



Public Health Division

Report on Prevention of Underage Cannabis Use

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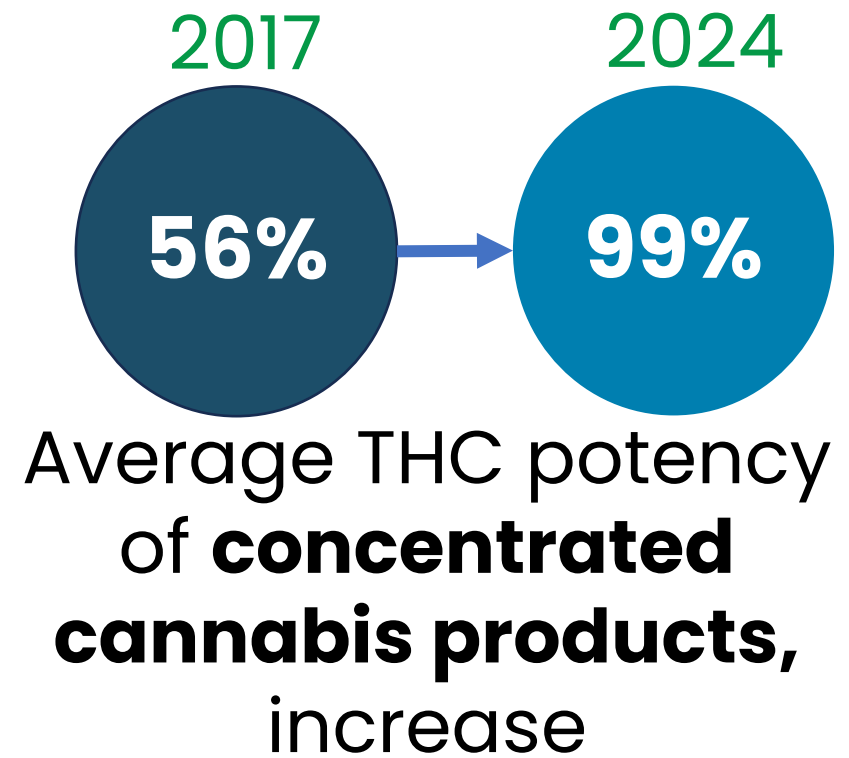
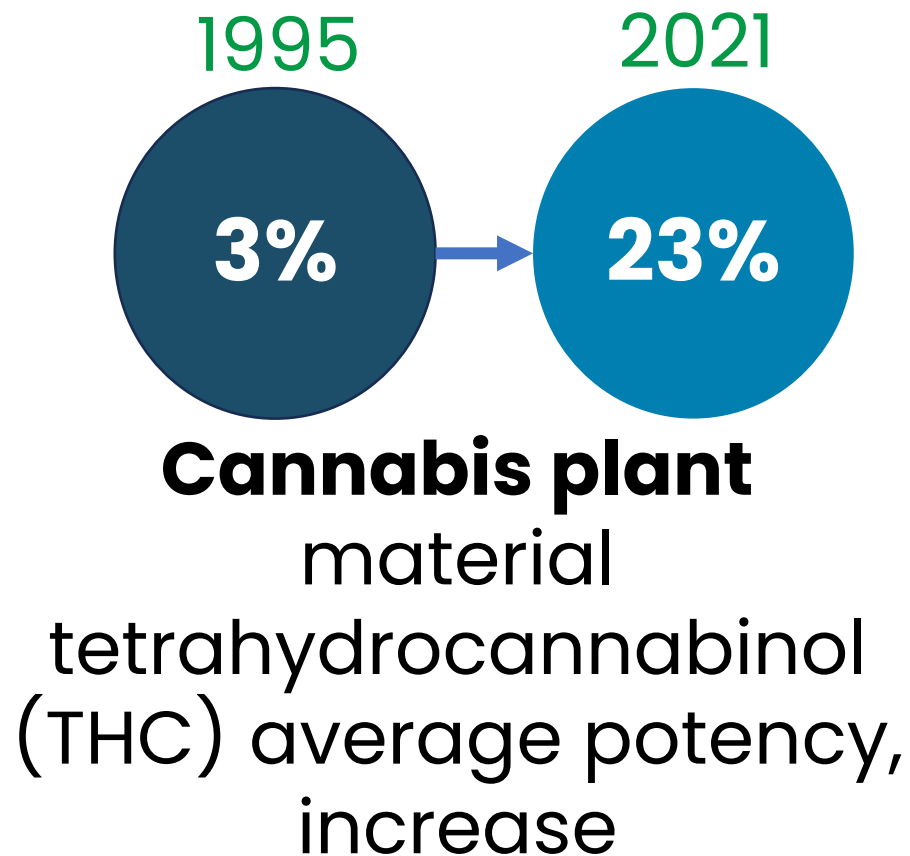
March 11, 2025

Health Impacts of Youth Cannabis Use

Youth under 25 years of age experience more harm from heavy and chronic use of cannabis

- Altered **Brain** development and cognitive impairment
- ↑ incidence and ↓ outcomes for **psychotic disorders**
- Chronic cannabis use linked to **lung and breathing problems**
- Frequent and/or high potency use associated with frequent, severe nausea and vomiting
- **Social harms:** ↓ high school completion rates & ↓ income at 25 years of age
- ↑ likely to develop **cannabis use disorder**

Concerning National Trends of THC Potency found in Cannabis Products



Local Underage Cannabis Use Disparities

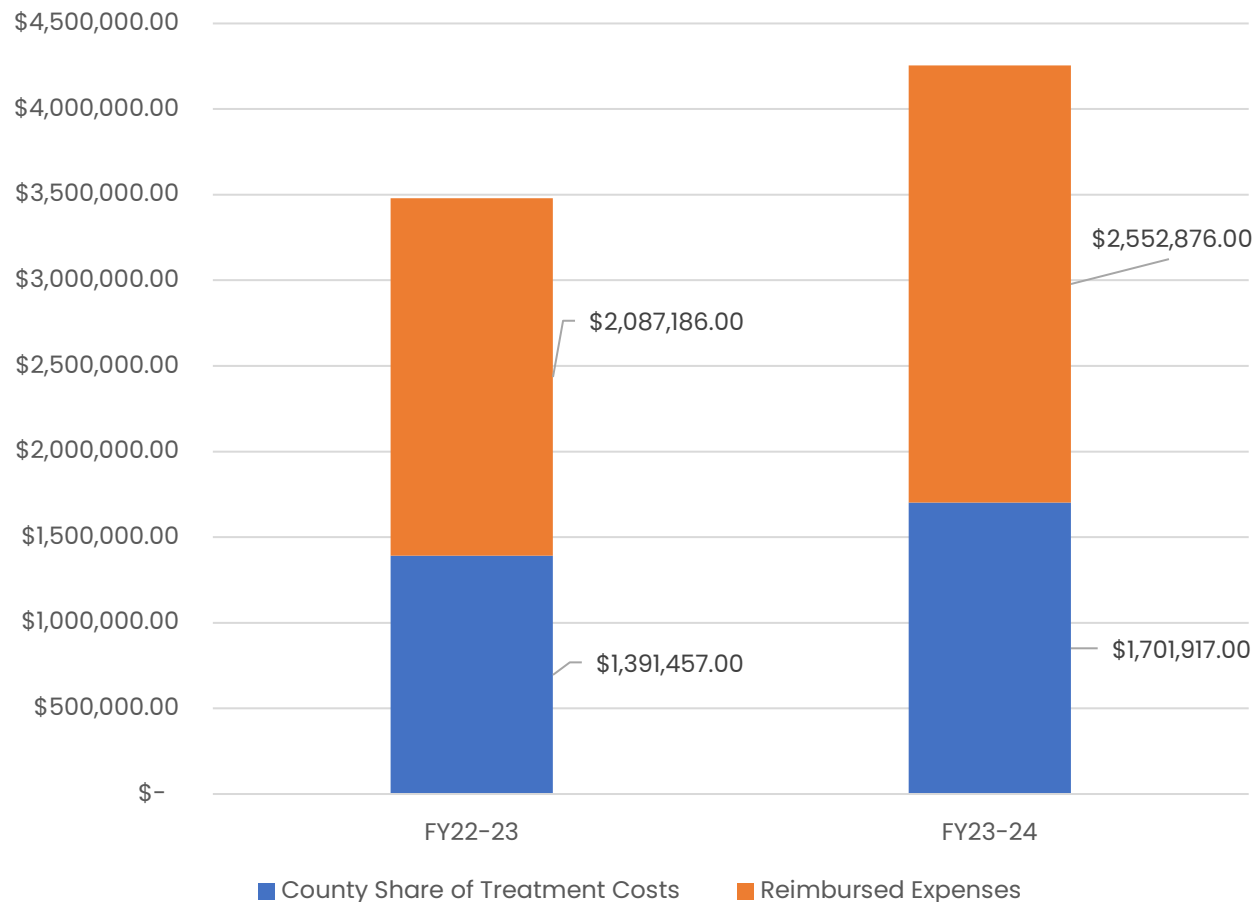
(2021–2023 California Healthy Kids Survey data)

- **25%** of students who experience **chronic sadness** also report past 30-day use
- **21%** of youth targeted by **systemic homophobia and transphobia** report past 30-day cannabis use compared with 11% of non-targeted peers
- **24%** of **non-traditional/alternative education** 11th grade students currently use cannabis, double that of students in traditional schools

Local Costs of Cannabis Use Disorder Treatment

(FY22-24 Behavioral Health Division Avatar Data)

FY22-23 and FY23-24 Cannabis Use Disorder Treatment Costs – All Ages



- Of those treated who were Youth under the age of 25:
 - FY22-23 **30%** (n = 162)
 - FY23-24 **34%** (n = 193)
- Youth under the age of 25 County Share of Treatment Costs:
 - FY22-23 **\$349,361**
 - FY23-24 **\$425,944**

Recommendations for Enhanced Prevention Programming

- Launch **targeted campaigns** with schools, parents, social media to increase awareness
- Support **evidence informed policies** that reduce risk to youth and increase protective factors
 - Reduce or lower potency levels of cannabis products
 - Reduce secondary market of cannabis products to youth
- **Engage youth** in decision-making processes
- Reduce youth need to self-medicate and increase access to screening and early intervention services
- **Improve collaboration and training on data collection** with law enforcement and retailers on the health impacts of underage cannabis use and cannabis impaired driving

Questions?

Thank You

