

Hemp-Derived THC

Cities and counties are stepping forward to address safety and youth access to Delta-8 THC and other intoxicating hemp derivatives, as WI lawmakers have yet to pass a uniform statewide standard.

In Dane County, EMS has reported...

167

THC-RELATED EMS CALLS

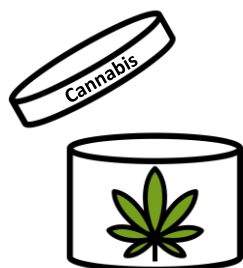
For people under the age of 21
between January 2023-August 2025.

4

THC-RELATED EMS CALLS

For children under the age
of 10 in recent months.

THC is THC, no matter where it comes from. Hemp-derived THC is widely available in Wisconsin.



THC from Cannabis

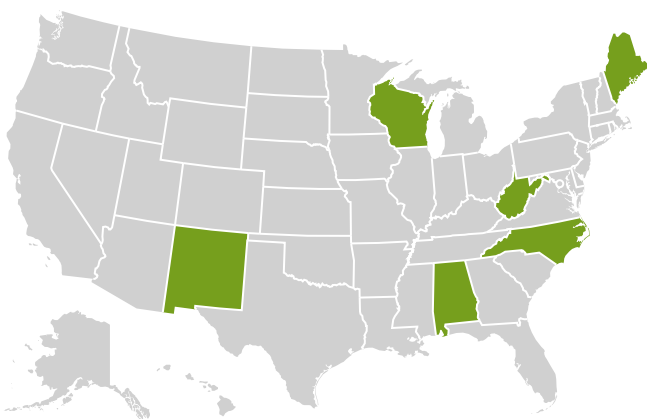
- A cannabis plant containing more than **0.3% delta-9 THC**
- Illegal in Wisconsin
- Schedule I controlled substance under federal law



THC from Hemp

- A cannabis plant containing no more than **0.3% delta-9 THC** on a dry-weight basis (according to the 2018 federal Farm Bill)
- Legal to cultivate, possess, and sell under federal law
- Can be processed or altered to change the amount of THC - so can feel similar or stronger than cannabis but is regulated differently.

Only six states (including Wisconsin) have not enacted or called for stricter regulations.



Public Health recommends a 21+ minimum sales age for hemp derivatives.

- There are currently no age restrictions in Wisconsin to buy these products.
- Recreational cannabis use is legal in some surrounding states. The age of 21 is the general standard for adult use where it is permitted.
- We know from nicotine and tobacco prevention that implementing age restrictions helps reduce access and use.
- Without age limits, these products are more accessible to teens. Clear age restrictions make it easier to regulate sales and prevent accidental youth access.

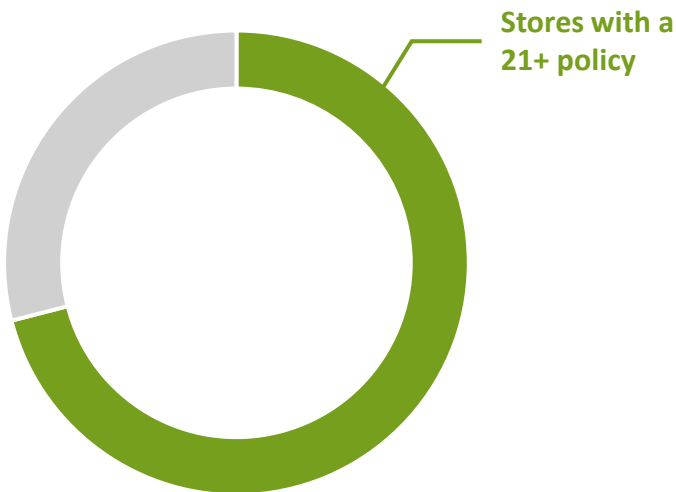
THC use can have lasting, negative effects on the developing brains of children and adolescents.



THC affects areas of the brain responsible for memory, learning, and decision-making. THC use has also been linked to an increased risk of anxiety and depression.

Not all retailers are self-regulating. Public Health conducted an environmental scan of 68 Dane County retailers that sell hemp-derived products in 2024.

71% of stores currently have a 21+ sales policy, with variation depending on store type.



However, out of 13 stores in which a free sample was received or a purchase was made, **ID verification was only required 4 times (31%)**.

