

# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING:

## Medical Societies Warn Patients and Families About the Risks of Using Unapproved Cannabis Products

Misleading Marketing Efforts Should Not Override Science



Cannabis and cannabis-derived products are often marketed as potential treatments to mitigate a host of medical conditions, despite a lack of scientific data, nor FDA approval for such use. As state and federal lawmakers across the country debate policies to legalize marijuana for recreational or medical use, it is increasingly important to sound the alarm that cannabis is not an approved treatment for nearly all of the conditions these products are being marketed for. Medical experts and societies continue to raise concerns and highlight the need for more research and oversight of these products:

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**American Psychiatric Association:** “[T]here is *no current scientific evidence* that cannabis is in any way beneficial for the treatment of any psychiatric disorder. Current evidence supports, at minimum, a strong association of cannabis use with the onset of psychiatric disorders.”

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**American Society of Addiction Medicine:** “Studies of individuals show an association between cannabis use and *increased* rates of non-medical opioid use and OUD. There is no current evidence that cannabis is effective for the treatment of OUD.”

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**National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine:** “Maintains that the medicinal benefits of cannabis are largely unknown, and that its use is associated with lower birth weight, an increased number of car accidents and other risks.”

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**Alzheimer's Association:** "Although cannabis and cannabis-derived products are becoming increasingly available in the United States, there is very little scientific evidence regarding their safety and effectiveness in people living with Alzheimer's or other dementia for either the cognitive or behavioral symptoms of the disease."



**American Medical Association:** "AMA believes that cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a serious public health concern."



**American Academy of Pediatrics:** "Given the data supporting the negative health and brain development effects of marijuana in children and adolescents, ages 0 through 21 years, the AAP is opposed to marijuana use in this population. The AAP strongly supports research and development of pharmaceutical cannabinoids and supports a review of policies promoting research on the medical use of these compounds."



**American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology:** "Pregnant women or women contemplating pregnancy should be encouraged to discontinue use of marijuana for medicinal purposes in favor of an alternative therapy for which there are better pregnancy-specific safety data."



**American Cancer Society:** "Smoked marijuana delivers THC and other cannabinoids to the body, but it also delivers harmful substances to users and those close by, including many of the same substances found in tobacco smoke."



**American Heart Association:** "Cannabis may have therapeutic benefits, but few are cardiovascular in nature. Conversely, many of the concerning health implications of cannabis include cardiovascular diseases, although they may be mediated by mechanisms of delivery."



**American Lung Association:** "While there is no data on the health consequences of breathing secondhand marijuana smoke, there is concern that it could cause harmful health effects, especially among vulnerable children in the home. Additional research on the health effects of secondhand marijuana smoke is needed."



**American Thoracic Society:** "Smoking marijuana is not recommended for anyone with an existing lung disease. Furthermore, if you have a serious lung condition and need a lung transplant, marijuana use can make you ineligible to receive a transplant."



**American Academy of Neurology:** "Existing limited medical research does not support the present and proposed legislative policies across the country that promote cannabis-based products as treatment options for the majority of neurologic disorders. The AAN recommends that each product and formulation of cannabis used in treating medical conditions demonstrate safety and efficacy via scientific study similar to the process required by the FDA for the approval of any drug. Additionally, most currently available medical cannabis products are not regulated by any agency and may not contain the ingredients identified by labeling, making quality control impossible and raising further safety questions."



**American Academy of Family Physicians:** "The AAFP recognizes there is support for the medical use of marijuana and cannabinoids, but advocates that usage be based on high-quality, evidence-based public health, policy, and patient-centered research, including the impact on vulnerable populations. Utilizing an interdisciplinary, evidence-based approach to addressing both medical and recreational marijuana and cannabis use is essential to promote public health, inform policy, and provide patient-centered care."