

The New Jersey Poison Control Center — Serving New Jersey Since 1983

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media to contact:

800-222-1222 | 800-962-1253 (outside NJ)

30 Kids in 30 Days

Accidental Ingestions of Marijuana Edibles

(New Jersey) - In July, the New Jersey Poison Control Center assisted in the medical treatment of 30 children ranging from 1 to 12 years old who accidentally ate marijuana edibles.

"It is difficult for anyone, especially children, to tell an edible marijuana product from food when the product is almost identical to common everyday foods and drinks," says Diane Calello, executive and medical director of the [New Jersey Poison Control Center](#) at [Rutgers New Jersey Medical School](#). "For this reason, it's important to store marijuana products, especially edibles, the same way you would store medicines in your home. Don't take the risk. Lock up your edibles."

Kids and adult recreational products don't mix. Unlike adults, children who ingest edibles are at a much higher risk for severe health effects and even fatal outcomes from marijuana. These effects can include trouble breathing, loss of coordination, drowsiness, and seizures. In some cases, children may need to be admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU); but almost all young children need to be evaluated in an emergency room. Since the effects of edibles are delayed, caregivers may not realize a child accidentally ate some.

"Since some edibles may be highly concentrated, beware of what you buy if you live with young and school-aged children," says Lewis Nelson, chair of [Emergency Medicine](#) at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. "Many edible products look and taste like store-bought treats and other food products, making it difficult for children to know the difference. Although edibles like brownies, gummies, and lollipops can be fun and/or therapeutic for adults, high levels of THC (the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana), can lead to dangerous overdose symptoms in children."

Safe use and storage are key when using edibles. These products can affect people differently. Follow these tips to prevent accidental exposure or overdose.

- Store edible products in a secure/locked place, out of sight and reach of children and pets. Pets can also experience severe and potentially fatal health effects.
- Limit the amount/number of edible products you have in the house at one time.
- Know the concentration of THC in the edibles you have.
- Start slow (less than a full serving) if you are a new user.

- Wait until you feel the effects first before deciding to use more.
- Only purchase marijuana products from licensed sources.

If you think someone consumed too much marijuana or a child consumed any, contact the New Jersey Poison Control Center immediately for medical treatment advice. Poison control centers are a medical resource for both the public and healthcare professionals. Get help 24/7. Call 1-800-222-1222 or [Chat Here](#). If someone is not breathing, hard to wake up, or having a seizure, call 9-1-1.

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Available for Media Interviews

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About New Jersey Poison Control Center/NJPIES, 1-800-222-1222

Chartered in 1983, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System (NJPIES), known to the public as the New Jersey Poison Control Center, is the state's primary defense against injury and deaths from intentional and unintentional poisonings. It is designated as the state's regional poison control center by the New Jersey Department of Health and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It is a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located at Rutgers Health in Newark. NJPIES is funded, in part, by the NJ Department of Health, NJ Hospitals and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Hotline staff (physicians, registered nurses, and pharmacists) provide free, telemedicine consultation through hotline services (telephone, text, chat) regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention practices, drug interactions and overdoses, food poisoning, environmental chemical exposures, animal/insect bites and stings, plant and other outdoor exposures, carbon monoxide and lead poisonings, and more. NJPIES' services are free, confidential/private, available 24/7, and help is available in any language. Call 1-800-222-1222 or [Chat Here](#).

About Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Founded in 1954, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is the oldest school of medicine in the state. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and graduates approximately 170 physicians a year. In addition to providing the MD degree, the school offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 20 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, University Hospital. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region's "top doctors." Home to the nation's oldest student-run clinic, New Jersey Medical School hosts more than 50 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. For more information please visit: njms.rutgers.edu.

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