



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# THC Exposures and Health Outcomes

**Presentation to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

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*Chief Medical Executive*

July 2026

# Overview



Texas Poison Center Network Data



Emergency Medical Services Response Data



Hospital Discharge Data



Vital Statistics Data



# TPCN: THC Exposure Calls Overview

- **Source:** Texas Poison Center Network (TPCN)
- **Years Included:** January 1, 2021 – May 30, 2026
- **Exposure Calls:** Individual calls to the TPCN. DSHS receives TPCN data on a near real-time basis through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Commission on State Emergency Communications.
- **Data:** Calls related to cannabinoids, including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), and synthetic marijuana.



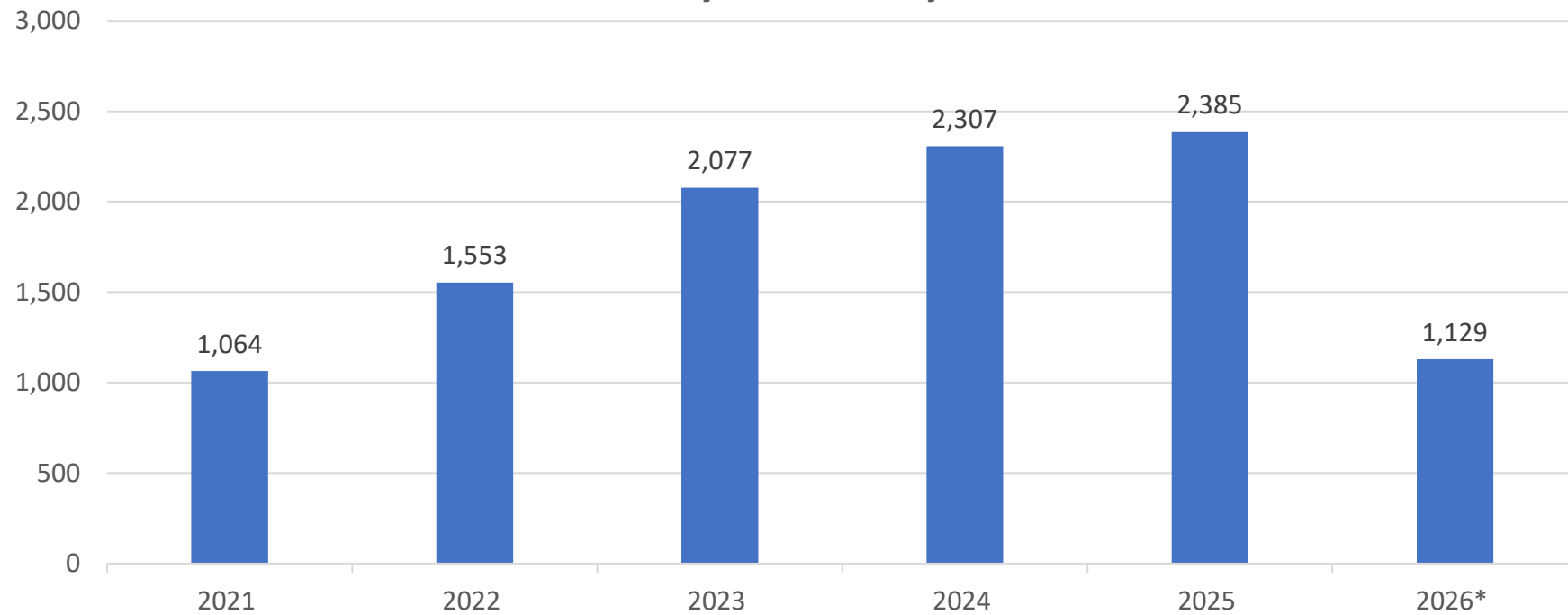
# TPCN: THC Exposure Calls Summary

- **From January 1, 2021 – May 30, 2026:**
  - 10,515 THC-related exposure calls to TPCN.
  - The largest number of THC exposure calls were for children.
    - 3,152 (30%) were 0 – 5 years old
    - 1,087 (10%) were 6 – 12 years old
    - 2,301 (22%) were 13 – 19 years old
  - Of the THC-related exposure calls, 4,746 (45%) were treated, evaluated, and released from an outpatient setting like an emergency department. Of those:
    - 1,138 (24%) were 0 – 5 years old
    - 474 (10%) were 6 – 12 years old
    - 1,283 (27%) were 13 – 19 years old



# TPCN: Annual THC Exposure Calls

THC Exposure Calls to the Texas Poison Center Network,  
January 2021 – May 2026



\*Not complete year of data.

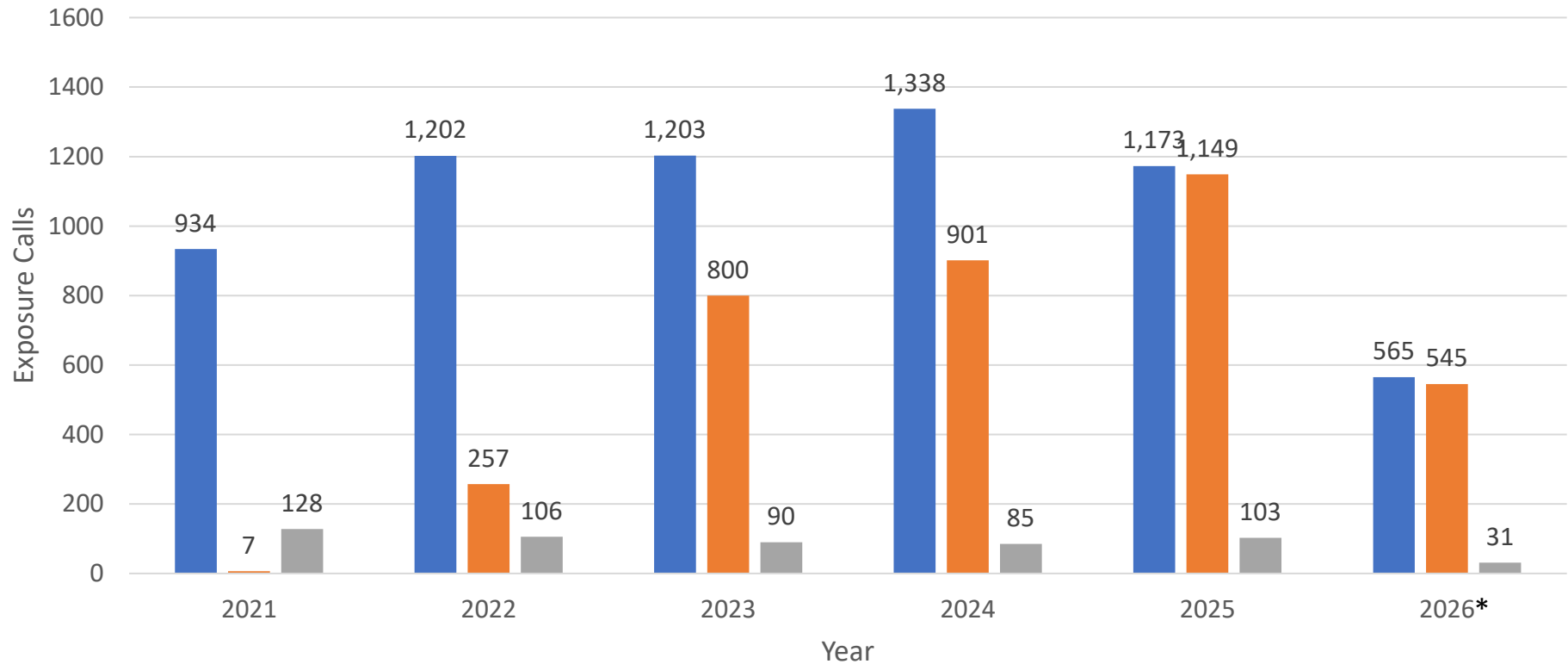
Source: Texas Poison Center Network  
Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026



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# TPCN: THC Exposure Calls by THC Type

Annual TPCN Exposure Calls by THC Type, January 2021 – May 2026



\*Not complete year of data.

Source: Texas Poison Center Network  
 Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026

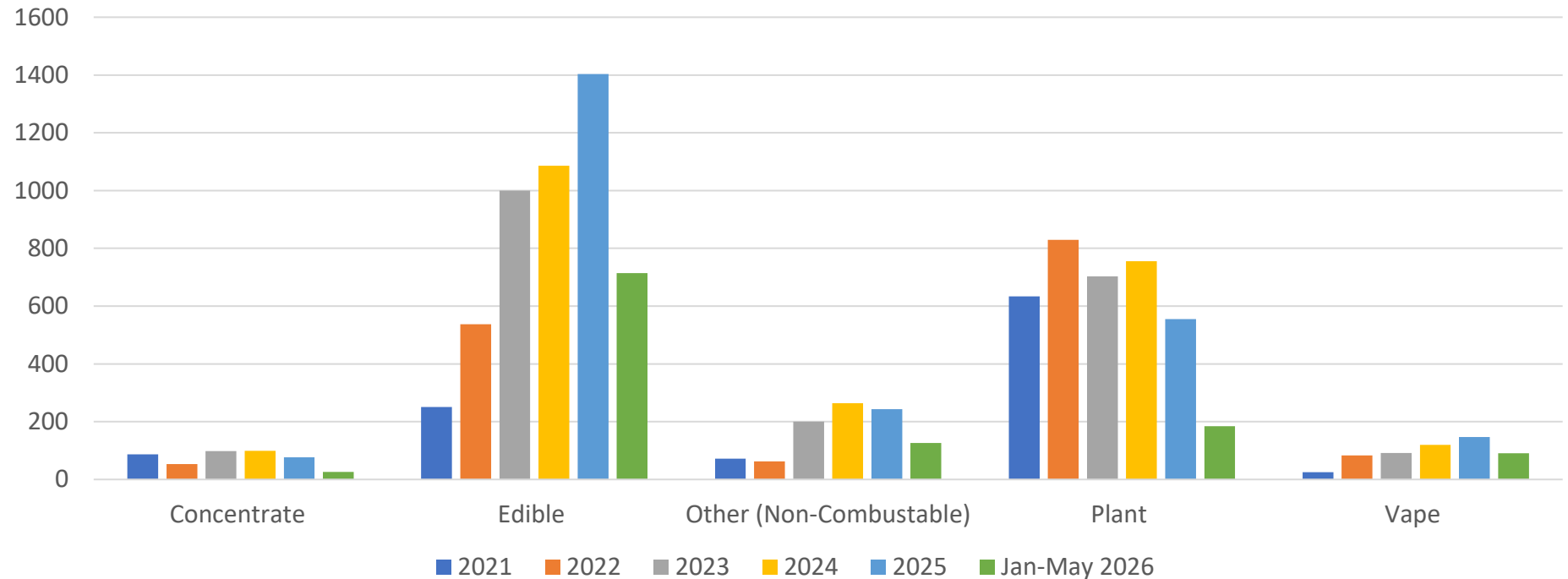
Note: A person could have taken multiple THC Products.



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# TPCN: THC Exposure Calls by THC Product Type

Texas Poison Control Calls by Year and THC Product Type, January 2021 – May 2026



Source: Texas Poison Center Network

Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026

Note: A person could have taken multiple THC Products.



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# TPCN: Annual THC Exposure Calls by Patient Age Group

Age Group (years)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan.-May 2026	Total
0-5	255	473	632	717	741	334	3,152
6-12	93	154	239	244	247	110	1,087
13-19	280	373	463	481	452	252	2,301
20-29	181	209	281	302	344	165	1,482
30-39	106	124	143	195	207	96	871
40-49	62	96	131	111	130	64	594
50-59	24	40	66	95	82	47	354
60-69	13	28	34	48	54	25	202
70-79	6	11	24	32	27	10	110
80-89	1	2	5	9	11	1	29
90+	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
Unknown	43	42	58	73	89	23	328

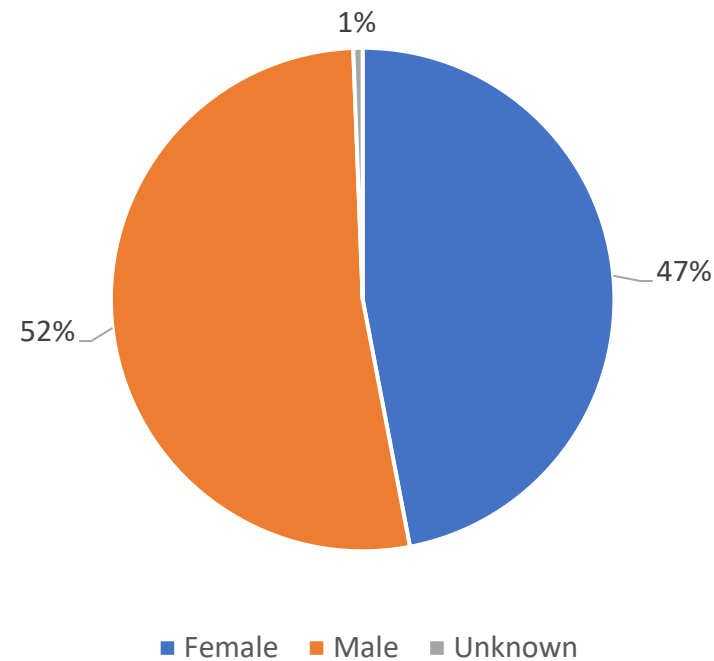
Source: Texas Poison Center Network  
 Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026



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# TPCN: Annual THC Exposure Calls by Patient Sex

Total, January 2021- May 2026



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Source: Texas Poison Center Network  
Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026

# TPCN: Reported Clinical Effects for THC Exposures by Body System

Body System	THC Exposures, January 2021-May 2026
Neurological	10,333
Cardiovascular	3,848
Gastroenterological	2,747
Miscellaneous	923
Respiratory	822
Ocular	673
Dermal	132
Renal	108

Note: A patient can have more than one clinical effect for one or multiple body systems. Therefore, categories are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Texas Poison Center Network  
 Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026



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# TPCN: THC Exposure Calls by Health Care Treatment Location

Health Care Treatment Location	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Admitted to critical care unit	82	102	120	177	234	97	812
Admitted to non-critical care unit	112	196	230	278	324	168	1,308
Admitted to psychiatric facility	44	41	53	50	61	29	278
Managed at non- health care facility	166	225	339	337	332	162	1,561
Patient lost to follow-up/left against medical advice	128	157	229	238	276	117	1,145
Refused referral/did not arrive at the health care facility	52	85	125	159	165	79	665
Treated/evaluated and released	480	747	981	1,068	993	477	4,746

Source: Texas Poison Center Network  
 Prepared by: Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch, June 2026

Managed at non-health care facility means the patient was managed at the caller’s site, usually a personal residence.



# TPCN: Annual THC Exposure Calls

- Of the 10,515 calls received between January 2021 and May 2026, the medical outcomes included:
  - 7 calls involving a death,
  - 4,263 calls with minor, minimal, or no clinical effects,
  - 3,912 calls with a moderate effect,
  - 633 calls with a major effect, and
  - 1,638 calls were unable to follow but judged as potentially toxic exposure.
- The vast majority of the calls (9,257) involved THC exposure at the person's own residence.
- Most of the calls were made from a health care facility (6,604), the person's own residence (2,973), or another residence (670).



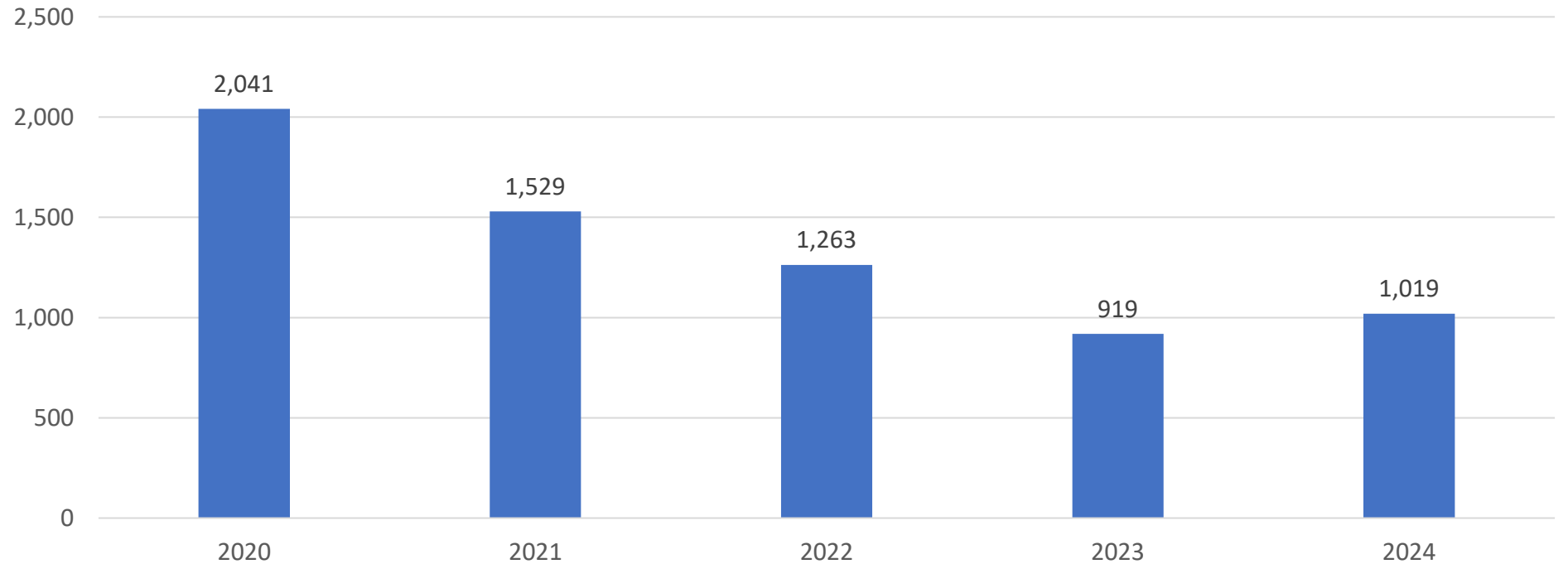
# EMS Response Data

- **Source:** Texas EMS and Trauma Registry. All Texas EMS providers are required to submit EMS response data to DSHS within 90 days of the call for assistance.
- **Years Included:** 2020-2024
- **EMS Response:** EMS provider is dispatched to, respond to, or provides care or transports a person.
- **Scope:** ICD-10 codes for EMS responses:
  - F12 codes: use, abuse, or dependence
    - Cannabis use – including intoxication, withdrawal
    - Cannabis abuse or dependence – including intoxication, withdrawal
  - T40 codes: poisoning codes relating to cannabis
    - Poisoning by cannabis – accidental and intentional
    - Poisoning by synthetic cannabinoids – accidental and intentional



# EMS Responses Related to THC

EMS Responses in Texas Coded for THC Use  
2020-2024



Source: Texas EMS Registry  
Prepared by: Injury Prevention Unit- EMS and Trauma Registries, June 2026



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# THCIC: Hospital Discharge Data

- **Source:** Texas Health Care Information Collection
  - Administrative claims data collected on a quarterly basis.
- **Facilities included:** All hospitals, freestanding emergency medical centers, and ambulatory surgical centers are required to report.
- **Date Range:** January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025
- **Scope:** Identified using International Classification of Diseases – ICD-10-CM, F12 codes relating to cannabis abuse and T40 codes relating to cannabis exposure, for principal diagnosis only.



# THCIC: Hospital Discharge Data Summary

- **From January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025:**
  - 4,315 THC hospitalizations reported.
  - Number of yearly THC hospitalizations\* increased from 814 in 2021 to 1,149 in 2024.
  - The greatest number of THC hospitalizations were for the 18-44 age group (2,279, 53%), followed by the 0-17 age group (1,104, 26%).

\*Note: Data used in these THCIC slides reflect number of THC hospitalizations based on the principal diagnosis, which is defined as the main reason the patient was treated, based on the final determination at discharge.



# THCIC: THC Hospitalizations by Year

Year	Total Number of All Hospitalizations	Total Number of THC-Related Hospitalizations	Percentage of THC-Related Hospitalizations
2021	3,051,719	814	0.03%
2022	3,090,509	802	0.03%
2023	3,220,474	937	0.03%
2024	3,264,057	1,149	0.04%
2025* (Through June 30)	1,686,208	613	0.04%

Source: Inpatient Public Use Data Files 2021 – 2025 Quarter 2, Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC)  
 Prepared by: Center for Health Statistics, May 2026



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# THCIC – THC Hospitalizations by Year and Age Group

Age Group (Years)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Through June 30)
0-17	141	180	232	370	181
18-44	527	453	494	521	284
45-64	125	128	149	178	95
64-74	*	*	43	49	35
75+	*	*	19	31	18
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>613</b>

Source: Inpatient Public Use Data Files 2021 – 2025 Quarter 2, Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC)  
 Prepared by: Center for Health Statistics, May 2026



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# Vital Statistics Data

- **Source:** Vital statistics data collected from Texas death certificates
- **Date Range:** 2021 - 2025\*
- **Scope:** THC-related deaths were determined using the following key words in the underlying cause of death field completed by the medical certifier: THC, Tetrahydrocannabinol, Delta-8, and Delta-9.
- **ICD-10 Codes:** X40-44 (unintentional poisonings), X60-X64 (suicides by poisoning), X85 (homicidal poisoning), and Y10-Y14 (drug poisonings with undetermined intent).



# Vital Statistics Death Data Summary

- **For the five-year period from 2021 - 2025:**
  - There were 19 THC-related Texas resident deaths that occurred in Texas.

## Percentage of THC-Related Deaths by Age Group, All Intentions, Texas Residence & Occurrence in Texas, 2021-2025 Combined, Suppression

Ages 0-17 Years (Percent)	Ages 18-44 Years (Percent)	Ages 45-64 Years (Percent)	Ages 65-74 Years (Percent)	Ages 75+ Years (Percent)
10.5%	52.6%	36.8%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Texas Death Certificate Data  
Prepared by: Center for Health Statistics, June 2026





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**Thank you**