



GAS STATION DRUGS

Charleston Center

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At the completion of this session, the participant should be able to:

- Identify what is a "gas station drug"?
- The difference between Delta 8 and 9 products .
- The significance in conducting community environmental scans and how the four P's can influence youth consumption of products of THC and nicotine products.
- The nicotine and THC products that are being sold and potential copyright issues.
- The importance of Merchant Education and how it can affect retail violation rate (RVR).

Learning Objectives

What is Gas Station Drugs?

- Synthetic drugs, which are easily available at gas stations, online, vape shops, and convenience stores, contribute to a public perception of low risk.
- Are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.
- These products are designed to mimic the effects of controlled substances that a doctor would prescribe.
- Maybe marketed as “mood enhancers, anxiety relief, herbal products and dietary supplements”.
- May be used in combination with other legal or illegal substances to increase the “high.”
- Can be addictive and lead to serious withdrawals.



Orangeburg, SC (2024)

Gas Station Drugs

Kava

Kratom

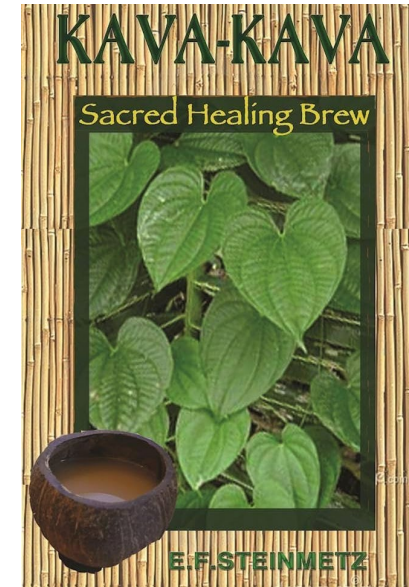
Tianeptine

Phenibut

Akuamma

Kava

- Mimics a depressant drug.
- Potentiator (spikes the high of other depressants).
- It comes in rosin, gummies, pills, drink, and raw plant form.
- Not regulated by Food and Drug Administration.



Kava, 2023



Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC (September, 2024)

Kratom

- Marketed as a mood enhancer.
- In low doses works as stimulant, in high doses works as an opioid.
- Currently banned in 6 states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.
- Not regulated by Food and Drug Administration.



KRATOM (CONT.)

Capsule forms.

Tianeptine

- Other names include Za Za, TD Red, Tia, Tianna, Neptune's
 - Synthetic depressant that works like heroin/opiates.
 - Used in high doses for withdrawal symptoms.
 - Can cause opioid-like withdrawals or worse.
 - The experience can be similar to coming down off opioids and anti-depressants simultaneously.
 - Sold as a mood enhancer and a dietary supplement.
 - Some have various "other" products mixed in.
 - Can cause lethargy, agitation, anxiety, addiction, and withdrawal.
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- As of 1/17/24, a bill was introduced in SC that wants to make Tianeptine a Schedule 1 controlled substance.
 - Michigan and Oklahoma made it a Schedule 2 drug in 2019, other states have been banning it in the past couple of years.
 - There have been many warnings from the FDA, the Center for Forensic Science Research, and law enforcement posted regarding the dangers of this substance.





Phenibut

- Other names: Addal, Derall, Beta-Phenyl-Gaba.
- Powerful synthetic depressant and is addictive.
- Used as a drug potentiator for depressants, opioid withdrawals, anxiety/stress relief, insomnia, and depression.
- Not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.
- Sold as a mood enhancer, dietary supplement, and smart drug.
- Commonly associated with Kratom and Tianeptine.
- Alcohol replacement/withdrawal... “sober but high.”
- Can look like an opioid overdose but Narcan does not work with it.



Phrenze

- Marketed as a mood enhancer.
- Opioid-like effects.
- Contains Phenibut and Kava extract.
- Too much can cause serious side effects, such as sedation, confusion, psychosis, withdrawal, addiction, and liver damage.
- Side effects cannot be reversed with Narcan.



Akuamma

- Usually paired with Tianeptine.
- Potentiator to depressants.
- Some use for pain management, anxiety, sedation and anti-inflammatory.
- Used by crushing or chewing on seeds or adding them to a tea, also comes in powders or capsules.

Over the Counter Drugs

Imodium/Loperamide

Benadryl/Diphenhydramine

Imodium/Loperamide



- Therapeutic dose: 16mg or less per day
- Loperamide is an opioid with psychoactive effects that are limited by poor absorption when taken orally and active efflux from the central nervous system.
- Recreational use: more than 70mg per day.
- It causes euphoric properties or to lessen symptoms of opioid withdrawal.
- Because of its opioid effects, nonprescription status and low cost, loperamide is sometimes referred to as “poor man’s methadone.”



Benadryl/Diphenhydramine

- Can make the effects of narcotics more intense.
- Some use to treat anxiety to avoid Benzodiazepines.
- Association with alcohol.
- Can calm the “narc itch.”
- Produces hallucinations in high doses.
 - Appx 500 mgs - 20 pills



DELTA 8 AND 9 PRODUCTS

What's the difference between Delta 8 and Delta 9 products?

Delta 8

- Delta-8 THC products have **not** been evaluated or approved by the FDA for safe use and may be marketed in ways that put the public health at risk.
- The FDA has received adverse event reports involving delta-8 THC-containing products.
- Delta-8 THC has psychoactive and intoxicating effects.
- Delta-8 THC products often involve use of potentially harmful chemicals to create the concentrations of delta-8 THC claimed in the marketplace.
- Delta-8 THC products should be kept out of the reach of children and pets.

Delta 9

- Delta-9 THC is the primary active component of cannabis.







ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS

What is an environmental scan?

An environmental scan is when community members visit local gas stations, vape shops, convenient stores, and other alcohol or tobacco retailers to gain knowledge on the current landscape surrounding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Public health professionals, preventionists, parents, community members, and/or law enforcement can conduct the scans.

Assessment Method: Marketing 4 P's

Figure 4. Marketing's Four Ps



The marketing mix, or 4 Ps of marketing, can help coalitions determine where in the community change needs to occur. For a community environmental approach, the target market seen above informs initiative planning and implementation. Graphic adapted from NetMBA.com.

- Price
- Product
- Place
- Promotion



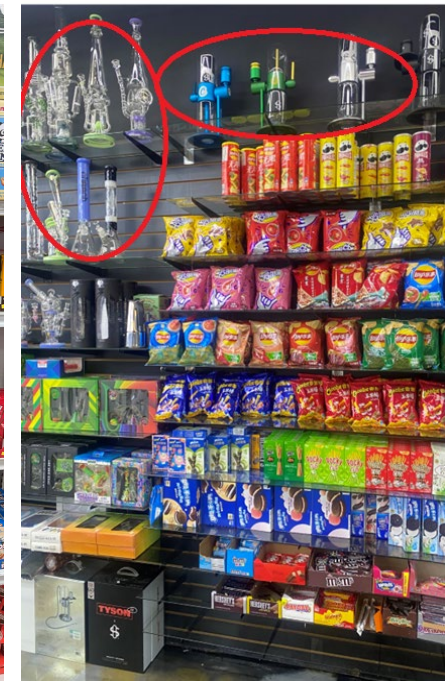
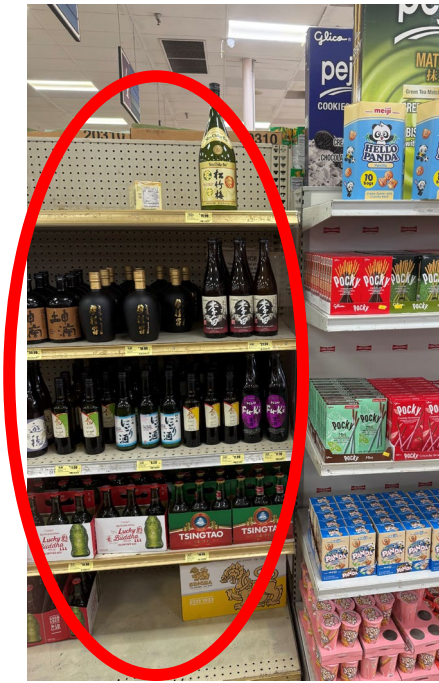
Price

- Does the price change based on the time of day?
- Is alcohol/nicotine/THC product cheaper than non-alcohol (water/soda)?
- How much tax is collected?
- Are larger quantities of alcohol/vapes or e-cig cheaper than smaller quantities?

Place

What products are being sold?

- Where are they placed? Eye level? Out of reach?
- Who are they marketed to?



Placed at eye level.

Promotion

- Is alcohol in a cooler next to water/soda?
- Is alcohol by an entrance/exit?
- Are alcohol or vape products next to candy?
- Are alcohol or vape products available at the check-out counter?



North Charleston, SC
(September 2024)

Promotion (cont.)



Signs at the entrance.
(Charleston, SC Nov. 2024)



Thanksgiving giveaways
in North Charleston, SC
(Nov, 2024)



Thanksgiving sales in North
Charleston, SC (Nov, 2024)

Product

- Are single units sold?
- Is there a brand more popular with underage youth offered for sale?
- Are products with high alcohol content sold?
- Are caffeinated alcoholic products sold?

SAVE 25¢/GAL
WHEN YOU BUY 2
MTW DEW BAJA BLAST 200OZ

SAVE 10¢/GAL
WHEN YOU BUY 2
RED BULL 200OZ

= 60¢/GAL
IN SAVINGS

reFuel
rewards
VALID 10/1/24-11/1/25
Terms & Conditions Apply

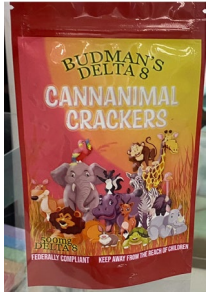
CHECK OUT THE COOLER VALUE
VAULT OFFERS ON OUR APP FOR
MORE WAYS TO SAVE!

FLAVORED VAPOR MIX & MATCH

BUY 2 \$5
& SAVE \$5

NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS

WARNING: This Product contains nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical.



PRODUCT (CONT.)

- Underage use and potential copyright issues.
- The packaging appeals to the youth with names such as Cannanimal Crackers, Dank Funions, Stoner Patch.
- The Federal Trade Commission and FDA sent cease-and-desist letters to several companies marketing Delta-8 edibles because of how deceptive they are.
 - Poses as a potential threat to unsuspecting parents and youth because of how the product resembles popular candies or snacks commonly ingested by the youth.



Other factors observed in Environmental Scans



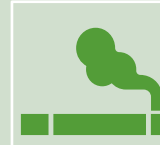
Is the establishment 1000 feet from a school, playground or recreational facility, church, daycare center?



Are SC DOR Alcohol Permits posted and current?



Does the establishment use electronic age verification devices?



Total number of signs displayed outside of establishment advertising alcohol or tobacco products.

Other findings on Environmental Scans

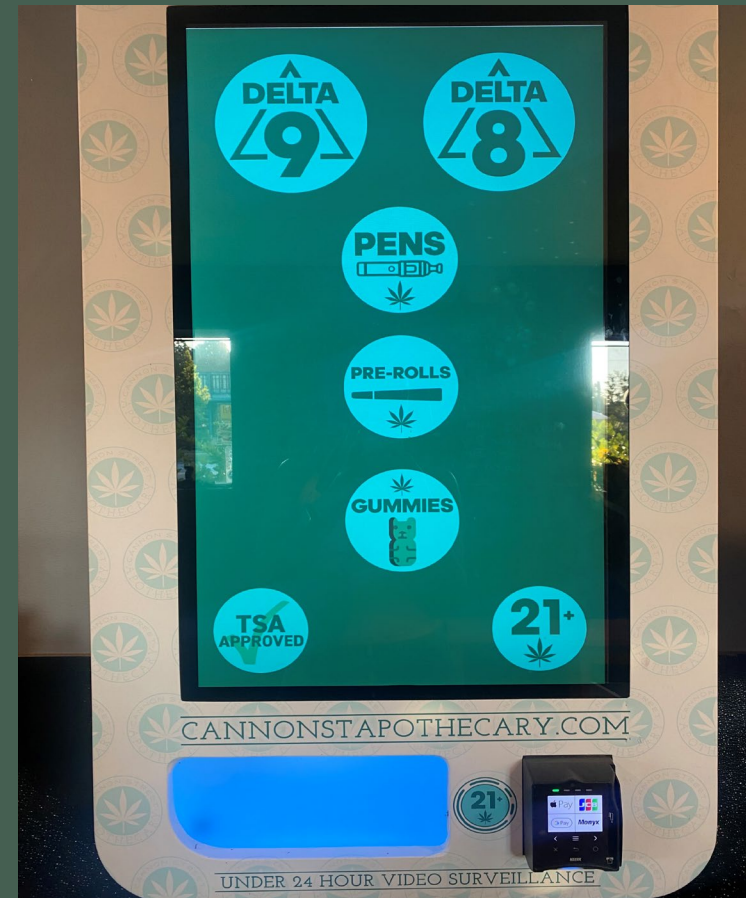


Vape establishments near mall playgrounds.



Concealment methods

Other findings on Environmental Scans



Vending machines
Downtown, Charleston SC
(August 2024)

Other findings on Environmental Scans



Cannabis Flower sold in bright packaging
North Charleston, SC
(November, 2024)



MERCHANT EDUCATION

Palmetto Retail Education Program (PREP) Objectives

- To reduce and prevent alcohol and tobacco sales to underage community members.
- To educate retailers on S.C. laws related to the sale and service of alcohol and tobacco.
- To educate the retailers on how to check IDs and refuse service to underage and intoxicated customers.
- To save lives.

What we offer?

Tobacco and Cannabis
Education Programs

Presentation/Evidence
Based-Curriculum

Community Events

Merchant Education
(Palmetto Retailers
Education Program)

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

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