**Marijuana Edibles**

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OKLAHOMA CITY – More children are getting their hands on marijuana edibles, and for toddlers the effects can be life threating. Marijuana-related calls to the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information regarding children have increased significantly. Reasons for the increase a may be related to increased use of marijuana in the state, people feeling more comfortable reporting adverse effects related to marijuana use, and parents are not storing marijuana products up and away from children.

 In 2020, calls regarding children jumped to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Scott Schaeffer, managing director of the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information reports, "Children may become unresponsive; many don't breathe, and ………… Children may mistake "edible" marijuana products (like candy or cookies) for regular food. Small children are at higher risk for overdose based on their weight. Many children who consume marijuana edibles require hospital admission due to the severity of their symptoms. In order to reduce the risk of injury or illness, store all marijuana products up and away from children just like medication or chemicals.”

People sometimes call the poison helpline (1-800-222-1222) because they are inexperienced with marijuana, consume more marijuana edibles than required, or they mistake a marijuana product for regular food. The effects from edibles may take one or two hours to reach peak effect after ingesting.

Symptoms of using too much marijuana may include:

• Severe nausea or vomiting

• Fast heart rate

• Extreme confusion or anxiety

• Panic and paranoia

• Hallucinations and delusions

Pharmacists and registered nurses at the poison center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (800) 222-1222. Please do not email the poison center or a member of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information is a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy at the OU Health Sciences Center. For more information, visit OklahomaPoison.org.

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