

# Effects of Marijuana Concentrates

While marijuana concentrates are relatively new, one recent study of high-potency marijuana (16% THC) showed a psychotic disorder was five times more likely among regular daily users, and three times more likely among weekend users.<sup>1</sup>

The effects of using marijuana containing lower THC levels have become well documented by research.<sup>2</sup> Some of these are:

## Short-Term:

- Impaired short-term memory
- Impaired motor coordination
- Altered judgement
- Paranoia and psychosis (in large doses)

## Long-Term:

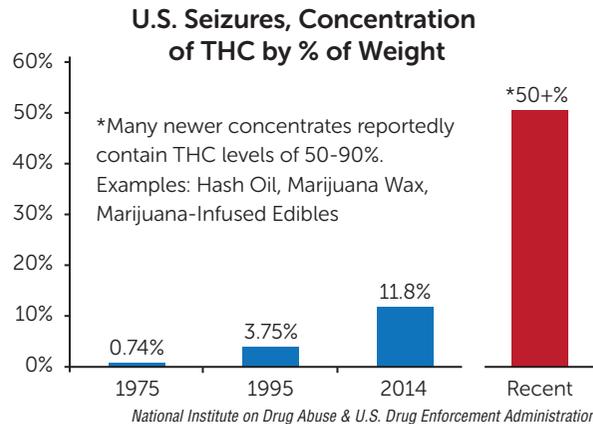
- Addiction: 9% for all users (17% of teens)
- Altered brain development
- Cognitive impairment (lower IQ) among frequent users during adolescence
- Symptoms of chronic bronchitis

# A Growing Concern

## Increasing Potency in Iowa

THC extracts smuggled from other states and BHO lab remnants are being found with increasing frequency in Iowa. The Iowa Crime Lab reports an upsurge in the number of marijuana submissions involving concentrates in the form of marijuana oils, waxes, vaping cartridges, candies, and other food items (some labeled for sale and some home-made).<sup>3</sup>

## Marijuana's Increasing Potency



[www.ac4c.org](http://www.ac4c.org)



[www.odcp.iowa.gov](http://www.odcp.iowa.gov)

<sup>3</sup> Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Investigation, May 2015

Project supported by Grant No.2011-DD-BX-0002, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view represent the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Marijuana

## IN IOWA



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

## MARIJUANA CONCENTRATES

## (THC EXTRACTS)

<sup>1</sup>Kings College, London, 2015

<sup>2</sup>"Adverse Effects of Marijuana," New England Journal of Medicine, June 2014

# Marijuana Concentrates

## Highly Potent THC Products

Highly potent THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) products are obtained by extracting THC out of the marijuana plant. THC is the chemical in marijuana that produces a “high.”

Typical marijuana seized by law enforcement contains an average of about 12% THC. Concentrates contain very high levels of THC, ranging from 40% to 80%. Concentrates often appear similar to honey or butter. Street names for these extracted concentrates include:

**Budder**

**Honey oil**

**Wax**

**Ear wax**

**Shatter**

**Black glass**

**Dabs (dabbing)**

**Butane hash oil**

**Butane honey oil (BHO)**

**Erll**

**710** (the word OIL flipped and spelled backwards)



# BHO Labs

## High Risk of Fire or Explosion

Hash oils and marijuana waxes are often produced in what are called Butane Hash Oil (BHO) labs. Butane gas is a highly flammable component used in the process of making concentrates from the marijuana plant.



An increasing number of BHO labs are being reported in the western U.S., as are BHO lab fires, explosions and injuries. In Iowa, law enforcement is reporting BHO lab activity in some communities.

# Water or Oil Pipes

## A Common Form of Ingestion

The use of e-cigarettes / vaporizers (a.k.a. vape devices) is particularly appealing to marijuana abusers, as they are smokeless, odorless, and easy to conceal. This form of ingestion is commonly referred to as “dabbing” or “vaping.” By taking a small “dab” of the marijuana concentrate and heating it through the e-cigarette or vaporizer, the marijuana abuser is ensured of an almost instant “high.”



# Marijuana Edibles

## Infused in Food and Drinks

The appearance and packaging of marijuana infused candy and other products are marketed to appeal to youth. States with laws making these marijuana “edibles” legal have reported increased emergency room visits among people who ingest items infused with concentrates due to higher doses of THC in the product.

