

Factsheet: Cannabis legalization

Hashish / Kief

Basics Cervantes (2015)

- Hashish: A waxy product formed when the trichomes of cannabis are concentrated and compacted into a solid block
- Kief: The dry matter collected by sieving trichomes.
- Approximately 20-30% THC content, depending on the strain (Statista, 2022; VertavaHealth, 2019)
- Consists of wax and its constituents (cannabinoids, terpenes), as well as leaf debris
- Original form of cannabis extract and deeply rooted in cannabis culture
- Traditional production by hand rubbing the resin from flower and leaf material
- Inhalation of smoke through combustion process in joint, pre-roll, bong or pipe
- However, in legal markets, displacement of hashish by extracts from newer production techniques (CO2, butane, cryo, etc.) (MerryJane, 2019)



Haschisch-Block aus gepressten Trichomen



Kief: Pulver aus gesiebten Trichomen

Pro Cervantes (2015)

- Simple and traditional form of extraction
- Long shelf life
- Small volume
- Inexpensive machinery needed for production
- Good utilisation of the plants residues/waste materials (leaf material, smaller flowers)

Contra

- Usually smoked in a joint with tobacco - increases risk of respiratory disease (National Academies, 2017)
- Much manual labor required for production
- In traditional production, most of the volatile monoterpenes are lost (Russo et al. 2021)

Recommendation

- Sale should be allowed because:
 - Rooted in cannabis culture and high demand for the product
 - As a result, if it is not available for purchase in legal market, it will be sourced from illegal market
 - Production without high investment costs for machinery promotes inclusion of smaller businesses
 - Good utilization of plant residues for holistic use of the cannabis plant
 - Small volume and long shelf life simplify storage and transportation

Sources

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- Russo et al. (2021): Novel Solventless Extraction Technique to Preserve Cannabinoid and Terpenoid Profiles of Fresh Cannabis Inflorescence. Molecules. 2021 Sep 10;26(18):5496. doi: 10.3390/molecules26185496. PMID: 34576967; PMCID: PMC8468333.
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