



SB1548 – Fact Sheet

THC products can come from four places: state-licensed adult-use cannabis, home-grown cannabis, illicit cannabis, or hemp-derived THC products sold online.

This briefing respectfully clarifies several statements made during the previous hearing to ensure the record reflects accurate information. It is important to fully understand the scope of the problem before expanding regulatory authority, so that policy decisions are grounded in accurate data rather than possible misperceptions.

1. Washington Comparison

Claims that Washington’s 2017 edible packaging rules reduced child poisonings by 50% are incorrect.

Washington Poison Center data (ages 0–5) shows pediatric exposures rising:

- 2019: 120 calls
- 2020: 162 calls
- 2021: 190 calls

Key Gaps:

- The peer-reviewed paper often cited for this claim actually shows a **~500% increase** in exposures among children under five in the five years following Washington’s packaging changes.
 - Poison center data prior to 2017 did not track edible cannabis exposures separately, making any “decline” claims unreliable.
 - The studies do not identify the source of THC products, so increases cannot be directly attributed to state-licensed edibles.
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Colorado Comparison

- Colorado and Oregon have similar packaging requirements, but CO reports lower pediatric cannabis poisonings than Oregon.
- The difference is not due to packaging rules — it is because Colorado has actively regulated and removed intoxicating hemp-derived products from the market.

This demonstrates that reducing exposures depends on controlling unregulated THC sources, not on packaging.

The Rise of Hemp-Derived Intoxicating Products

- After the 2018 Farm Bill, high-potency hemp derived THC edibles sold online surged, with no regulations, childproofing, or age verification.
- National poison center calls (ages 0–5) for edible exposures:
 - 2017: 207 calls
 - 2021: 3,054 calls
- The national surge shows that unregulated hemp THC products are a major factor in rising pediatric poisonings.

Any policy assumption that SB1548 alone will reduce poisonings ignores this large parallel market.

Summary

- Child cannabis exposures are rising in Washington even with individual wrapped edibles.
- Nationally, unregulated hemp THC products are driving a surge in pediatric poisonings.
- Colorado experience shows that removing unregulated hemp products, not packaging changes, drives lower poisonings.
- SB1548 assumptions that regulated edibles alone are the problem are unsupported by evidence.