

3

Marijuana Use Prevention

A Changing Landscape: Marijuana Definitions

Background

With legalization of medical cannabis and the decriminalization of recreational use in some states, and the development of new technologies for marijuana consumption, terminology around marijuana use is quickly changing.

Please note: this list is by no means exhaustive. Further, the language is still evolving, and regional variations in terminology may exist, which means the definitions are not static. However, the following lexicon should help you join the conversation.

This document is part of a series designed to support Minnesota's Partnership For Success grantees working on marijuana use prevention on college campuses. More resources from this series can be found in the Toolbox at SUMN.org

Bubble: A type of hash, created using ice-water extraction, that bubbles when smoked.

Budder: A cannabis concentrate, or dab, with a creamy, butter-like consistency.

Butane honey oil, butane hash oil, BHO, or butane: A cannabis concentrate in the form of a sticky liquid or oil, extracted from marijuana using butane as a solvent.

Cannabinoid: A class of compounds derived from marijuana, which includes tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). Phytocannabinoids are extracted from plants, while synthetic cannabinoids are manufactured. Cannabinoids act on receptors on the cells in humans and other animals.

Concentrate (also called variously: budder, butane honey oil (BHO), or butane, dab, earwax, glass, shatter, or wax): Amber or honey-colored concentrates of cannabis oil, often extracted using butane as a solvent, but also through water-extraction methods. Theoretically "purer" than plant material, concentrates can be contaminated with benzene, pesticides, plastics, or other harmful chemicals. Concentrates have become more popular and widely available in the past few years, and are used with vaporizers or other devices for both recreational and medical purposes.

Dab: Concentrated extracts of cannabis in various forms, so called because only a dab, or small amount, is required to produce strong effects. Dabs are often consumed using vaporizers or by dabbing the extract onto a heated surface, sometimes called a nail.

Dispensary: An outlet selling marijuana or marijuana-based products, either for recreational or medical use. Medical dispensaries are separate from recreational outlets, but both are regulated to varying degrees by the states in which they reside.

3

Marijuana Definitions, *continued*

Diversion: The use of medical marijuana for recreational purposes by someone other than the intended recipient. This term also applies to other prescription drugs, which are used recreationally, and thus diverted from their intended uses.

E-Pen, e-cigarette, or vape pen: A portable electronic smoking device, used for smoking or vaping marijuana and its extracts and concentrates. Also used for nicotine concentrates.

Edibles: Food and drink infused with cannabis plant material or resins. While homemade pot brownies have been around for years, the legalization of recreational marijuana use has led to the development of commercially-produced cannabis-infused edibles with standardized and labeled THC content. Edibles are especially concerning because they can be easily consumed by children or unsuspecting adults.

Hash, or hashish: A cannabis concentrate created with compressed resin from the marijuana plant.

Medical cannabis: Marijuana extracts or plant materials that are used for medical purposes, such as to treat chronic pain or nausea, rather than for their psychoactive properties (or to get “high”). (For more information, see the DHS Best Practices Work Group’s *Minnesota’s Medical Cannabis Legal Landscape* sheet.)

Recreational marijuana: Marijuana used solely for recreational purposes, rather than for its medicinal properties.

Shatter, or glass: A concentrated form of marijuana, or dab, that tends to break like glass. Shatter undergoes a process whereby fats and waxes are removed from the substance, lending it a clear, glassy appearance. Shatter is often believed to be the “purest” concentrate. (“Glass” can also be used to refer to methamphetamines, amphetamines, and heroin.)

Synthetic cannabis (also known as herbal incense, legal weed, K2, or spice): Synthetic cannabis consists of an herbal base infused with synthetic chemicals that act as cannabinoid receptor agonists, mimicking the psychoactive components in cannabis. The manufacturers have little to no regulation, and the adverse effects of synthetic cannabis can be severe. Many formulations were banned in the USA in 2012, but some are still sold legally in retail shops.

Vaping, or vaporizing: Vaporizers apply heat to plants, oils, concentrates or liquids, to release vapor that can be inhaled. They are used primarily to consume cannabinoids or nicotine. With a vaporizer, marijuana buds can be heated to a temperature that vaporizes the active ingredients in marijuana (such as THC) but doesn't burn the other plant material, avoiding combustion. This method is theoretically less harmful than smoking.

Wax, or earwax: A cannabis concentrate similar in appearance to earwax.