



Responsibility.org Intoxicating Hemp & Cannabis¹ Policy Principles

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org) has developed the following policy principles to ensure that any legislation or regulation of intoxicating hemp and cannabis products include strong provisions to **prevent underage consumption, address responsible delivery practices, and prevent impaired driving.**

Preventing Underage Access and Consumption

- Sales and deliveries, where permitted, should be made only to individuals above the age of 21
- Robust safeguards should be in place, including mandatory ID verification upon purchase and delivery, to ensure compliance and promote consumer safety
- Companies should adhere to a strict advertising code of conduct to ensure that products are not marketed to youth or are attractive to children

Responsible Delivery Practices

Principles should mirror Responsibility.org's "[Core Four](#)" principles of responsible alcohol delivery:

- Confirm product deliveries are only to those over the age of 21 utilizing government ID
- Prevent delivery to those underage, intoxicated, or where prohibited by law
- Provide education on safe product delivery to individuals that deliver these products
- Delivery companies should implement random checks to ensure compliance with these standards

¹ 1 Marijuana and hemp originate from the same genetic plant, called cannabis. The terms 'marijuana' and 'cannabis' are often used interchangeably, while 'hemp' is usually considered separate. As per the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), 'marijuana' is defined as "all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin." The term marijuana does not include hemp. See 21 USC § 802 (16). As per the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (commonly known as the Farm Bill), 'hemp' is defined as "the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis." See 7 USC § 1639o (1)

Preventing Impaired Driving

Policymakers must recognize and prioritize drug and multiple substance impaired driving as a growing problem with a multiplicative crash risk.

Federal and state policymakers should support efforts to eliminate multiple substance-impaired driving through countermeasures such as:

- Requiring basic and enhanced training for officers to detect impairment
- Improving drug testing and funding for state toxicology labs
- Ensure states update crash reporting to capture drug categories and multiple substance use
- Funding new technology for drug detection
- Ensure state laws allow for the full prosecution of drivers under the influence of all impairing substances

More information and recommendations can be found in Responsibility.org's position paper titled "[Interventions to Prevent Multiple-Substance Impaired Driving](#)."

For more information about Responsibility.org's policy positions and recommendations to prevent impaired driving and underage consumption of alcohol and drugs, please visit our [resources for policymakers](#).

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