

Priority: Public Health and Safety in Cannabis

The Role of Regulation for a Safe Marketplace

- Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) supports a safe, fully regulated and quality control market for cannabis that works to keep marijuana away from kids
- WACA is a democratically-run organization
 - Members of varying sizes and interests guide the WACA policy agenda
 - Differences of opinion – *except when it comes to public safety*
- Introductions
 - Max Goldman, Lead Scientist, Fairwinds Manufacturing
 - Brad Douglass Ph.D., Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, The Werc Shop.



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Yale
SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

“In February 2020, the CDC concluded its national updates, and officially classified **vitamin E acetate**, an additive long linked to EVALI and **most common in THC e-liquids that are informally-sourced—i.e., purchased off the street or home-mixed—as ‘a primary cause of EVALI’** ...A negative relationship between EVALI prevalence and rates of pre-outbreak vaping and marijuana use suggests that **well-established markets may have crowded-out use of riskier, informally sourced e-liquids**...Indeed, the five earliest states to legalize recreational marijuana—Alaska, California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington—all had less than one EVALI case per 100,000 residents aged 12 to 64. **None of the highest EVALI-prevalence states—Utah, North Dakota, Minnesota, Delaware and Indiana—allowed recreational marijuana use.**”

– [Yale School of Public Health, August 25, 2020](#)



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The Science: what
we know about
potency in
cannabis

What we know today: research findings on potency

- A [2019 study](#) found that the use of marijuana with THC potency above 10% “modestly increased the odds of a psychotic disorder” compared to a group that never used cannabis.
- [2018 Harvard study](#) “The results of the current study suggest that having an increased familial morbid risk for schizophrenia may be the underlying basis for schizophrenia in cannabis users and not cannabis use by itself,”
- A recent study from [Yale School of Public Health](#) found that higher rates of e-cigarette and marijuana use in U.S. states did not result in more e-cigarette or vaping-related lung injuries
- A 2019 study published in [Scientific Reports](#) found that smoking flower with high-potency THC resulted in greater relief of symptoms such as anxiety, back pain and depression.

Other relevant articles on the topic:

<https://qz.com/1577750/the-study-connecting-cannabis-to-psychosis-is-more-complicated-than-it-seems/>

<https://mjbizdaily.com/marijuana-firms-fight-efforts-to-limit-thc-levels-in-flower/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/02/07/why-states-should-limit-the-potency-of-marijuana/>



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Policy and Potency

Potency in cannabis: understanding and calibrating potency of regulated cannabis products

- Potency vs. Proof
- Diluting product to achieve lower potency
- Proposed legislation in Washington
 - Last year HB 2546 would have imposed a 10% THC potency cap on all cannabis concentrates
 - **Potency caps on legal adult-use cannabis products could have unintended consequences:**
 - Driving consumers to unregulated markets
 - Increased consumption
 - Increase in additives and fillers
- Consumer safety is very important to the regulated cannabis market. Prematurely imposing a THC potency cap could have unintended consequences. This is why we need more research on this topic.

