



APPALACHIA HIDTA

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Appalachia Seizure Bulletin

THC-INFUSED EDIBLES: A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO KIDS

On June 15th, 2019, members of an Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA) Initiative interdicted a parcel containing 7.5 lbs. of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) infused candy. The parcel originated in Mill Valley, CA. and was destined for Coconut Creek, FL. when intercepted. Both packages of candy clearly issue warnings to keep out of the reach of children and animals however, their use of bright colors, novel shapes, and promotional characters makes this packaging appear similar to commercially available products.



A study conducted by the University of Washington’s Cannabis Law and Policy Project in 2016 found five factors that influence a child’s interest on edibles: color, shape, odor, taste, and packaging. The research detailed that the colors red, orange, yellow, and green were most attractive to children. All of which are printed on these packages. The study also found that packages containing festive writing and common naming conventions, such as “Nerds” and “Ropes” commonly found on commercial candy products along with descriptive flavoring, would make products highly appealing to children and youths.

Public Health Warning

Although states with legal cannabis have either passed legislation or are in the process of presenting legislation regulating the appearance of THC-infused products, THC-infused edibles are still being packaged in a manner that is appealing to youth. It is recommended that all packaging resembling commercial candy be inspected by an adult prior to consumption by youth.

Further questions regarding this case may be directed to Sgt. Eric Black at 502-574-6720 or intel analyst at AHIDTA.

