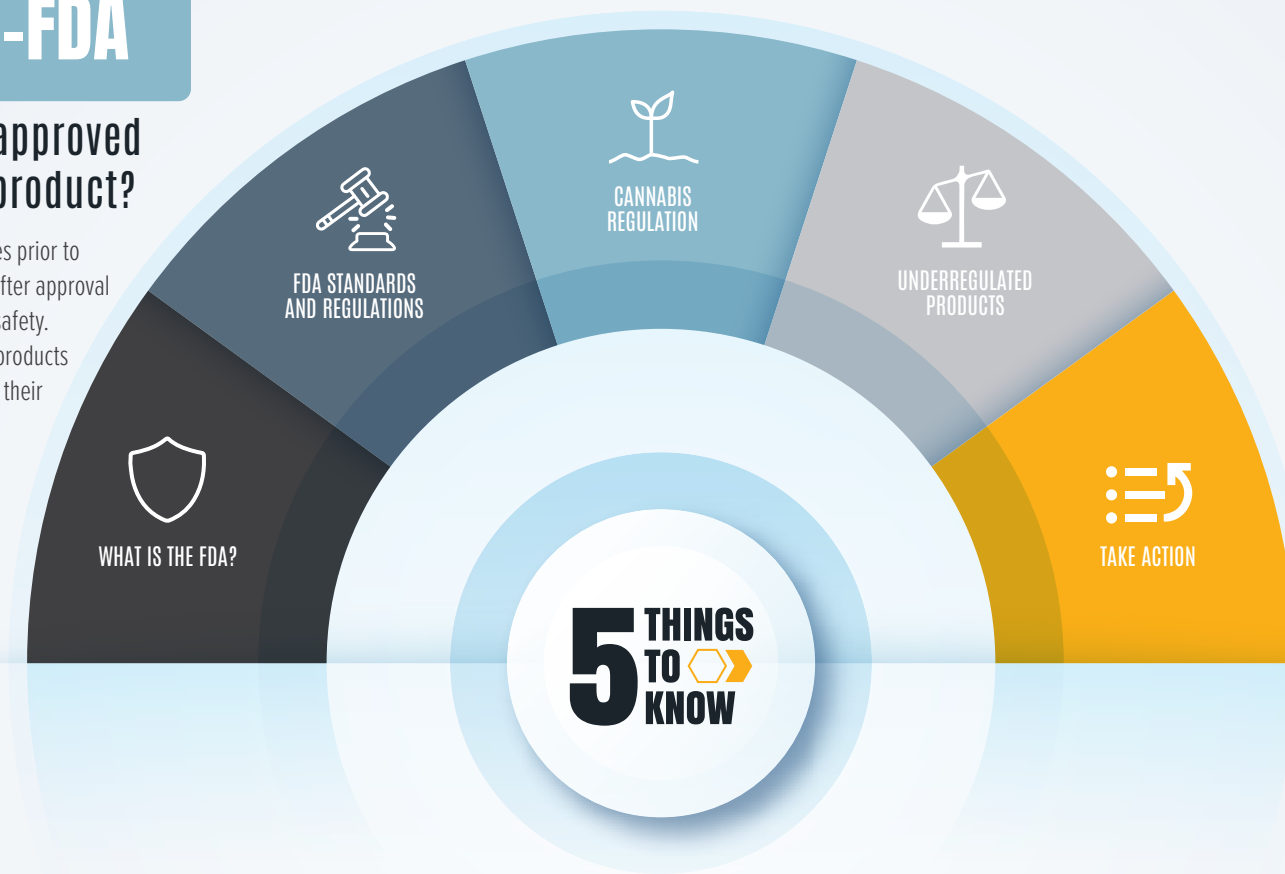


FDA vs Non-FDA

Why choose an FDA-approved cannabinoid-based product?

The FDA requires multiple types of studies prior to approval and continues oversight even after approval to maintain vigilance regarding patient safety. Non-FDA-approved cannabinoid-based products have not been evaluated to determine if their health benefits outweigh risks.



1. WHAT IS THE FDA?

A governing body for protecting public health

- The FDA is responsible for regulating drugs, biologics, and medical devices, as well as food content
- Its mandate is to ensure safe and effective drugs are available to improve the health of people in the US¹
- One of several regulatory bodies in the US intended to protect consumers

2. FDA STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The FDA's standards and regulations are designed to protect the consumer

- The FDA requires randomized controlled clinical trials, the highest level of scientific evidence
- All FDA-approved medications must meet agency standards for safety and efficacy²

3. CANNABIS REGULATION

The patchwork of regulation and enforcement is concerning

- State and federal laws are inconsistent and conflicting, creating gaps in consumer protection
- No standardized testing or independent oversight for non-FDA-approved products

4. UNDERREGULATED PRODUCTS

Researchers consistently find inconsistencies in purity, quality, and labeling

- Although many states have legalized cannabis, testing requirements are frequently lacking and are not standardized
- Many products contain inaccurate levels of cannabinoids, and some contain toxins and heavy metals

5. TAKE ACTION

Prioritize consumer safety and health

- Support evidence-based research within the FDA pathway
- Seek FDA-approved medications
- Strengthen policy for the future of cannabinoid science and medicine

FDA: Food and Drug Administration; US: United States.

¹ US Food and Drug Administration. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research | CDER. Updated August 18, 2020. Accessed September 2, 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/fda-organization/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder> ² US Food and Drug Administration. Is it really 'FDA approved?'. Updated January 17, 2017. Accessed September 2, 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/it-really-fda-approved>