

## **Retailers – What You Need to Know About Youth Marijuana Use**

Per state law, youth under the age of 21 cannot purchase or possess marijuana products. Because brain development continues through the age of 25, a youth's brain is more vulnerable than an adult's to the potentially negative impacts of marijuana. Studies show that marijuana can impair the areas of the brain that control motor coordination, impulse control, memory, learning and judgment.

However, **almost half** of high school seniors in Kittitas County report having used marijuana at least once, with **over a third** reporting that they do not perceive the regular use of marijuana as harmful. In our community, over **three quarters** of high school seniors also reported that marijuana is “easy” or “very easy” to get.

## **How You Can Help Prevent Youth Access**

While we know that parents are the most impactful influence on a youth's decision whether to use marijuana, retailers are a key partner in keeping marijuana out of the hands of our community's youth. Here are a few things that you can do to help prevent youth access:

### **Lockboxes**

Marijuana retailers are allowed to provide lockboxes for the secure storage of marijuana products and paraphernalia to customers. Lockboxes can be purchased by and sold, as long as they are sold for no less than the cost of acquisition. Lockboxes can also be donated to any person eligible to purchase marijuana. However in both cases, lockboxes cannot be used as an incentive or condition of a recipient's purchase of marijuana product or paraphernalia. For more information, see RCW 69.50.357

### **Not for Kids stickers**

Rolls of “Not for Kids” stickers are available free of charge through the Kittitas County Public Health Department. Stickers can be distributed to any interested customers, but cannot be used as an incentive or condition of a recipient's purchase of marijuana product or paraphernalia. For more information, contact Public Health at 509-962-7515.

### **Information for Parents**

Literature on youth marijuana prevention can be distributed to interested customers. Literature can be donated from outside organizations, as long as they are not a marijuana producer, processor, or retailer, per RCW 69.50.357. The Kittitas County Public Health Department, the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, and many other organizations offer free literature and resources. For more information contact Public Health at 509-962-7515.

### **Trained Staff**

Well trained staff are the first line of defense against accidental under age marijuana sales. RCW 69.50.357 requires that all marijuana retail employees are trained on the rules to ensure that underage youth are not permitted to enter or remain on the premises.

### **Be Mindful of Your Advertising**

The rules about advertising by retail establishments are set up to restrict advertising to youth. Advertising cannot depict a child or other under age person consuming marijuana, or feature toys, cartoon characters, or be

designed in a way that is especially appealing to youth. -Pay careful attention to the rules outlined in WAC 314-55-155.

### **Thorough ID Checks**

Make sure you have a thorough identification checking process in your establishment. The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board offers detailed trainings on responsible sales best practices that will help ensure that employees do not unintentionally sell to an underage person. Visit the training video here:

<https://lcb.wa.gov/enforcement/responsible-sales-video>.