

# Parent Alert: THC & Candy



**What is THC:** it is the extracted oil/chemical from cannabis (marijuana). The oil can have a higher concentration of THC, the main psychoactive chemical in marijuana, than regular buds. That's why oil has the reputation for being more potent. The drug can be smoked or vaporized directly or used in edible products.

**What to watch for:** Homemade THC candy is commonly made using butane to extract THC oil from marijuana. NRPD has discouraged stores from selling butane, but it is legal to sell it. The oil is then made mostly into a hard candy or applied to gummy candy or lollipops. In addition, THC candies are purchased online legally, mainly from Colorado. The concentrated oil is similar in appearance to honey or butter. Additional threats include explosions from the butane extraction process.

**Affects:** dilated pupils, slurred speech, diminished motor skills, memory loss, increased heart rate, "drunken" appearance, paranoia and anxiety

**Slang/Street Names:** gummies, wax, dabs (oil on paper, e-cigarettes or vapor), butane honey oil (BHO), hash oil and 710 (oil backwards)

## **What to do if I suspect my child has ingested THC:**

Immediately take your child to a medical facility. Concentrations vary and can affect youth with extreme physical consequences.

Local county officials are concerned with an increase in Emergency Department visits due to ingestible marijuana products infused/laced with marijuana concentrate. Specifically, in the area of North Reading, an increase in the use of soft chews or hard candies, laced with THC is a cause for concern. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, some of these candies are so potent that one item has the effects of 6-7 joints, with THC levels ranging from 40-80%. This threat extends to young children who may be attracted to the candy.

Marijuana concentrates can be used as hard candies (below).



(above) Chewable candies pose highest risk to young children and contain high levels of THC.

## **How to talk to your teen:**

1. Remind them that most teens do not use.
2. Ask them to not take any candy from friends they don't recognize or are not wrapped in factory seals.
3. Encourage them to seek help if a friend is experiencing abnormal symptoms whether they know their friend has taken drugs or not.
4. Review the physical, educational, social, emotional and family consequences of using any drug or illegal substance.