers”

“Nail”

“Dab” the concentrate

Vape Pen coil

Concentrate placed on coil

Vape Pen with “Globe”
Consuming Cannabis Concentrates

“Kief”
- Collected from the grinder or other device used to extract the trichomes
- Placed in smoking device (bowl, bong, vape pen, blunt) alone or on top of flower cannabis
- Sometimes topped with wax or budder
- Heated with flame to smoke

Consuming Cannabis Concentrates

“Edibles”
- Food infused with THC oil extract and baked like a normal food would be
- Can be bought from cannabis dispensaries or made at home
- Very little to no taste associated with the THC

Legal Issues
- In Illinois and many other states, cannabis concentrates fall under the same legal statute as cannabis
  One gram of flower cannabis = One gram of concentrate
- About 4 “bowls” can be packed with one gram of flower cannabis
- About 10 “dabs” can be completed with one gram of cannabis concentrate
How are Cannabis Concentrates are produced?

Making Cannabis Concentrates

- Water Hash: Plant material mixed with ice and water and agitated to break off the trichomes. Filters remove any contaminates.

- CO2 Oil: Carbon dioxide compressed to a "supercritical fluid" It is not flammable but can be expensive

Making Cannabis Concentrates

- Kief/Dry Sift: Trichomes that break away from the dried plant. Usually obtained by using a grinder.
Butane Hash Oil (BHO):

- Cannabis inside a tube shape container
- Butane is injected to cause the extraction process
- Product drops into pan, butane evaporates leaving only the oil
- Can leave behind neurotoxins

Neurotoxins:
A poisonous substance (such as tetrodotoxin or saxitoxin) that acts on the nervous system and disrupts the normal function of the nerve cells

Is BHO production dangerous?
BHO Lab Fire

Source: (DrugTraining TV & Graves, 2015) More at WWW.GravesAssociates.com

“3 Injured in Explosion at UM Housing”

24 year old non-student was making BHO in University of Montana student housing. His 18 year old girlfriend (student) and her 19-month old child were all home at the time. Child and mother suffered first degree burns and suspect had second degree burns.

Source: (Kato / Wilson, 2014)
Making Cannabis Concentrates

- **Rosin Method**: Product is placed in parchment paper and heated (usually with a hair straightener) while being compressed at the same time.

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What should you look for?

**Clues of Use**

- **Silicone containers**
- **Dabbers or wands**
- **Butane Torch**
- **Hair Straightener**
- **Grinder**
- **Vape Pen**
- **Vape Pen Globe**
- **Butane Fuel Canister**
- **Parchment Paper**
What to Look for – Cannabis Concentrates

What makes it hard to catch?

Little to no odor when using a vape pen. Odor lasts a few minutes at most.

Easy to hide. Even found in books between the pages.
Can you “overdose” on weed?

**Overdose on Weed?**

- Weed doesn’t kill you, what happens because of the use of weed can though

- Can cause:
  - Fainting or passing out
  - EXTREME paranoia
  - Sense of exiting the body
  - “Frozen in time”
  - Loss of reality

“*My hair is on FIRE!*”

Source: ([Smithee, 2015](#))
“I was just paralyzed”

Source: (Melissa Oudit, 2014)

What can you do to help?
Education is Key

- Educate yourself first
  - Webinars
  - In person training
  - Joint training with law enforcement
- Sponsor training for law enforcement
- Schedule trainings for students / community
- Early and often!!!

Request help from Law Enforcement

- What are the trends in your area?
- Are DRE’s available?
- What training have they had and how can you help with getting more?
- Meet regularly to collaborate

Request more information from people who use cannabis

- What type of cannabis is seen?
- How much does it cost?
- Where are they getting it?
- How often are they using cannabis?
- What tools are they using to consume?

USE THEIR LANGUAGE! IT ISN’T WEED, CANNABIS, MARIJUANA OR ANY OTHER NAME...IT IS "MEDICINE"
Common beliefs held by people who use cannabis

- Tobacco is a plant too. You may not be able to immediately overdose by smoking too much but no one can deny tobacco related deaths.

- What is done during the growth process to change the natural process can be dangerous. THC can reach unsafe levels through chemicals.

- Also: Cannabis concentrates are far from natural.

Weed is natural. It doesn’t kill people

- Counter: Tobacco is a plant too. You may not be able to immediately overdose by smoking too much but no one can deny tobacco related deaths.

- What is done during the growth process to change the natural process can be dangerous. THC can reach unsafe levels through chemicals.

- Also: Cannabis concentrates are far from natural.

Weed is a victimless crime

- Counter: (2015)Vicente Mundo, a student at the University of Illinois, was murdered by two Parkland Community College Students for a small amount of cash and cannabis.

- University of Illinois Police Chief Jeff Christensen said the murder was an “isolated incident” and “tragedy for our community.”

Source: (WLS-TV, 2015)
Thank you!

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