

UPDATES OF ACTIVITIES UNDER HB 21-1317

KEY RESOURCES

- [Scoping Review Report](#)
- [Interactive Evidence Map](#)
- [Health Effects of High-Concentration Cannabis Products: Scoping Review & Evidence Map](#)
- [Policy Approaches to High-Concentration Cannabis and THC Concentrates](#)
- [Enhancing Methodological Approaches for Studying Health Effects of High-Concentration THC Products](#)
- [Methodological Challenges & Actionable Recommendations in Studying the Health Effects of High-Concentration THC Products](#)

NEXT SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING:

TBD

REMINDER:

Note: We offer the reminder that our activities under HB 1317 are directed at high-concentration marijuana and THC concentrates and not at cannabis and THC generally. The scoping review available on our [project website](#) is subject to this specific focus. For those seeking information on marijuana and concentrates generally, there are general resources available, such as the CDC's [Marijuana and Public Health](#) page and NIDA's [Cannabis \(Marijuana\) DrugFacts](#) page. This report and the scope of our work under the charge of HB 1317 do not address cannabinoids other than THC.

Updates from the Administrative and Research Cores of the Cannabis Research and Policy Project

Welcome to the eighth newsletter from the Cannabis Research and Policy Project. With ongoing state funding, the team updated the scoping review through November 2023, screening more than 6000 new studies and adding 100 to the [interactive evidence map](#). The team continues to update the scoping review covering research studies published in the last year. The most recent literature search found over 5500 studies, 70 of which met our inclusion criteria and are being added to the evidence map. The goal is to update the evidence map by early 2025 and to continue to do so on an annual basis, recognizing that the literature continues to grow.

Using findings from the scoping review, we have completed a systematic review of the scientific evidence on the studies in the evidence map addressing high-concentration cannabis and mental health. The report is under development for submission to a peer-review journal.

In June, we held a workshop with multidisciplinary researchers to address the challenges of surveillance and research in the face of a rapidly changing marketplace. Emphasis was placed on research methods for assessing use of cannabis products. A report on the workshop's recommendations was submitted for publication.

We are pleased to announce the publication of our paper, "Enhancing Methodological Approaches for Studying Health Effects of High-Concentration THC Products". The paper addresses the current state of research concerning high-concentration delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol products and the necessity of having more informative research at this moment of expanded legalization and marketplace diversification. This paper is [available in the November 2024 issue of the American Journal of Public Health](#). In a companion [paper just published in the American Journal of Epidemiology](#), we offer a detailed review of the methodological problems that affect the body of literature captured in the evidence map.

Our team is also working on developing a series of continuing medical education events that will focus on high-concentration cannabis and the marketplace, driving, toxicology, and other topics. More information will be posted on our website.

We had a Scientific Review Council (SRC) meeting on November 6, 2024, to provide an update on the ongoing reviews and activities of the educational campaign team. Prior meeting minutes are available on our [website](#).

SPECIFIC UPDATES RELATING TO THE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES UNDER HB 21-1317

Educational Campaign Updates:

The Educational Campaign's focus for the new fiscal year is to complete and further the work begun during year one, to evaluate what's working and what's not, and iterate accordingly. The goal for this year and going forward is to build an evidence-based, nationally recognized resource to educate the public about the human health effects of high-concentration cannabis. To that end, our work for this year seeks to strengthen and unify the various workstreams including our media content, webinars, toolkits, partner projects, and evaluations. Also, in our continued effort to be guided by the evidence, the campaign is considering other priority populations including people who identify as LGBTQ+.

1. Partnerships: New and Continuing:

Building on their mindfulness work from last year, the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) team, led by Dannon Cox, PhD with Jenn Leiferman, PhD, hosted approximately 300 high school students, superintendents, and other school district officials for an all-day "Fight the Funk" Leadership Summit to educate students and staff about the health effects of high-concentration cannabis (HCC) and to create action plans to support coping and resilience.

The Motivational Interviewing (MI) project, led by Annie Collier, PhD, James Corbett from Initium Health, and Sheana Bull from Clinic Chat, is developing a webinar and chatbot to teach adults how to engage youth in difficult conversations about HCC. The MI chatbot will sync with the chatbot on the Tea on THC website, where the other deliverables will also be available.

Building on the success of last year's project, the Science-informed art team, led by Annie Collier, PhD, is developing a curriculum for educators to guide teachers in how to talk to youth about HCC as well as in how to use art as a medium to engage students and their peers on this important topic. The team also plans to expand the Hear/Say art exhibition throughout Colorado.

The Promoting Perinatal Wellness team, led by Jenn Leiferman, PhD, is developing a chatbot with a partner project, Clinic Chat, to offer positive coping alternatives to using high-concentration cannabis during pregnancy and in post-partum individuals.

The deliverables for Clinic Chat, led by Sheana Bull, PhD, also include further development of the English and Spanish-language chatbot on the main website and the development of a chatbot to practice Motivational Interviewing.

2. Initium Health:

The new contract for the educational campaign was awarded to Initium Health who will continue their progress from year one. The past month has seen further refinement and completion of content including videos, podcasts, and social media posts for the organic media launch coming soon. Once launched, the campaign will use marketing metrics to iterate and deliver targeted messages on branded social media channels and in paid content. Also in full swing is preparation for the press conference to hard launch the Tea on THC campaign. Dates and further details to be announced shortly.

Drs. Jon Samet, Greg Tung, and Ann Collier during their podcast interviews:



3. Evaluations:

The program evaluation team, led by Annie Collier, PhD, is finalizing data analyses from last year to provide insights into the success of programs offered to date, as well as to provide a meaningful snapshot of the baseline beliefs, knowledge, and attitudes about HCC in the Colorado community. The most recent evaluations was presented at the SRC meeting on November 6th.

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Start Date:
November 2022

ACTIVITY	DETAILS	STATUS
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UNC Youth Mindfulness	<u>"Fight the Funk" Fall Leadership Summit</u>	<u>Completed</u>
	<u>Mindfulness Resource Guide</u>	<u>In Progress</u>

Clinic Chat	<u>Coping Strategies for Website Chatbot</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
	<u>MI Informed Chatbot for Youth and Pregnant People</u>	<u>In Progress</u>

Science-Informed Art Exhibition	<u>Purchasing or Leasing Art for Proposed Traveling Exhibit</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
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Positive Coping During Pregnancy	<u>Content Review</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
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Initium Health	<u>Website</u>	<u>Completed</u>
	<u>Social Media Content</u>	<u>Completed</u>
	<u>Podcasts</u>	<u>Completed</u>
	<u>Video Content</u>	<u>Completed</u>
	<u>Press Conference Planning</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
	<u>Paid Media Content</u>	<u>Completed</u>
	<u>Official Campaign Launch</u>	<u>Coming Soon</u>