

1 **Resolution Number:** 203-2025

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3 **Title:** Cannabis and Oral Health

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Education

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7 **Sponsor(s):** Hannah Lee, Alternate Delegate, ASDOH

8 Lance Attiq, Alternate Delegate, ASDOH

9 Emily Tarr, Alternate Delegate, MWU-AZ

10 Payal Patel, District 10 Trustee, ASDOH

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12 **Financial Impact:** None

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14 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

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16 **Reference Committee Comments:**

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18 **Background:** The prevalence of cannabis use is growing as it becomes more widely accepted  
19 and legalized in various U.S. states for medical and recreational use. Dental students should be  
20 well equipped and educated with the knowledge to address the effects of cannabis use relating  
21 to oral health, patient management, and broader public health implications.

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23 Cannabis is commonly consumed through smoking; however, vaping cannabis and cannabis-  
24 based products has become increasingly popular. Smoking cannabis has been linked to  
25 periodontal disease, xerostomia, and a potential increased risk of head and neck cancers. Public  
26 health concerns persist regarding the adverse effects of cannabis use including neurological,  
27 behavioral, cardiovascular complications, and risk of developing substance use disorders.

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29 As oral health is directly connected to systemic health, understanding the psychosocial  
30 dimensions associated with cannabis use is essential. The addition of cannabis education as  
31 part of dental school curriculum is essential. Dental students should be confident in recognizing  
32 the signs and symptoms of an active cannabis user and its dental care implications. Future  
33 dentists must be capable of reassessing and/or recommending treatment options which  
34 provide the safest, efficient, and optimum care for the patient.

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36 As adopted at the ADA House of Delegates in 2021, the ADA shall encourage the development  
37 of best practices for the management of patients and their caregivers, dentists, and dental  
38 team members who are under the influence of cannabis. ASDA, as the voice of dental students,  
39 should do the same; therefore, be it

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41

## RESOLUTION

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43 **Resolved,** that the American Student Dental Association encourages dental schools to  
44 incorporate cannabis education into their respective didactic curricula to address overall  
45 competency of future dental professionals to best treat physical and psychological needs of  
46 patients.

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48 **Action:**