Marijuana concentrates

Cannabis plants are covered by microscopic, mushroom-shaped, hair-like compounds called trichomes. These outgrowths surround the budding marijuana flower and produce the plant’s cannabinoids. Different varieties of trichomes can be collected. The resulting products—collectively called cannabis concentrates—can contain very high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, commonly referred to as THC, the psychotropic ingredient in marijuana. These THC-rich marijuana products may be vaporized and inhaled using a vape pen or through a process called dabbing.¹

How are concentrates made?
Marijuana concentrates can be made in a commercial environment with modern equipment or prepared in a home setting.² They are produced in various ways, including:

- dry processing (kief, finger hash)
- dry ice processing
- water-based processing (bubble hash)
- combining pressure with heat
- using nonflammable carbon dioxide solvents
- using flammable solvents, including butane (lighter fluid), propane, ether or alcohol

Using flammable solvents is popular because the products have high THC levels,¹ users report longer-lasting effects,¹ and it is a relatively inexpensive and efficient production method.³ Butane is a commonly used solvent, producing the potent marijuana concentrate butane hash oil (BHO), also known as amber, dab, glass, honey, shatter, or wax.²

What does the final product look like?
The products resulting from these methods may be:

- a gooey liquid wax (hash oil or honey oil)
- a soft solid with a texture like lip balm (wax or budder)
- a hard, amber-colored solid (shatter)

Hash oil and waxes can be consumed using vape pens. Solids can also be placed on a heated platform usually made of titanium, quartz, or ceramic, where they are vaporized by high heat and inhaled through a dabbing tool, often called a rig.²

What’s the difference between concentrates, extracts, and dabs?
The terms used to describe these products vary. Concentrates is a broad term referring to all products that have been extracted from the plant. Although extracts and concentrates are often used interchangeably, some people define extracts as products manufactured using solvents, but not those pulled from the plant with non-solvent methods. Dabs refer to products made exclusively from butane hash oil; however, the term is sometimes used colloquially for concentrates extracted in other ways. There are also post-production methods that lead to further variations in products and terms.³

What are the health effects of concentrates?
There are adverse effects associated with marijuana use in any form,² though additional research is needed to understand how the use of concentrate may differ from smoking dried marijuana buds. Marijuana concentrates have very high levels of THC. Solvent-based products tend to be especially potent, with THC levels documented at an average of about 54-69% and reported to exceed 80%. While non-solvent based extraction methods produce average THC levels between 39-60%,⁴ in comparison, the THC content in marijuana plant material, which is often used in marijuana cigarettes, is lower—with samples seized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency averaging just over 15%.⁵ Not only do concentrates have high levels of THC, but dabbers inhale the entire amount all at once—in a single breath.² As a result, concentrates can deliver extremely large amounts of THC to the body quickly. The risks of physical dependence and addiction increase with exposure to high concentrations of THC, and higher doses of THC are more likely to produce anxiety, agitation, paranoia, and psychosis.⁶ Additional research is needed to understand how the use of concentrate affects these risks. In addition, contaminants in concentrate products may be cause for concern. One study noted that 80% of tested concentrate samples were contaminated in some form, not only with pesticides (which is also a concern for dried bud), but also with residual solvents that were not fully purged in the manufacturing process. Users of BHO, for example, likely inhale some butane and other impurities along with the vaporized THC.² It is important to note that direct inhalation of concentrated butane among recreational inhalant users carries multiple risks.

Knowledge is Power—Let us help you learn more

Steuben Council on Addictions is available to provide community presentations on a myriad of topics relating to substance abuse, prevention, parent information, information for schools and their employees, churches, youth groups and more within Steuben County. We are capable of customizing presentations to the area of interest, timeframe requested and makeup of the audience. For further information or to schedule a presentation, please contact Prevention Educator Stacey O’Dell at Stacey.O'Dell@stod.org or (607) 968-4123.

Topics include but are not limited to: Current adolescent drug trends, Societal drug trends, Vaping and eCigs, The Opioid Epidemic, Underage Drinking; Gambling and its effect on families and society, Substance abuse and employment, Impact of substance use on children and education, etc.
Concentrates: Continued from page 1
including reported deaths.(7) However, it is unclear what negative health outcomes result from the inhalation of residual butane, other solvents, or leftover contaminants during the dabbing process.

Is it dangerous to make solvent-based concentrates?
When solvents are used to produce concentrates, the preparation process itself can be dangerous. A number of people using butane to make extracts at home have caused fires and explosions and have been seriously burned.(8) A study conducted in 2015 looking at implications from marijuana legalization in Colorado reported that in a 2-year period the University of Colorado burn center saw a substantial increase in the number of flash burns that occurred during amateur THC extraction using butane, some involving more than 70% of body surface area and most requiring skin grafting.(9) It is against federal law to manufacture BHO,(10) and even in some states where adult use of marijuana is legal, like Colorado and California, it is illegal to make hash oil using flammable liquids. In Colorado, state officials recommend alternate methods using nonflammable dry ice (CO2), ice water, or purchasing the product from a licensed marijuana retail store. (11) Most licensed, commercial production facilities use a safer extraction system that prevents solvents from being wasted or exposed to the open air where they could inadvertently be ignited, similar to decades-old systems used in the production of many commercial products.(2)

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Published June 2020.

References can be found by visiting https://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/df-marijuana-concentrates.pdf.

Resource link

In response to the ever changing world around us, we have compiled links and resources to help families and educators address new and changing needs. We want to be sure that students, parents and teachers have plenty of information to help them out when it comes to social skills, substance abuse, conversation starters, mental health and more. Included here you will find links to age appropriate stories, activities, articles and more that can be helpful tools for you.

There are resources being added, so be sure to bookmark the following link:
https://www.catholiccharitiessteuben.org/services/substance-free-living/prevention-services/steuben-council-on-addictions/student-resources/

We are also available to send information via email or even resource packets on a host of topics. Please reach out to use for more information by emailing Stacey.O'Dell@dor.org or calling (607) 968-4123.

We are here to help!

Steuben County Underage Party & Drug Information Tip Line

Anyone with information relating to underage drinking such as parties, sales, etc. or information relating to illegal drugs, such as sales, dealers, or other suspicious activities are encouraged to use the tip line. The tip line is monitored seven days a week, 24 hours a day, all calls are kept anonymous.

1-844-378-4847

Parents — Who Host Lose The Most

Many teenagers love a good party. Unfortunately, many parents will give alcohol to teens at some of these parties, even though it is unhealthy, unsafe, and unacceptable to give alcohol to anyone under 21.

Giving teens alcohol increases their risk of addiction, injury, and death. It can interact unexpectedly with their medicine, harm their brain’s development, and can lead to drinking and driving or other injuries.

Parents: protect yourselves and your kids—don’t be a party to teenage drinking. Do your part to make our community safe for everyone.

Parents Who Host Lose The Most is a media campaign created by the Prevention Action Alliance.
ALBANY, NY, January 20, 2021- While the New York Council on Problem Gambling is neither for or against gambling and takes a neutral stance on gambling expansion, today the non-profit organization voiced concerns regarding the inevitable legalization of mobile sports betting in New York State. Executive Director, Jim Maney said, “each time we face an increase in gambling opportunities we are concerned that the ease of access, particularly for youth and for those who are struggling to control their gambling, will lead to an increase in associated problems.”

Legalization of mobile sports betting will be particularly risky for young people who are not already gambling, and who will see the legality and ease of access as an invitation to start. With brains that are not fully developed for good judgement and early onset of risky behaviors, including gambling, we know there is a link to increased problems later in life. Once again, we are exposing NYS youth to a potentially dangerous activity with little education, safeguards or prevention in place and we are doing so without proper research on the impacts and without adequate services in place to address those impacts.

Prevention Bureau Director, Jaime Costello shared, “in preparation for the legalization of mobile sports betting we need to ensure that we are protecting and supporting young adults. Education and awareness of problem gambling warning signs are key as we prepare for this expansion. Sports betting is already one of the top forms of gambling for young adults. As it moves to a platform, they are not only comfortable with, but are skilled at, we have serious concerns about the potential impacts.”

The New York Council on Problem Gambling’s Mission is to raise awareness of problem gambling and to advocate for services for those impacted. “We need expanded prevention services statewide and not just focused on education but on developing policies and environmental efforts that minimize youth exposure to advertising and gambling access. We need to expand treatment service funds so that no family who has already been financially devastated by this disorder has to pay for services,” said Council Assistant Executive Director of Program, Michelle Hadden.

According to the Council, dedicating funds now, as the state prepares for mobile sports gambling is essential. There is no doubt that the gaming industry will prepare to launch with a significant investment in the platform itself, advertising and consumer recruitment. New York should want to make an investment in the future of its most at-risk residents by realizing proactive and comprehensive messaging, services, safety and protection.

The Council is the voice of advocacy for the many individuals and families struggling with problem gambling in New York State. Therefore, they must voice their concerns on behalf of those who unfortunately will be casualties of the state’s expansion into mobile sports gambling.

For more information on Problem Gambling please visit NYProblemGambling.org OR to connect with immediate support contact NYProblemGamblingHelp.org.
We Need Your Input!

Please help us measure our impact in Steuben County by participating in our survey! It only takes 4 minutes!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M6DD6WM

Click here to be taken to the survey!

OPIOID COMMITTEE
STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION

We bereaved are not alone. We belong to the largest company in all the world—the company of those who have known suffering.

—Helen Keller

Survivors’ Journey | You Matter Too
An open peer support group for survivors of suicide loss
Held virtually via Zoom
3rd Thursday of the month, 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Contact: Jessica Frawley at 607-324-2483
or JFrawley@SteubenCountyNY.gov
for information and to register

*** Groups are free, registration is required ***

Sponsored by Steuben County Suicide Prevention Coalition
115 Liberty Street, Bath NY 607-664-2255
After Hours Crisis 607-937-7800
National Suicide Hotline 800-273-TALK (8255)