

NJ POISON CONTROL CENTER

We encourage you to share this important information with family, friends, colleagues, local communities, public health partners, and on social media. Visit NJPoisonCenter.org for more information. Health advisories 2023 found [here](#).



“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 edible.

Diane Calello

ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE

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 distinguish 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 [NJ Poison Control Center](#) at [Rutgers New Jersey Medical School](#).



LOCK IT UP

“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.”

HEALTH EFFECTS

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.



If you think someone consumed too much marijuana or a child consumed any, contact the New Jersey Poison Control Center for immediately medical treatment advice.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO PREVENT
ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE OR OVERDOSE.

Safe use and storage are key when using edibles. These products can affect people differently.



Store edible products in a secure/locked place, out of sight and reach of children and pets.

- Limit the amount/number of edible products you have in the house at one time.
- Pets can also experience severe and potentially fatal health effects.

Start slow (less than a full serving) if you are a new user.

- Know the concentration of THC in the edibles you have.
- 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.

1-800-222-1222