

THC Concentrates: The Changing Face of Cannabis Culture featuring Officer Ryan Snow Additional Webinar Q&A

Is there a difference in the way that people smoke nicotine or THC through a vape pen?

There is practically no difference in the way people smoke nicotine versus THC from a vape pen. The oils of both look very similar, and an average person, or even a trained person, would have a hard time discerning the difference between the two. There is a difference in the odor that is released from the THC oil but that odor does not last long, and you would need to be in very close proximity to smell it.

Would legalization and regulation help deter some of the violent crimes (and other crimes) that stem from cannabis use?

Overall, I am fine with cannabis being legalized. However, I do believe there needs to be limits set on THC levels, or at least a recommended dosage based on THC level. A person smoking 0.5 grams of cannabis at 25% THC will have an incredibly different reaction to the drug than a person smoking 0.5 grams of cannabis at 85% THC. Due to the lack of knowledge by the consumer on the level of THC in certain forms of concentrates sold illegally, reactions to the drug can be very hard to predict. Someone that has been smoking flower cannabis for 5 years and then tries concentrates for the first time could be loosely compared to someone that occasionally drinks beer and drinking 10 shots of hard liquor in an hour. The different forms will provide different experiences. Also, I believe with the legalization of cannabis, law enforcement officers need to be better trained on the impacts of drug use and impaired driving. It is hard to know exactly how much cannabis usage impacts driving ability, but there have been many cases of impairment due to cannabis that caused fatal crashes. I think this is an issue that needs more national attention and it is one of the major reasons I decided to become a Drug Recognition Expert.

Will increased education to students about concentrated cannabis lead to increased student usage?

When it comes to educating students about cannabis concentrates, I personally don't see a correlation between education and a spike in interest or use. I feel like it is similar to how we educate students on alcohol. Although we provide students with information, it doesn't mean we expect them to be more likely to want to drink. From my experience, most college students already know about concentrates. Some may not have tried them but they are still aware of their presence. From monitoring social media, it is obvious that students know what concentrates are, and that concentrates are being used. Police officers, campus prevention professionals, counselors, and housing staff, are all behind the "8-ball" when it comes to concentrates. It is very likely that students on campus know more about concentrates than most campus professional staff. The key now is to utilize this knowledge and request more training opportunities from experts in the field.