



PREVENTING IMPAIRED DRIVING THROUGH ENFORCEMENT OF NEW TEXAS VAPE LAWS

Presented by:

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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Vaping is common among Texas youth.

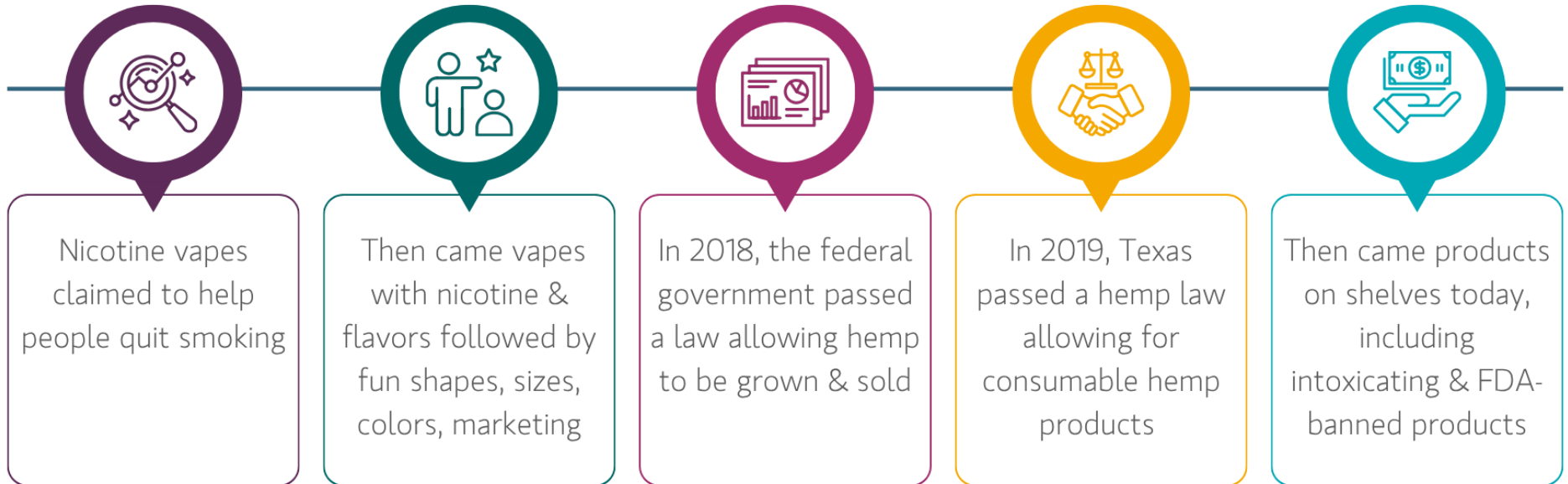
Products are available at gas stations, convenience stores, and smoke shops on nearly every corner - often right next to schools.

They're easy to get and even easier to hide.

They think they are safer than smoking.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?



LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW

HUNDREDS OF CANNABINOIDS IN PLANT

There are hundreds of cannabinoids with psychoactive properties, such as Delta-8. These products are commonly seen and widely available in smoke shops and gas stations.



DIFFERENT PROPERTIES OF CANNABINOIDS

Different cannabinoids have psychoactive properties. E.g., tetrahydrocannabinol (THCA) converts to psychoactive Delta-9 when heated.



0.3% THC CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS

Delta-9 is measured in the dried flower of the plant, but products aren't always dry. 0.3% of one gummy bear is a significantly larger amount than 0.3% of a dried flower.





DERIVED INTOXICATING CANNABIS PRODUCTS

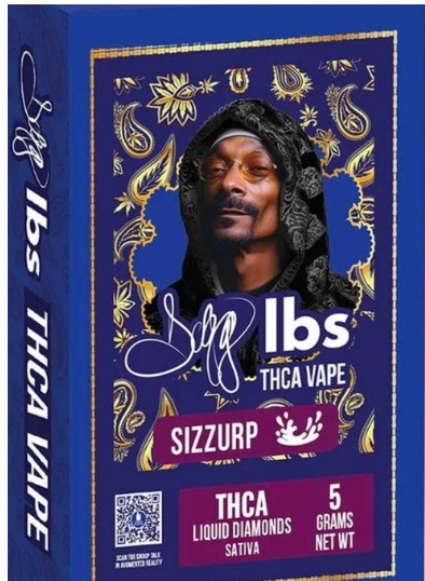
These products include delta-8 and a number of other intoxicating chemicals.

HARMS

FROM DERIVED CANNABINOIDS



- Most are new to market & understudied
- Use is associated with acute psychiatric disorders; lung, chest, heart disorders; Injuries and poisonings
- From 2021 - 2022, US Poison Control Centers managed 82% more cases involving exposure to delta-8 THC
- Studies suggest severe negative health consequences, similar to those from delta-9 THC
- Raises new concerns about product quality and byproducts/contaminants



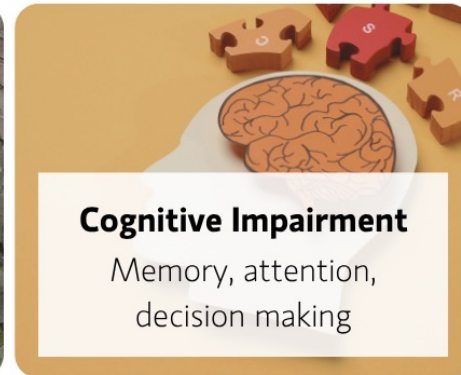
CANNABIS HARMS



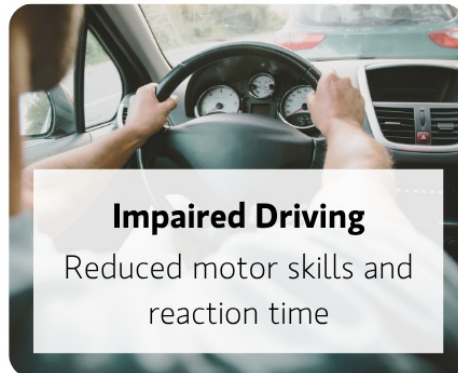
Mental Health Problems
Psychosis, paranoia,
anxiety, depression



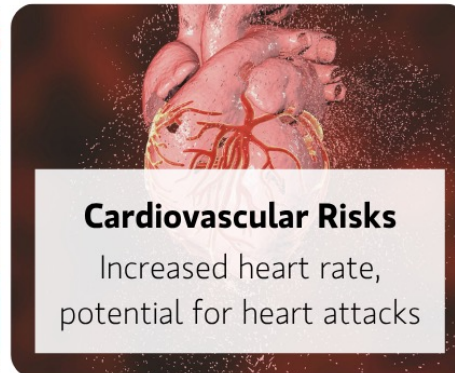
**Addiction, Dependence,
Withdrawal Symptoms**




Cognitive Impairment
Memory, attention,
decision making



Impaired Driving
Reduced motor skills and
reaction time



Cardiovascular Risks
Increased heart rate,
potential for heart attacks



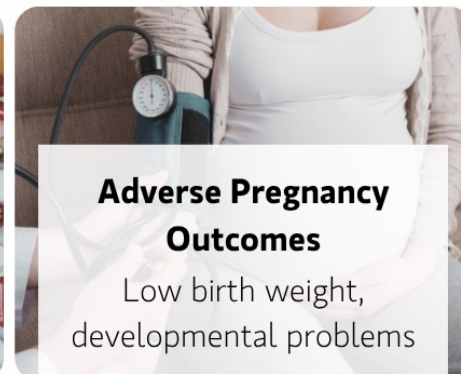
Respiratory Disorders
Bronchitis, lung infections
(especially from smoking)



**Social & Behavioral
Problems**
Relationship, employment,
school problems

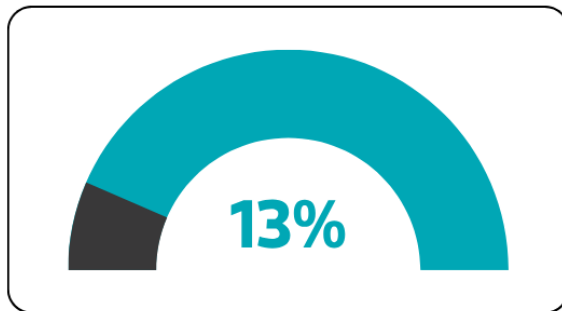


**Interactions with
Medications**



**Adverse Pregnancy
Outcomes**
Low birth weight,
developmental problems

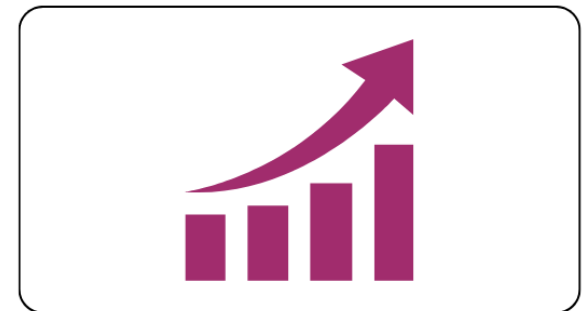
YOUTH CANNABIS USE



13% of Texas 7th-12th graders have used cannabis at some point in their lives

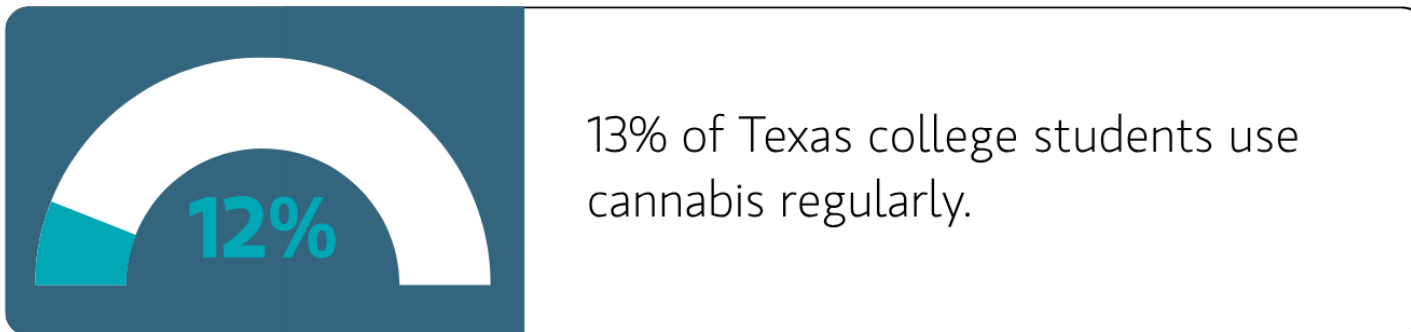
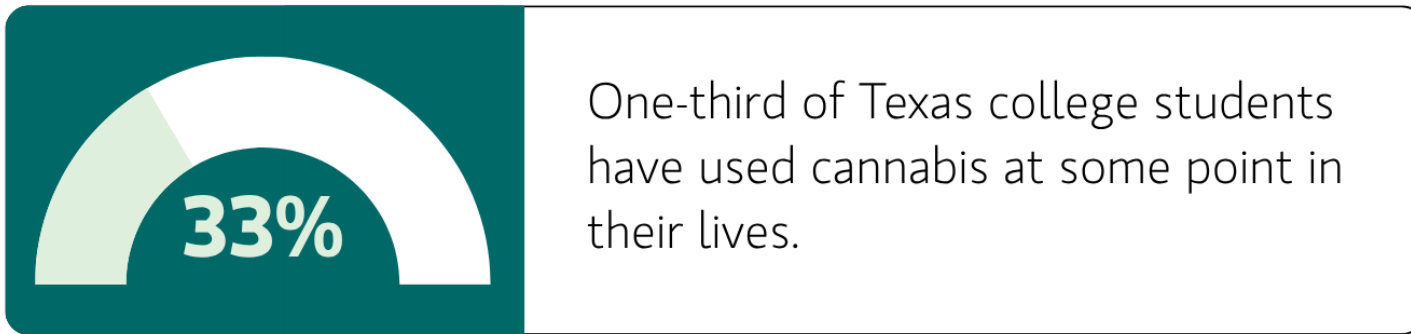


1 in 8 Texas high school seniors regularly use cannabis



Trends vary after states legalize, but youth who use in legal states use higher potency products with more harmful effects

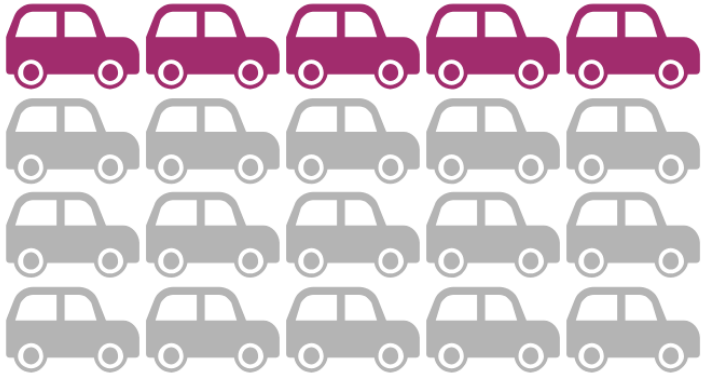
COLLEGE CANNABIS USE RATES



Source: Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students, 2023

**In Texas, alcohol is the drug
most commonly involved
in impaired driving crashes.
Alcohol combined with cannabis
is the second.**

It is the most common combination of drugs involved in fatality and serious injury crashes in Texas.



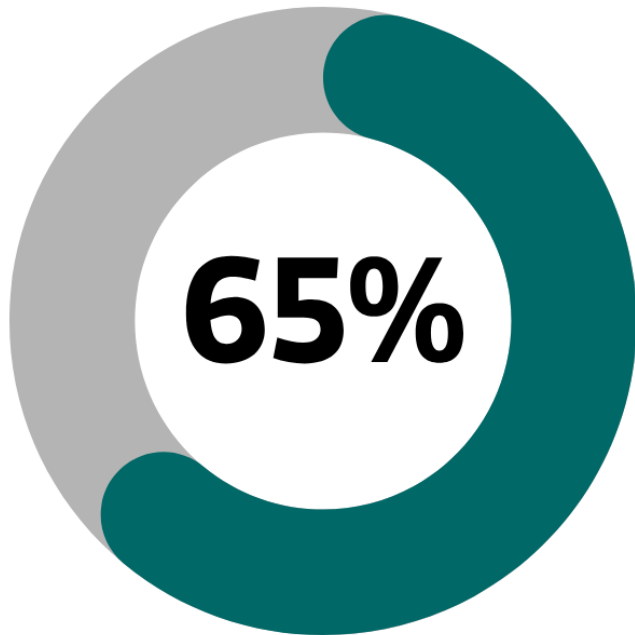
In Texas, nearly 1 in 4 teen drivers who died in motor crashes tested positive for cannabis.

TEXAS YOUTH VAPE USE RATES



More Texas middle and high school students report using **electronic vapor products than traditional cigarettes.**

Source: Texas School Survey, 2024



A recent study found that 65% of Texas college students who used cannabis on campus reported vaping it.

Source: North, C., & Loukas, A. (2023). Marijuana use behaviors on Texas college campuses. *Addictive Behaviors*, 141, 107634. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2023.107634>

RISING ALARMS: VAPING-RELATED ER VISITS

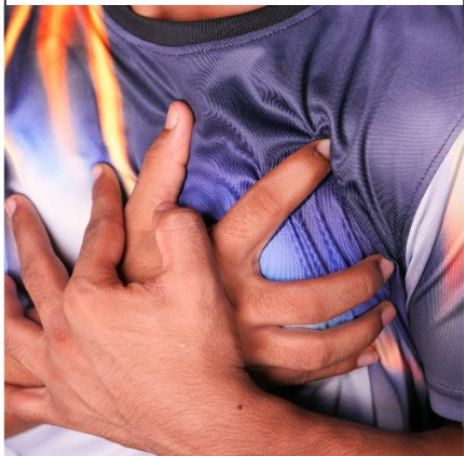
Since 2022, 91 Travis County youth have been treated for vaping-related emergencies.



VAPING HARMES

HEALTH PROBLEMS

e.g., breathing problems and chest pain



MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

e.g., addiction, trouble focusing, increased anxiety



SCHOOL PROBLEMS

e.g., lasting effects on brain developing and learning



IMPAIRED DRIVING

e.g., car crashes from vaping impairing products





We routinely hear from families whose children obtained these substances from convenience stores, vape shops, or online with little to no age verification.

The misleading marketing of these products as "legal" or "harmless" has led many young people to underestimate the risks, leading to early initiation and, in some cases, long-term substance use issues.

– TREATMENT PROVIDER



At 16, my brother walked into a local convenience store near his high school and bought a delta-8 e-cigarette. The store never carded him.

He ended up in the ER due to a severe reaction. Unfortunately, he continued using and experienced emotional and behavioral distress in the aftermath. He started skipping class and eventually dropped out altogether. My family did everything we could to help him, but it felt like no matter how much we tried, we were watching him slip further away from the person he used to be.

– STUDENT

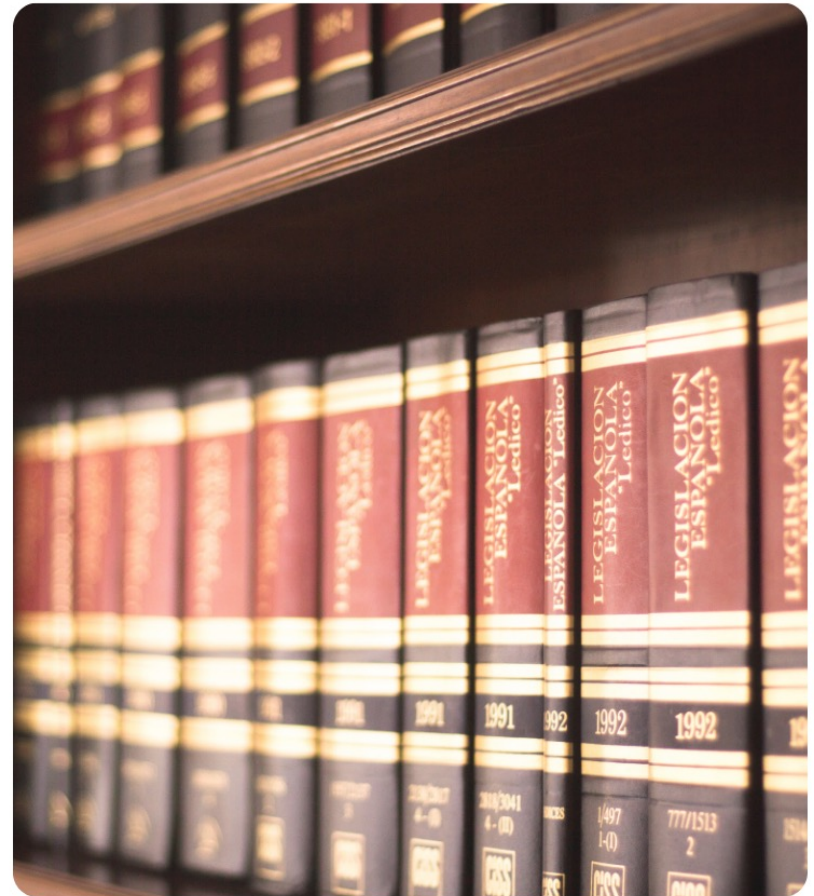


I've been next to someone at a stoplight and smelled the cannabis
and saw them puffing a vape.

– PREVENTION PROFESSIONAL & ADVOCATE

SB 2024

Passed during the 2025 Legislative Session, SB 2024 restricts the marketing and sale of certain vape products. The law prohibits practices that target minors and places limits on product design, packaging, and origin. It aligns restrictions placed on nicotine vapes, passed in previous Legislative Sessions, with other vape products.





WHAT'S ILLEGAL?



Cartoon-like characters



Trademarks/styles imitating kid-friendly products



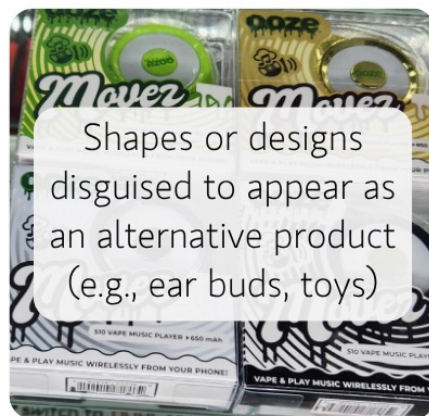
Symbols primarily used to market to minors



Celebrity images or names



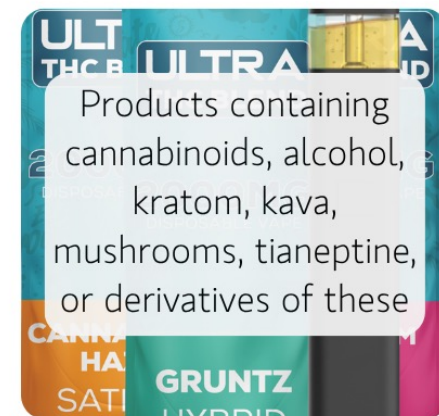
Images resembling food products, candy, juice



Shapes or designs disguised to appear as an alternative product (e.g., ear buds, toys)



Products wholly or partially manufactured in China or any foreign adversary country



Products containing cannabinoids, alcohol, kratom, kava, mushrooms, tianeptine, or derivatives of these

PENALTIES

EFFECTIVE 9/1/25

- Class A Misdemeanor to sell a substance containing any cannabinoids, including THC, if can be vaporized or used in an e-cigarette

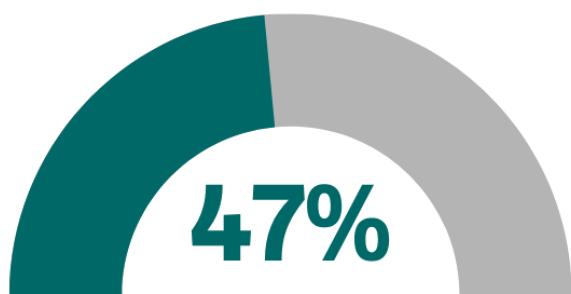
PENALTIES

- Up to 1 year in jail and a \$4,000 fine

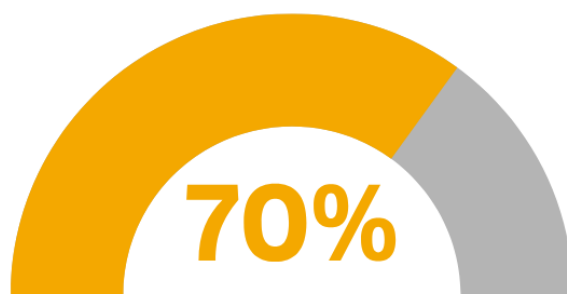


DESPITE **STRONG** PENALTIES...

In Sept. 2025, store clerks openly acknowledged that the products were illegal but continued selling them. Some clerks requested cash-only payments. Others encouraged customers to use THC vapes in-store.



**of stores still sell
THC vapes**



**of stores still sell
THC concentrates**



**still sell THC vapes or
concentrates**

Source: Study led by Dr. Matthew Rossheim, Fall 2025

WHAT COMMUNITIES CAN DO



Educate law enforcement, retailers,
schools, community members



Monitor stores



Encourage and Support
enforcement efforts

CANNABIS AND VAPE PRODUCTS MONITORING TOOL



CANNABIS AND VAPE PRODUCTS MONITORING TOOL

In 2025, the Texas Legislature made youth-friendly packaging and certain vape products illegal. Now let's get them off the shelves!

If you see vapes in stores with cartoon images, candy or toy themes, marketing that mimics products that have been primarily marketed to youth, or intoxicating substances, take a photo and share it using our Vape Product Monitoring Tool. Your work will support compliance checks and product removal — protecting our kids from access to these dangerous products.



Scan the QR code to submit your photos.



EXAMPLES OF IMAGES YOU COULD SHARE:



Cartoon Character Vapes



Vapes Marketed as "Alternative Products"



Vapes with Fruit Flavors



PREVENTION AS A PATHWAY

Enforce the law - remove products from shelves

Ensure school policy & law for vapes, cigarettes, alcohol are well know & easy to access

Provide treatment and addiction services, not alternative school

Hutto ISD First Offender Program

ENFORCEMENT IN ACTION



DETERRENCE THEORY

Successful prevention is based on reducing access and deterrence theory. Deterrence theory says that consequences must be swift, certain, and severe enough to ensure compliance.

Swiftness and certainty are the most critical elements in achieving deterrence.



Swift



Certain



Severe

FEDERAL LAW & HEMP PRODUCTS

Sen. Mitch McConnell included in the Spending Bill to “reopen” federal govt

Goes into effect 365 days from passage Nov. 2026

Cannabis industry is working to reverse or delay ban



Passed on November 10, 2025

Bans all synthetic THC and only allows the sale of products with less than 0.4 mg of total nonsynthetic THC per container



ENCOURAGING ENFORCEMENT

Monitor stores; identify worst offenders

Local leadership perspectives: e.g. DA, County Attorney, Police Chief, Sheriff, School Board, Superintendent

Identify resources: e.g. incinerator

Identify potential partners: e.g. DEA, HIDTA

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS



How do we ensure the law penalizes retailers and not kids?



How do we dispose of these products?



What can prevention efforts around other products teach us?



What are the best ways to engage with local law enforcement?

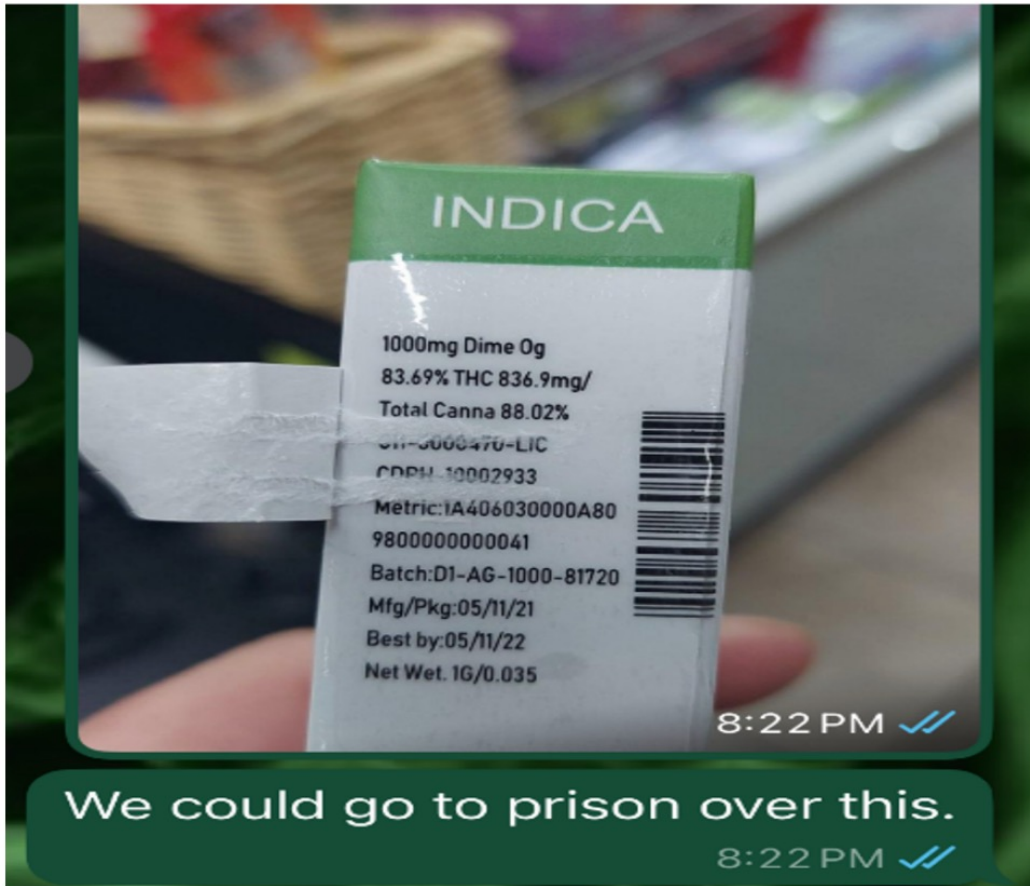


How do we fund these prevention and enforcement efforts?

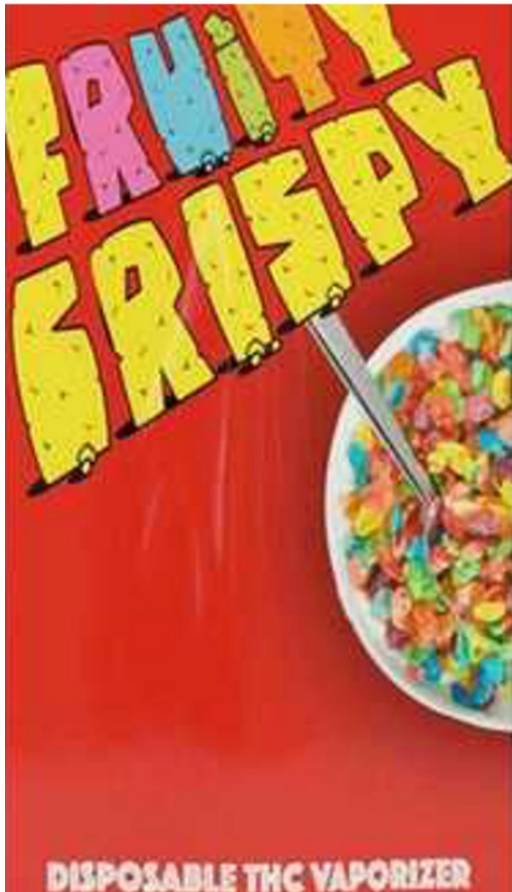
VAPE PRODUCTS



CONTENT



PACKAGING



THE PATH FORWARD

Educate Your
Community



Monitor Local
Stores



Partner with
Law Enforcement



Sign Up to
Stay Informed



QUESTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES



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Vapes with Fruit Flavors



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME!



Contact Us

info@txsdy.org