UCSF School of Medicine

Cannabis Control Policy in California

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No conflicts of interest

CANNABIS POLICY IN CALIFORNIA

- Cannabis is not benign:
  - The drug of choice for people in rehab
  - Triggers first episodes of psychosis at high potencies
  - Adverse effects on the developing brain (e.g., learning deficits)
- Cannabis is undergoing drug hardening
- California is the largest recreational cannabis market in the world
- The cannabis market is dominated by large firms from outside our state

The Top 8 Multinational Cannabis Companies

$2.24 B*
Wakefield, MA
Founded 2010

$2.23 B*
San Diego, CA
Founded 2016

$1.98 B*
New York, NY
Founded 2013 (Canada)

$1.57 B
Chicago, IL
Founded 2014

$1.43 B
Smiths Falls, Canada
Founded 2013

$1.21 B*
Quincy, FL
Founded 2016

$0.94 B*
Toronto, Canada
Founded 2012

$0.49 B*
Chicago, IL
Founded 2013

*Market Capitalization as of January 27, 2023, $ Billion (USD)
Source: Google Finance and https://companiesmarketcap.com/cannabis/largest-cannabis-companies-by-market-cap/

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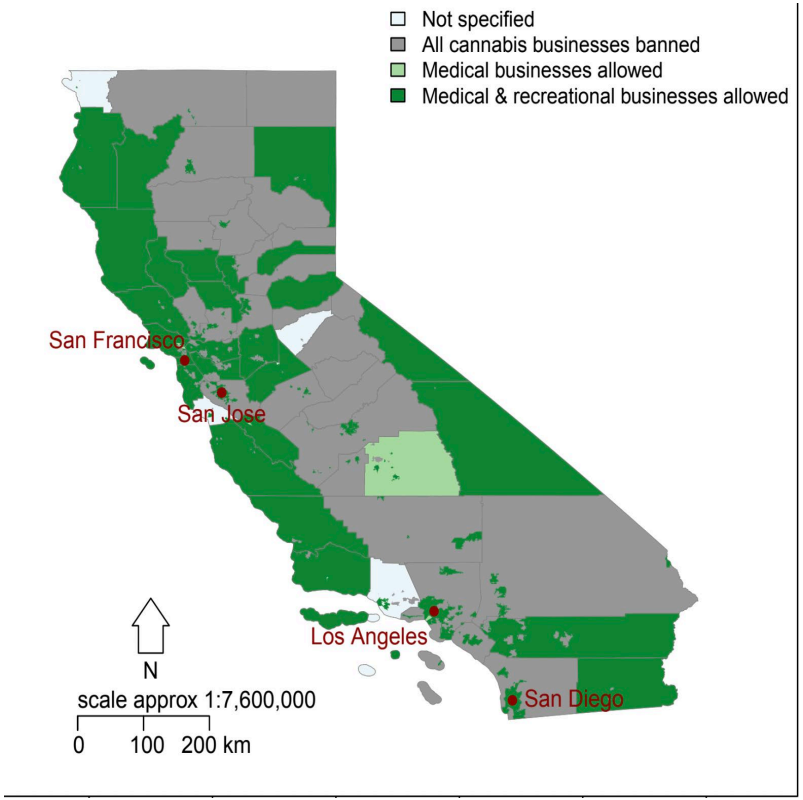
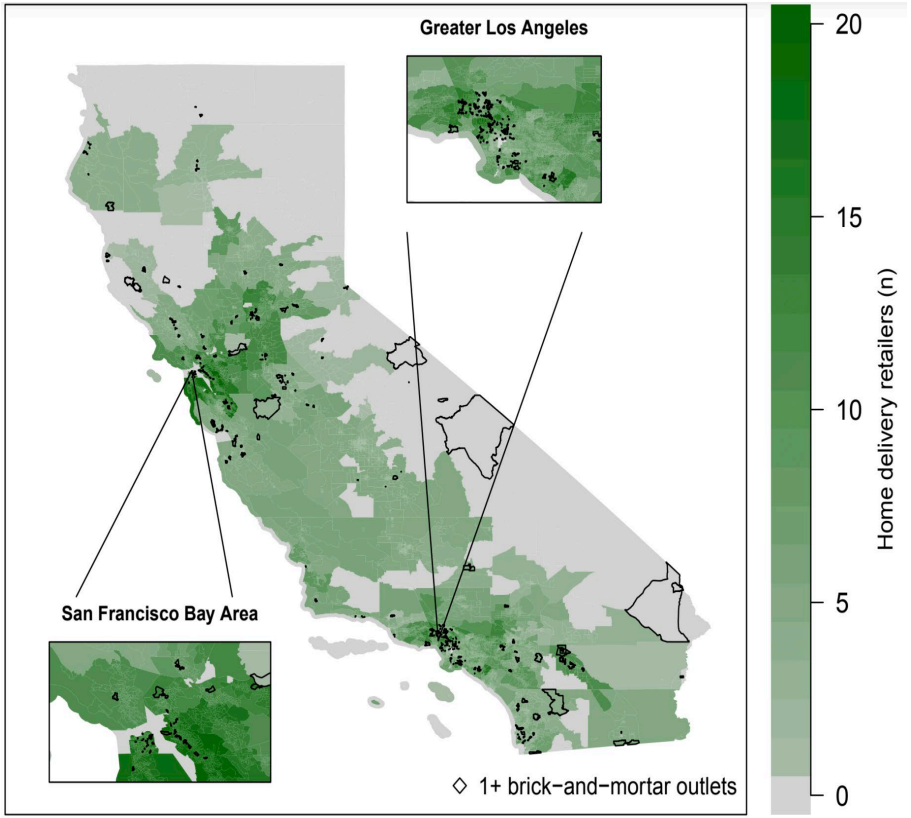
LOCAL BANS ON CANNABIS BUSINESSES (2020-21)



CANNABIS ACCESS THROUGH HOME DELIVERY (2020-21)



SOURCE: Unpublished data, Cannabis Policy Research Group, UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies

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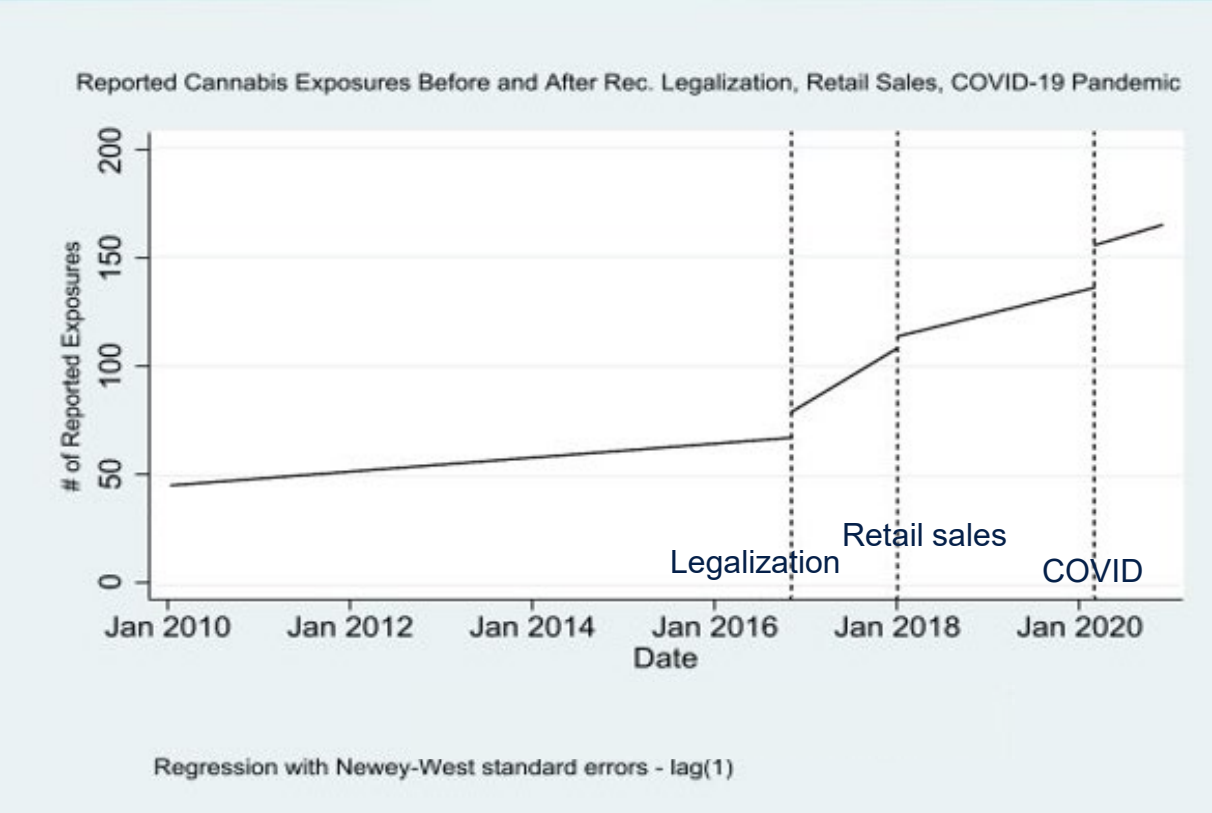
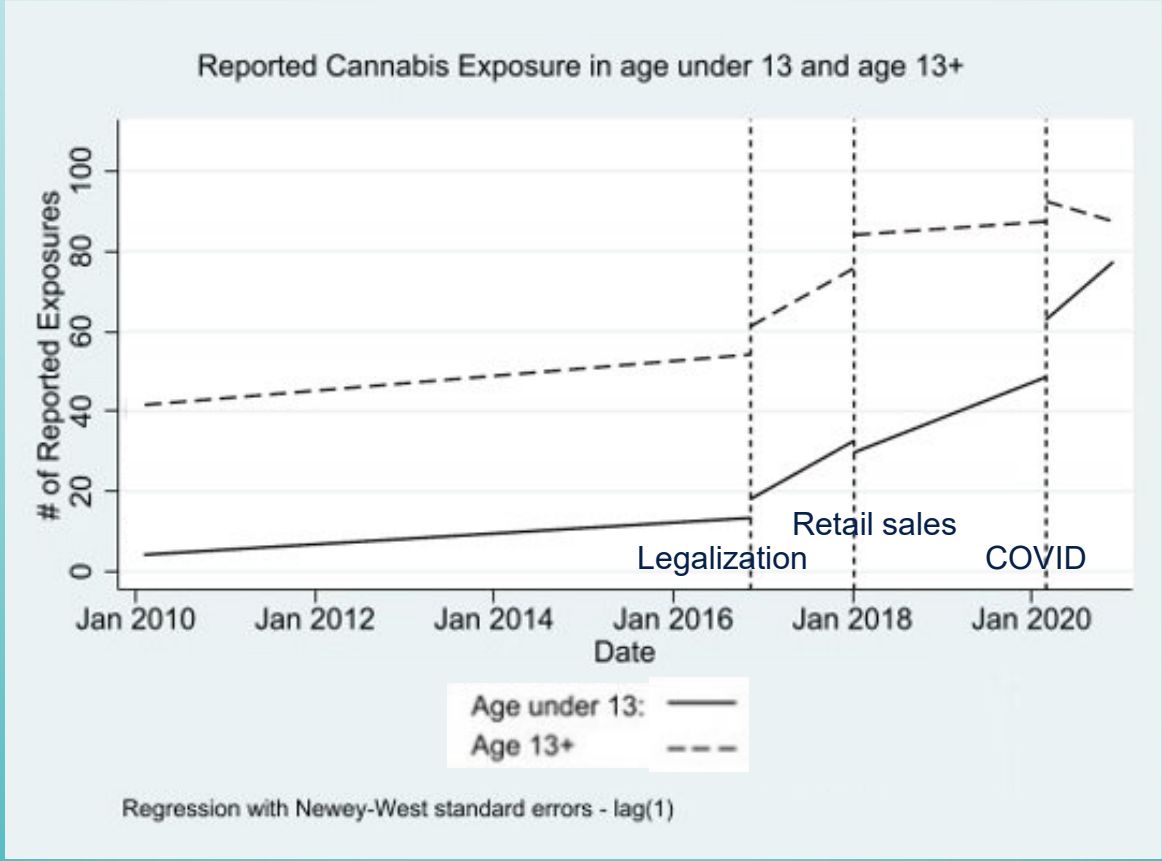
Cannabis poisonings in California increased significantly after launch of legalization and retail market



Source: Winter Roth, Mitchell Tam, Carrie Bi, June Kim, Justin Lewis, Raymond Ho & Dorie E. Apollonio (2022) Changes in California cannabis exposures following recreational legalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, Clinical Toxicology, 60:5, 632-638, DOI: 10.1080/15563650.2021.2006212

Increases were driven by poisonings in children



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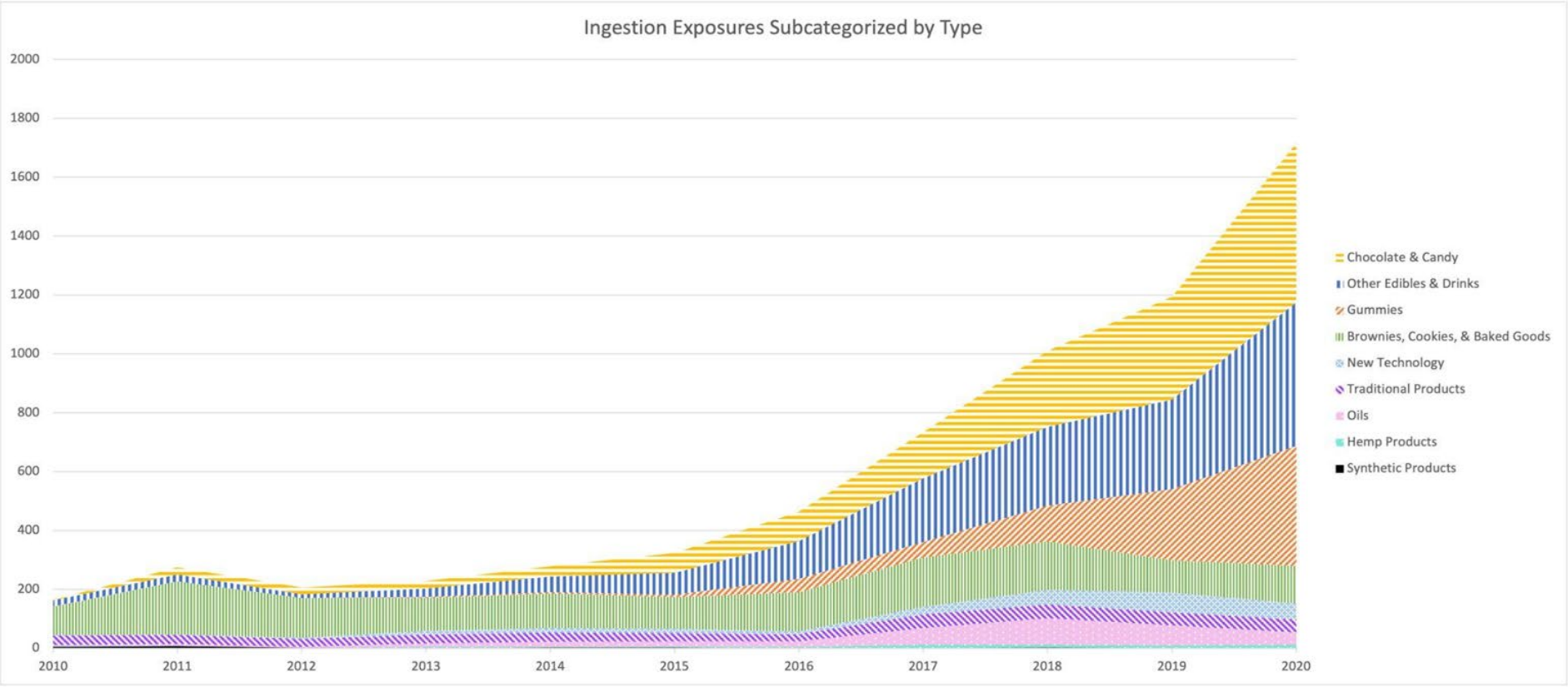
Poisonings from cannabis ingestion: Mostly chocolates, candy, and gummies



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Cannabis or Candy?

Source: https://pillsvscandy.com/cannabis/

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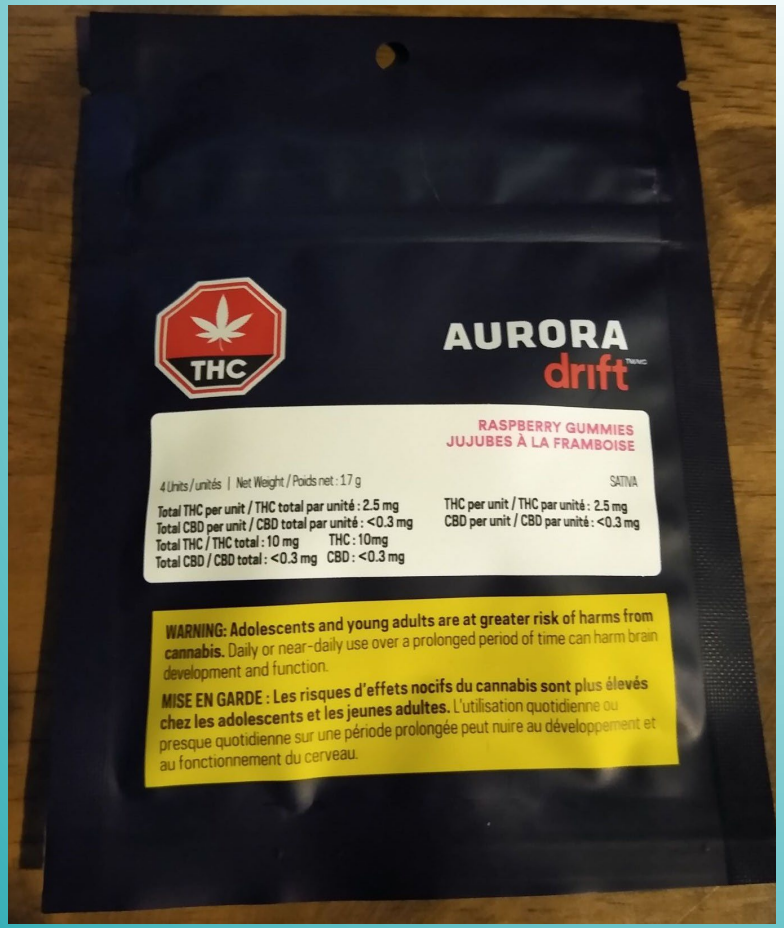
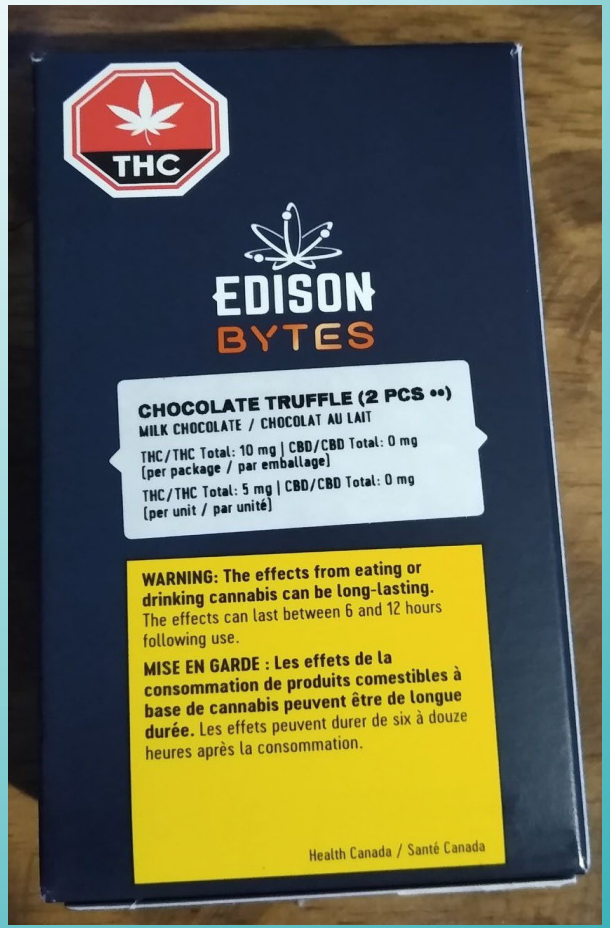
A safer alternative: Plain packaging (Canada)





High Priority Evidence-Based Policies

- Packaging regulations: plain packaging, a larger warning label, regulation on brand look-alikes
- Potency standards and caps on potency
- Relax state preemption of local bans on home delivery

CANNABIS POLICY RESEARCH TEAM

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