Proposition 65 Warnings
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

Updated July 2020

Cannabis (Marijuana) Smoke

Why am I being warned about exposure to cannabis smoke?

- Cannabis (marijuana) smoke is on the Proposition 65 list because it can cause cancer. Exposure to cannabis smoke may increase the risk of cancer.
- Cannabis smoke is also on the Proposition 65 list because if a pregnant woman smokes cannabis, this can affect the development of the child. For example, this may affect the child’s birthweight, memory, and attention.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to listed chemicals.

Cannabis smoke is formed when the dried leaves, flowers, stems, seeds, and resins of cannabis plants are burned.

- Cannabis smoke contains several thousand different chemicals, some of which are on the Proposition 65 list. These include:
  - Chemicals that cause cancer, such as arsenic, benzene, benzo[a]pyrene, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, formaldehyde, lead, and nickel.
  - Chemicals that can affect the baby when the mother is exposed to them during pregnancy, such as 1,3-butadiene, cadmium, carbon monoxide, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), hydrogen cyanide, lead, mercury, methanol, and toluene.
- Many of these chemicals are also in tobacco smoke, which is on the Proposition 65 list as causing cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.

How does exposure to cannabis smoke occur?

- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, and you smoke cannabis, your baby is exposed to many of the harmful chemicals in cannabis smoke.

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How can I reduce my exposure and my family’s exposure to cannabis smoke?

⚠️ If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, do not smoke cannabis.

⚠️ Avoid spending long periods of time in places where cannabis smoke is present, especially if you are pregnant.

⚠️ Avoid smoking cannabis around children, and do not allow children to spend time in places where cannabis smoke is present.

For more information:

**General Fact Sheets and Resources**

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
  - Let’s Talk Cannabis
    [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/LetsTalkCannabis.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/LetsTalkCannabis.aspx)
  - Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women
    [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/pregnantbreastfeedingwomen.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/DO/letstalkcannabis/Pages/pregnantbreastfeedingwomen.aspx)

- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
    - What You Should Know About Using Cannabis, Including CBD, When Pregnant or Breastfeeding
      [https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/what-you-should-know-about-using-cannabis-including-cbd-when-pregnant-or-breastfeeding](https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/what-you-should-know-about-using-cannabis-including-cbd-when-pregnant-or-breastfeeding)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Marijuana and Public Health. What are the Health Effects of Marijuana
    [https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/index.htm)
  - What You Need To Know About Marijuana Use and Pregnancy
    [https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/pregnancy.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/pregnancy.htm)

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
  - Marijuana and Pregnancy
    [https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana/marijuana-pregnancy](https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana/marijuana-pregnancy)

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
    - THC (Δ⁹-Tetrahydrocannabinol or Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol)
      [https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/thc](https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/thc)

**Scientific Information on Cannabis Smoke**

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
    - Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Marijuana Smoke
    - Evidence on the Developmental Toxicity of Cannabis (Marijuana) Smoke and Δ⁹-THC
      [https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/cnr/cannabisdarthid100419.pdf](https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/cnr/cannabisdarthid100419.pdf)
Proposition 65

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - Proposition 65: Background
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq
  - Proposition 65: The List of Chemicals
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals
  - Proposition 65: Fact Sheets
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets