

Upcoming Trainings in McLeod County and Surrounding Areas

Coming Soon!

**Watch for information about MEADA's
2025 FREE Professional Training**

[2B Continued Events found here](#)

[Check out the calendar for National Alliance on
Mental Illness \(NAMI\) Minnesota](#)

One Pill Can Kill

Last Updated: Thursday March 28, 2024



**Pills Purchased Outside of a Licensed Pharmacy
are Illegal, Dangerous, and Potentially Deadly**

The Drug Enforcement Administration warns the American public of the alarming increase in the lethality and availability of fake prescription pills containing [fentanyl](#) and [methamphetamine](#).

Here are a few quick facts:

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are widely available, and DEA and its law enforcement partners are seizing deadly fake pills at record rates.
- Counterfeit pills are more lethal than ever before. The number of DEA-seized counterfeit pills with fentanyl has soared since 2019. DEA lab testing reveals that 3 out of every 5 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.
- The only safe medications are ones prescribed by a trusted medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist.

[▶ DEA One Pill Can Kill Public Safety Alert ...](#)



[Source](#)

Drug & Alcohol Education Newsletter

The Rise of Cannabis Products in Liquor Stores: A New Retail Trend

Written by: Officer Jermaine Galloway
September 2024



We are currently witnessing a growing trend of cannabis normalization in alcohol-specific outlets and retailers, as well as its infusion into various products. While the association between cannabis and alcohol is not new, what is changing is how and where these products are being sold, along with their labeling and marketing.

Years ago, I noticed alcohol products infused with "hemp seed oil," some of which had subtle cannabis references on the label or in the

product description. Those days seem to be over. Now, I'm seeing seltzers, sodas, and other non-alcoholic beverages sold in liquor stores—places you'd typically expect alcohol products, not cannabis. Many of my current and former class attendees have also shared similar observations. One mentioned, "Not sure if you've seen these, but they were found at our local Texas chain liquor store in Houston."

Recently, I visited a large chain liquor store in Florida and noticed an entire end cap dedicated to cannabis products. This shift in branding, quantity, and the location of these products in liquor stores is significant. Traditionally, liquor stores have focused on alcohol, but it seems clear that cannabis products are making their way into these spaces. Most people on this newsletter likely don't visit cannabis dispensaries but do frequent liquor stores. Now, these cannabis-infused products are becoming more accessible in places where your average consumer might shop for alcohol.

The products on offer today are far beyond the old "hemp seed oil" options. We're now seeing items like Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC. Can we

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expect more? Absolutely! More products, more brands, and eventually lower prices as these items flood the market. It raises the question: at what point will 10-20% or more of liquor store offerings be cannabis-based?

One of my key observations during community scans is that these products are more common in private liquor states versus controlled states. For those unfamiliar, controlled liquor states are jurisdictions where the government directly regulates liquor sales. If you're curious about your state's liquor rules and policies, this link from the NABCA provides a list of controlled states: [NABCA Control State Directory](#).

As always, drug trends and regulations vary by state, and I am sharing what I observe firsthand in retail establishments.

Lastly, we can't ignore the role of gas stations and convenience stores in this evolving landscape. Depending on the state, you might find cannabis products being sold here as well, though they're often available individually rather than by the pack or case. This trend is rapidly evolving, and I'll be sharing more updates as things progress. Stay tuned!

January/February/March 2025

[Source](#)

TikTok: Ground Zero for Vaping Sales to Kids

By HealthDay

May 23, 2024, at 5:23 a.m.



THURSDAY, May 23, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- TikTok is full of fun memes, pranks, dances and challenges -- and illicit [vaping](#) product sales targeting teenagers, a new study reports.

Advertising and sales of vaping products is common on the video-sharing platform, according to findings published May 23 in the journal [Nicotine and Tobacco Research](#).

What's more, the users offering these items often use hashtags like #puffbundles to hide vaping products within packages also

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containing lip gloss and candy, the researchers added.

“Parents should be aware that children may be receiving e-cigarette products through the mail. These self-proclaimed small businesses are targeting youth by advertising that they don’t check for identification,” said lead researcher [Page Dobbs](#), an associate professor of public health with the University of Arkansas.

Even though vaping is prohibited among minors, an estimated 4.7 middle school and high school students reported using e-cigarettes in 2023. That’s more than 1 in 6 middle- and high-schoolers.

This relatively high rate of vaping among teens led researchers to suspect that social media might be a means by which kids are obtaining e-cigarettes.

Nearly two-thirds of teenagers (63%) used TikTok in 2023, making it a natural place to look for illicit sales and advertising of vaping products, researchers said.

For the study, the team identified 475 English language TikTok Videos posted between July

2022 and August 2023 containing popular hashtags related to e-cigarettes like #puffbars, #geekbar and #elfbar.

The team then narrowed the hashtags to those specific to online sales of e-cigarettes, such as #discreetshipping, #puffbundle, and #hiddennic.

About 50% of the videos advertised popular vaping brands, and 45% included cannabis products, researchers found.

The videos directed customers to other social media platforms – most often Instagram (58%) – to use services like Telegram to purchase vaping products.

Vendors often evade restrictions on sales and advertising of vaping products to minors by creating what TikTok users tag as #puffbundles or #vapebundles, researchers found. These bundles include other products like candy, fake eyelashes and lip gloss, so the packages don’t appear to contain vaping products at all

Nearly 29% of the products were described as “bundled,” about 9% indicated the products

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were “hidden,” and 6% touted international shipping as an option.

“If your child receives a bundle of candy or beauty products in the mail, check inside the packaging or inside the scrunchie with a zipper,” Dobbs said in a journal news release.

Nearly half (45%) of the videos posted about selling vaping products specifically advertised that they did not require age verification of the buyer, results show. None of the videos indicated customers needed to provide ID to purchase vaping products or accept a mailed package.

“Policymakers and enforcement agencies should be aware that these products are being shipped internationally, meaning people are circumventing tobacco laws in multiple countries,” Dobbs said.

[Source](#)

McLeod County Medication Disposal Program

FREE!

**Take It To
THE BOX** 

Safe Use • Safe Storage • Safe Disposal

- Over-the-counter and prescribed medications accepted
- Leave the medicine in its original container, with the name of the medication visible. Cross off personal information.



DROP BOX LOCATIONS:

McLeod County Sheriff's Office
801 East 10th St., Glencoe
Available 24/7

Hutchinson Police Dept.
10 Franklin St. South, Hutchinson
Available 7 a.m - 11 p.m.

Winsted Police Dept.
201 1st St. North, Winsted
Available 24/7

MEADA has disposed of 19,965 pounds of prescription medications since the beginning of this program in 2011.