

With poisonings on the rise, marijuana edibles are no treat for kids.

Seattle - With Halloween right around the corner, the Washington Poison Center is warning parents to be on the look-out for marijuana-edibles that may be mistaken for Halloween candy.

A variety of candy-style products exist in the medical marijuana market. Marijuana-edibles can be found in a variety of shapes, sizes, and types that often resemble traditional candies and sweets in their product name and/or appearance, such as brownies, candy bars, cookies, and gummy bears. Both medical and recreational marijuana contain enough THC, the active chemical in marijuana, to cause symptoms in both kids and adults.

"Our call volume has increased over 120% regarding children exposed to marijuana and marijuana edibles, compared to 2013." said Dr. Alexander Garrard, Clinical Managing Director of the Washington Poison Center. "This may be due to marijuana edibles being more available, and the lack of child-resistant packaging," added Garrard.

Here are some helpful tips for parents for preventing marijuana edibles from falling into the wrong hands:



- Only allow children to have packaged candy from well-known brands, and avoid off-label or unfamiliar brands
- Throw away any candy or food that looks like it has been opened and re-wrapped.
- Read the labels on all candy products to ensure no marijuana content is present.
- If you have marijuana products in your home, keep them out of reach and locked up.



Call the Washington Poison Center immediately at **1-800-222-1222** if you are worried about your health and safety, or if a child has accidentally eaten a marijuana edible. All calls are free, confidential and protected by the Good Samaritan Law.

For more information about how marijuana can harm kids, and what parents can do to keep kids healthy and safe, visit www.StartTalkingNow.org.