



How to address high THC products' risks and harms: perspectives of WA stakeholders

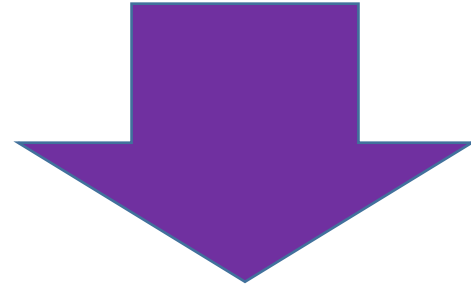
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with Sharon Garrett, MA, MPH and Lexi Nims, BA

Presented at ADAI Symposium High THC in Legal Regulated markets

September 16th, 2022

Policy Recommendations



North America Context

- Policies
- Initiatives
- Programs

Local Stakeholders

- **Concept mapping**
- Interviews

Research evidence

- Cannabis
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Unhealthy foods



Topics

Why stakeholders

How we found them

What we asked them

Who participated

Results and implications

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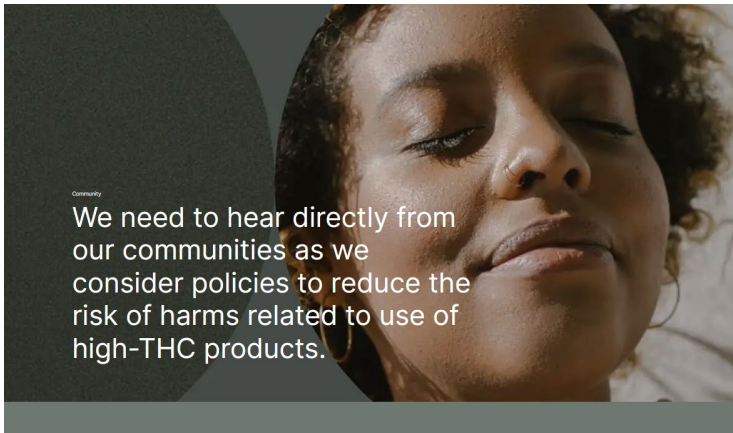
Strategic Dissemination

- 1000+ emails
- List serves
- Word of mouth
- Presentations in various forums
- Selected social media



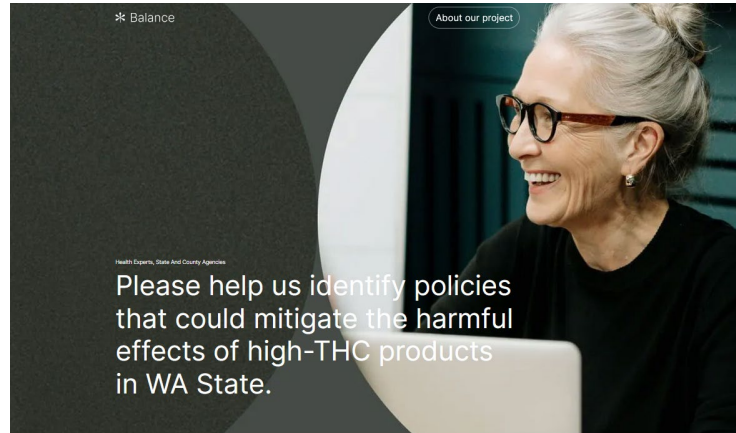
Stakeholders' groups

Community



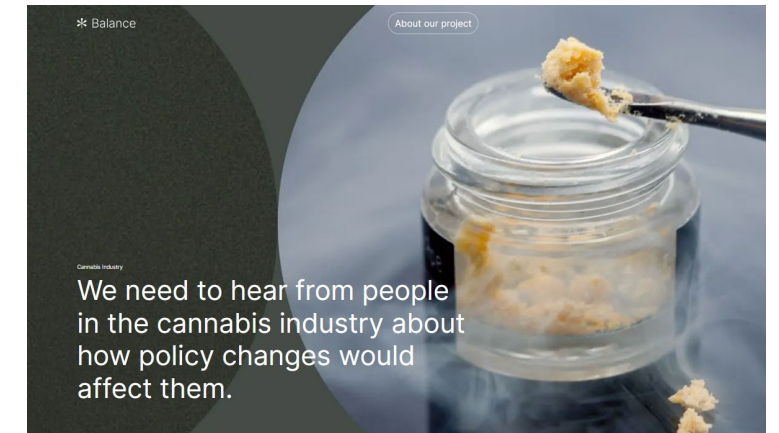
Prevention, social justice and youth-centered organizations, parents, educators and youth

Professionals



Health care providers, law enforcement, government agencies, researchers

Cannabis' advocates



Workers, representatives, press, consumers



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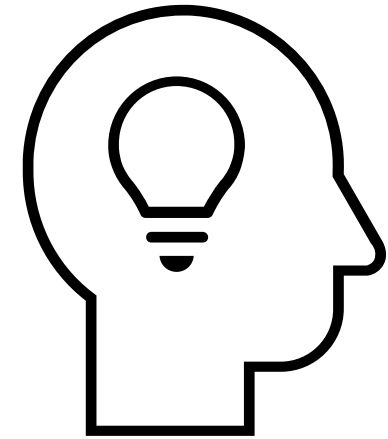
Brainstorm

In your opinion, how can our laws about high-THC cannabis products be strengthened in WA State to decrease risks to consumers?

1-

2-

3-



302 ideas



46 policy ideas

Sort and Rate

Sort ideas into groups

Limit products to only one serving per item.

Unsorted

Add to group

Maximum THC limits for each product category (e.g. 25% THC for flower, 75% THC for concentrates, etc.).

Unsorted

Add to group

New group



Unsorted

45 ideas

Age
restriction

1 idea

Rating: impact and feasibility

Age restriction

1/1

Increase legal age for high THC products to 25 years old.

Less impactful

Very impactful



Less feasible

Very feasible



Concept Mapping

Capture collective thinking to find policy solutions

- Equitable and participatory approach
- Anonymous input
- Two rounds of participation
- Widely utilized for policy development
- Implementation Science



Topics

Why stakeholders

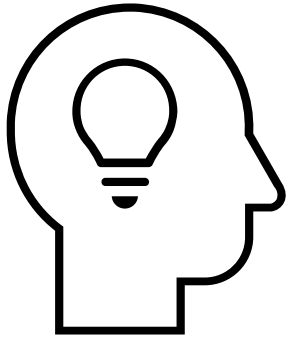
How we found them

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Who participated

Results and implications

Participation

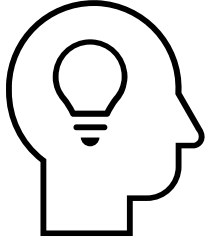


109 total participants



160 total participants

Demographics

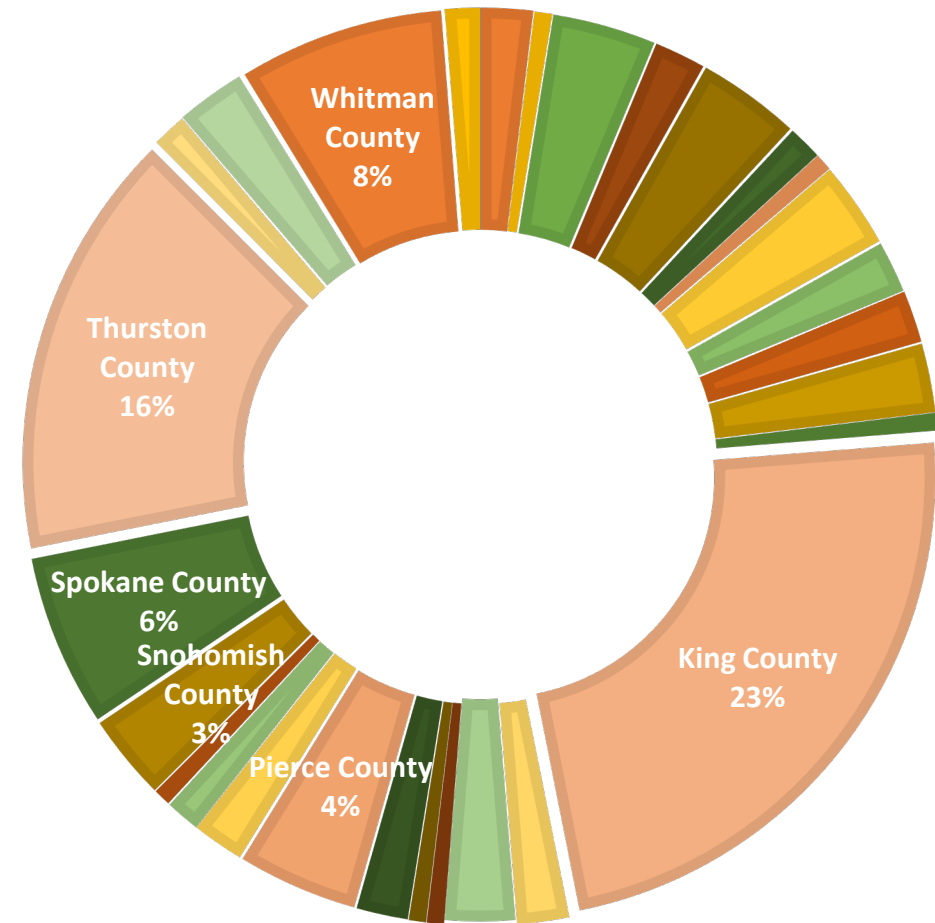
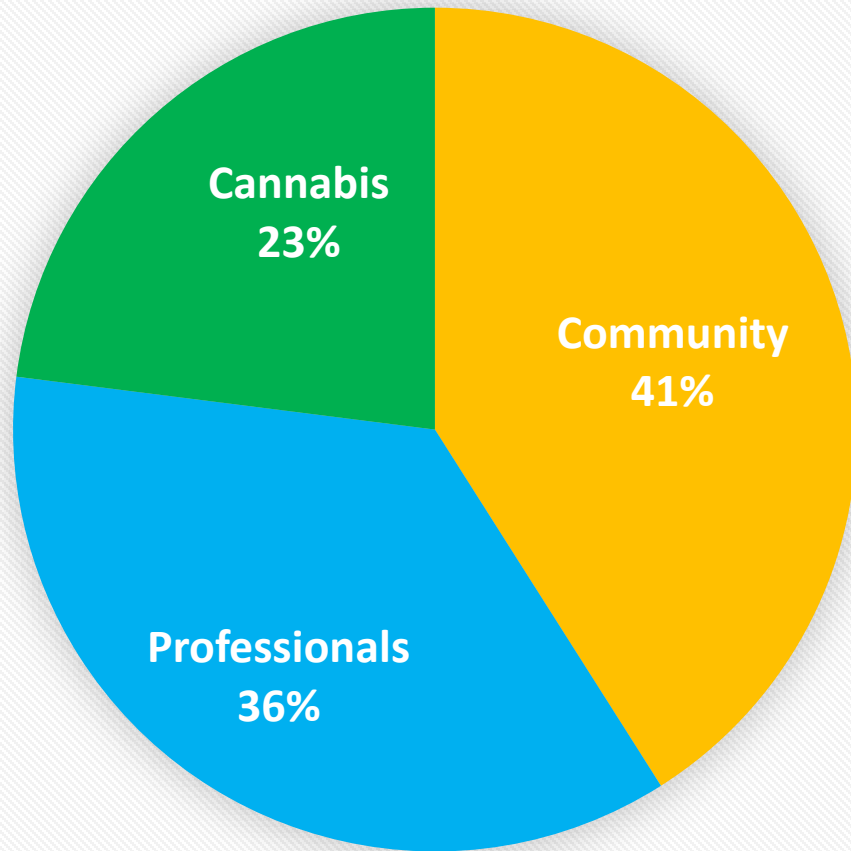


- 41% racial/ethnic minorities
- 54% Female
- 45% between 21-44 years

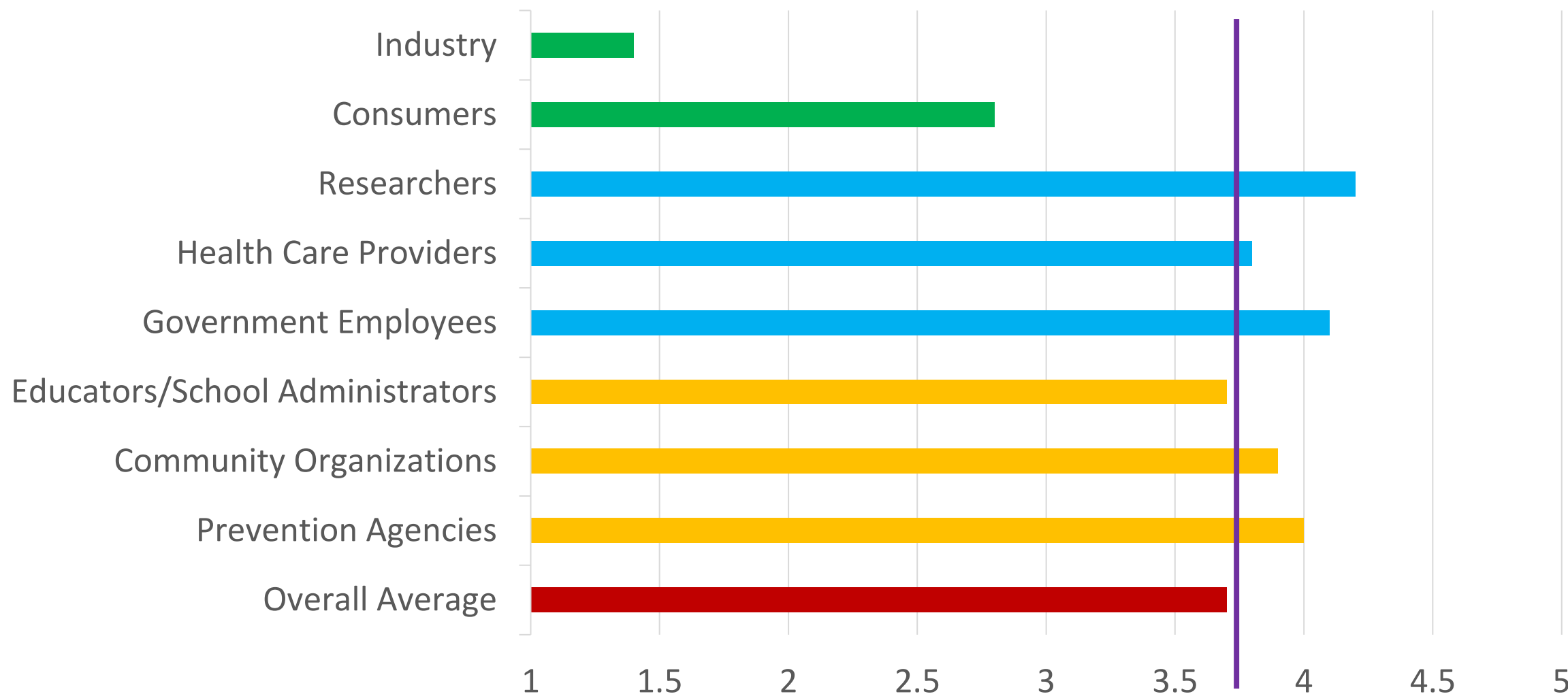


- 36% racial/ethnic minorities
- 54% Female
- 54% between 21-44 years

Participation by type of stakeholder and WA County



Concern Level for High THC





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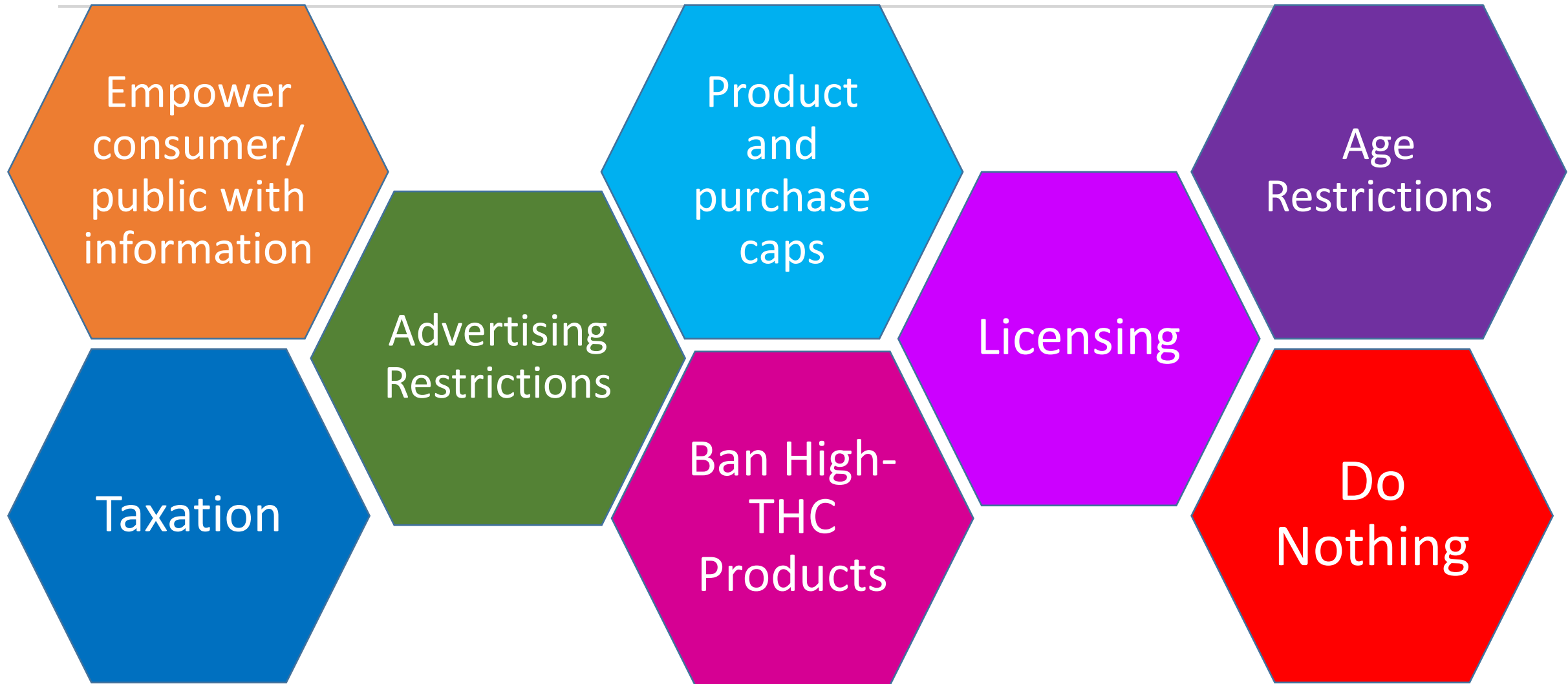


Less feasible

Very feasible



46 policy options were grouped into 7 Policy Areas



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Less feasible

Very feasible

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

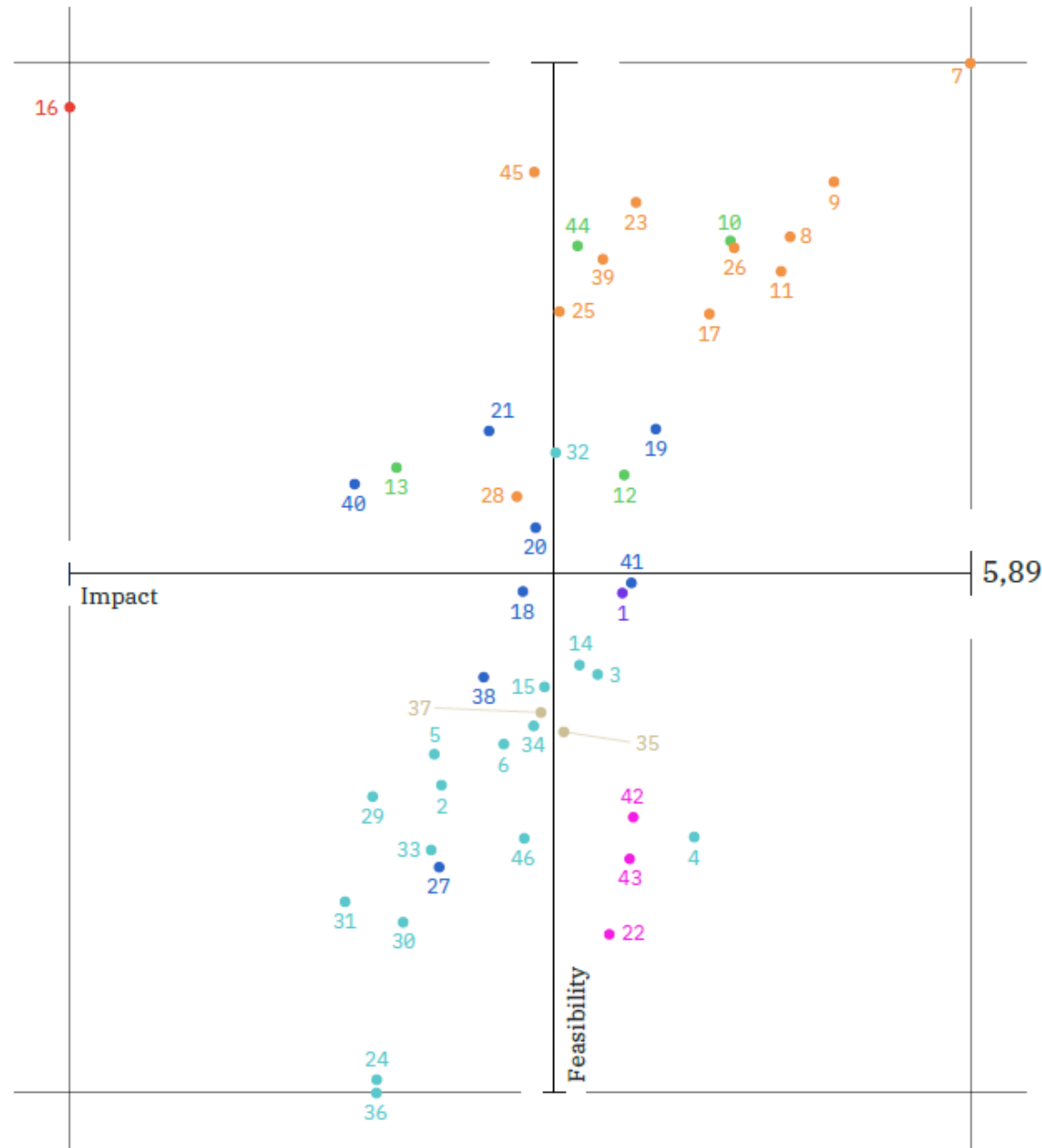


3

1

4

2





Impact

Low Priority
Feasible but not
perceived as
important

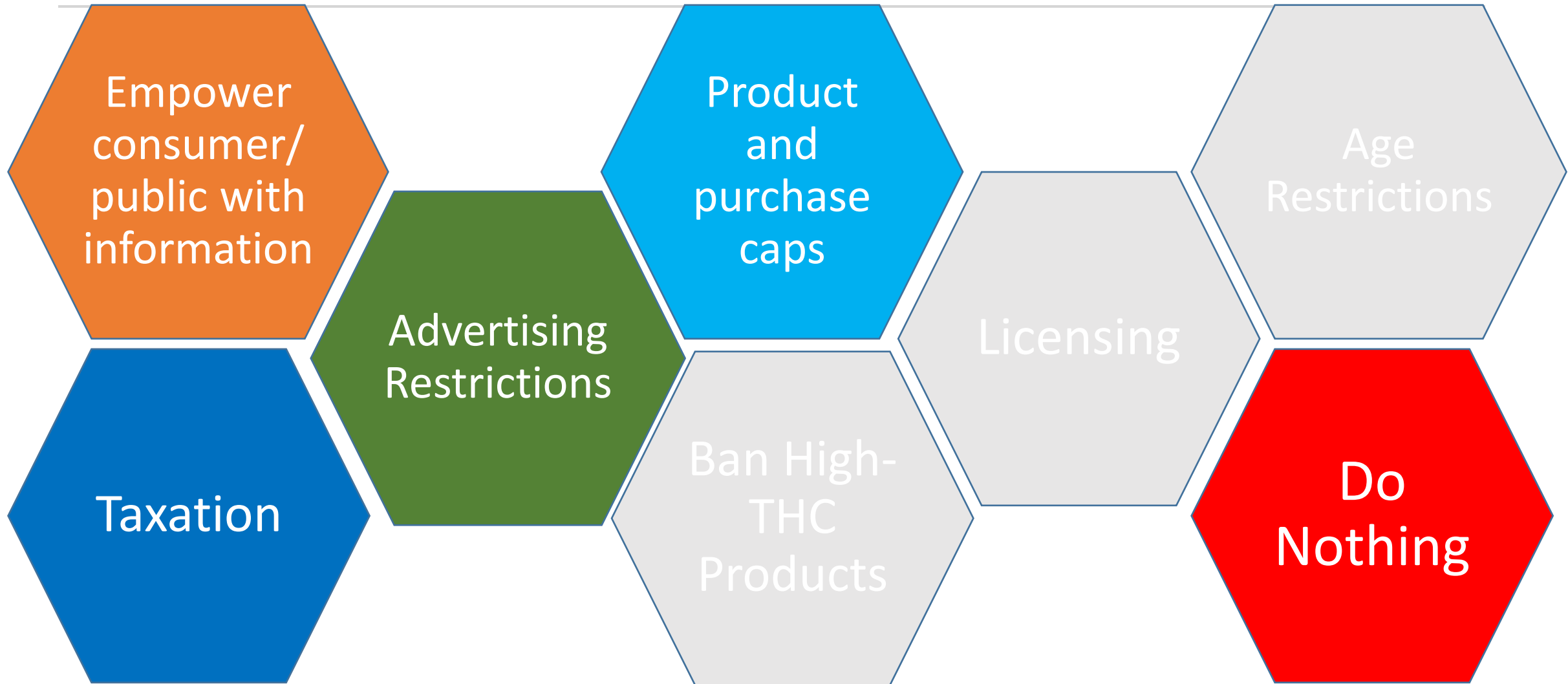
Go Zone!
IMPACTFUL AND
FEASIBLE

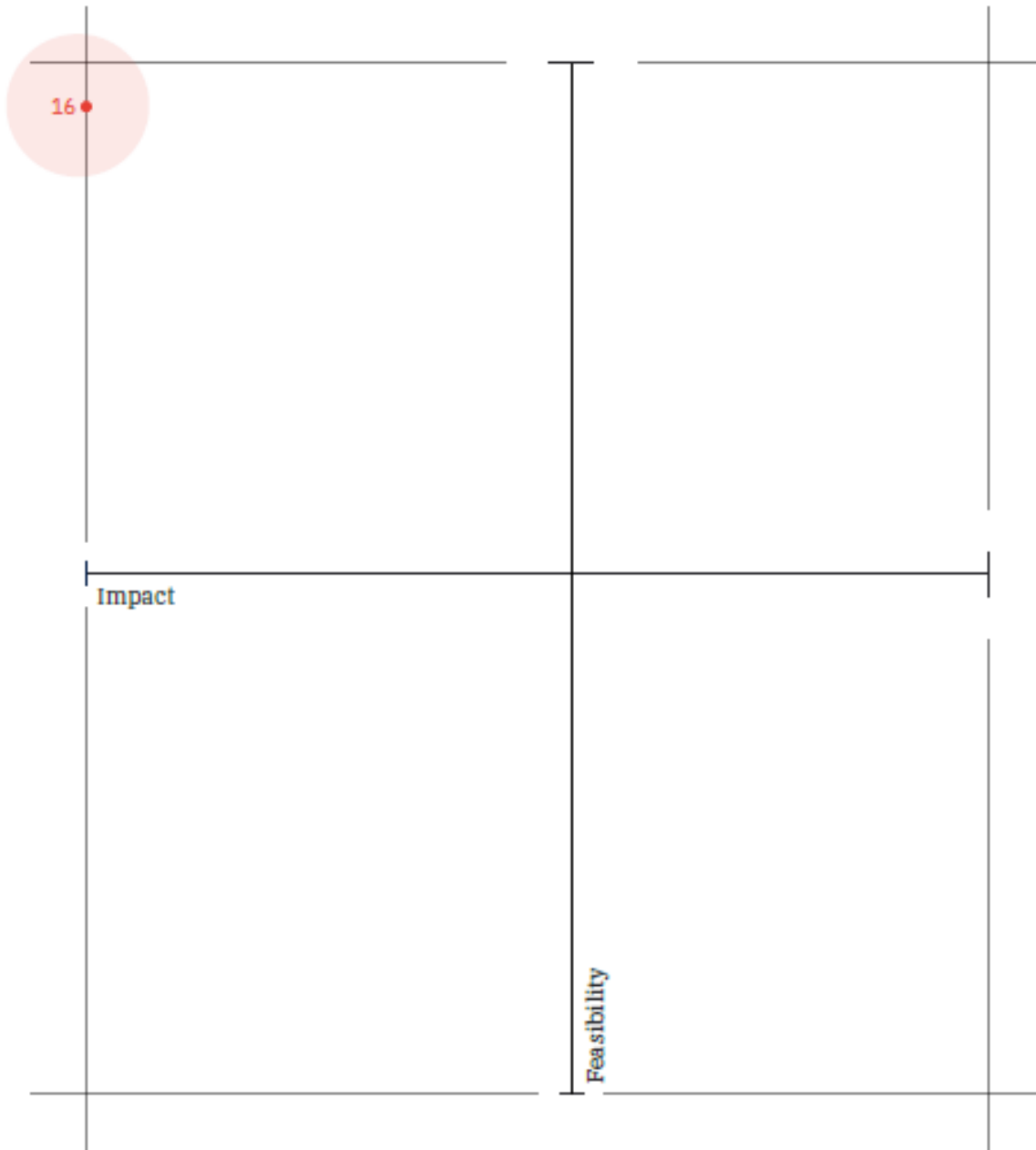
REMOVE
Low impact,
not feasible

To Explore
Impactful ideas
perceived as difficult
to implement

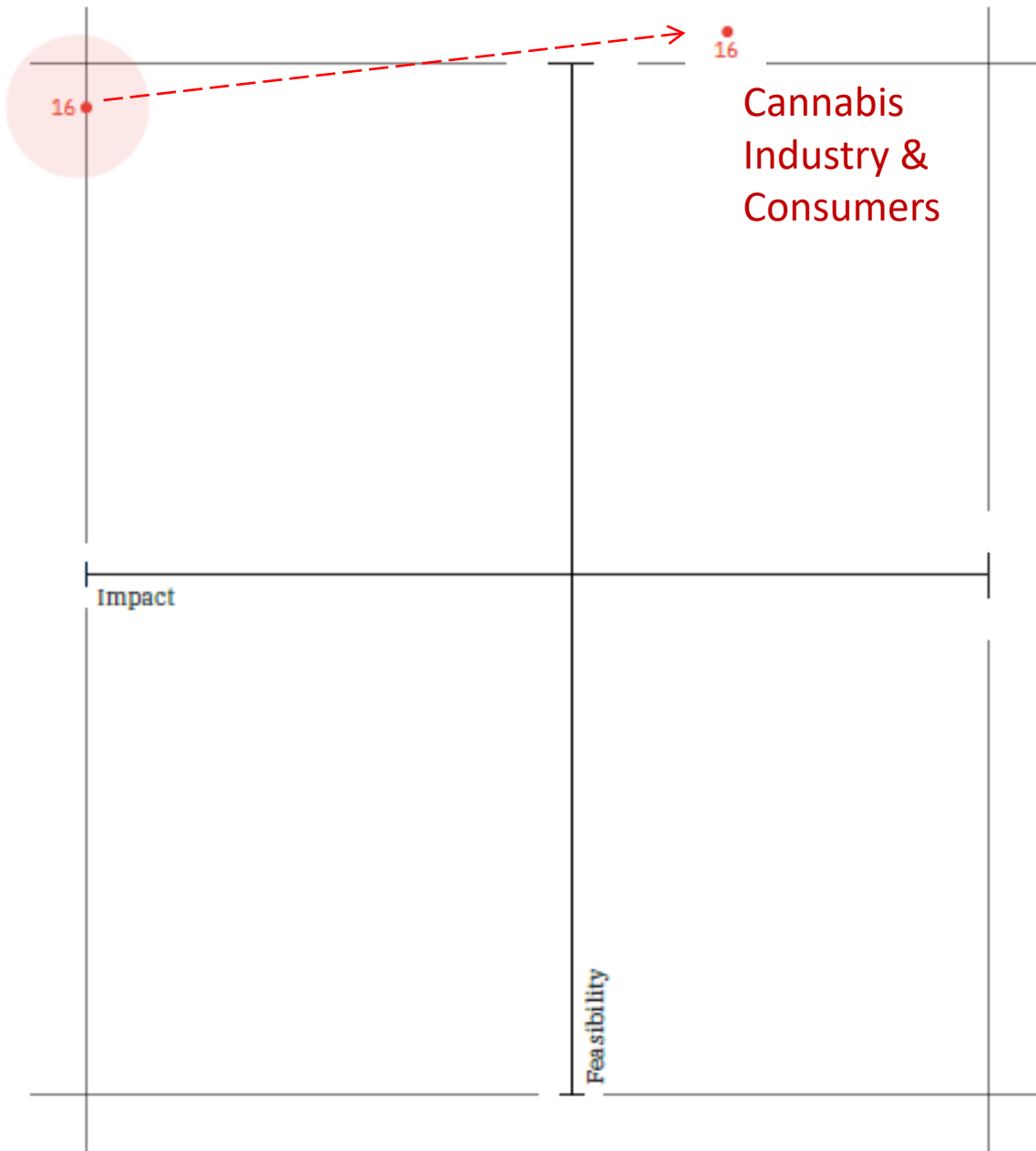
Stakeholders' perceptions
Ideas are plotted
on the go-zone
chart based on
the average
impact and
feasibility score
from all
participants

46 policy options were grouped into 7 Policy Areas





Do Nothing



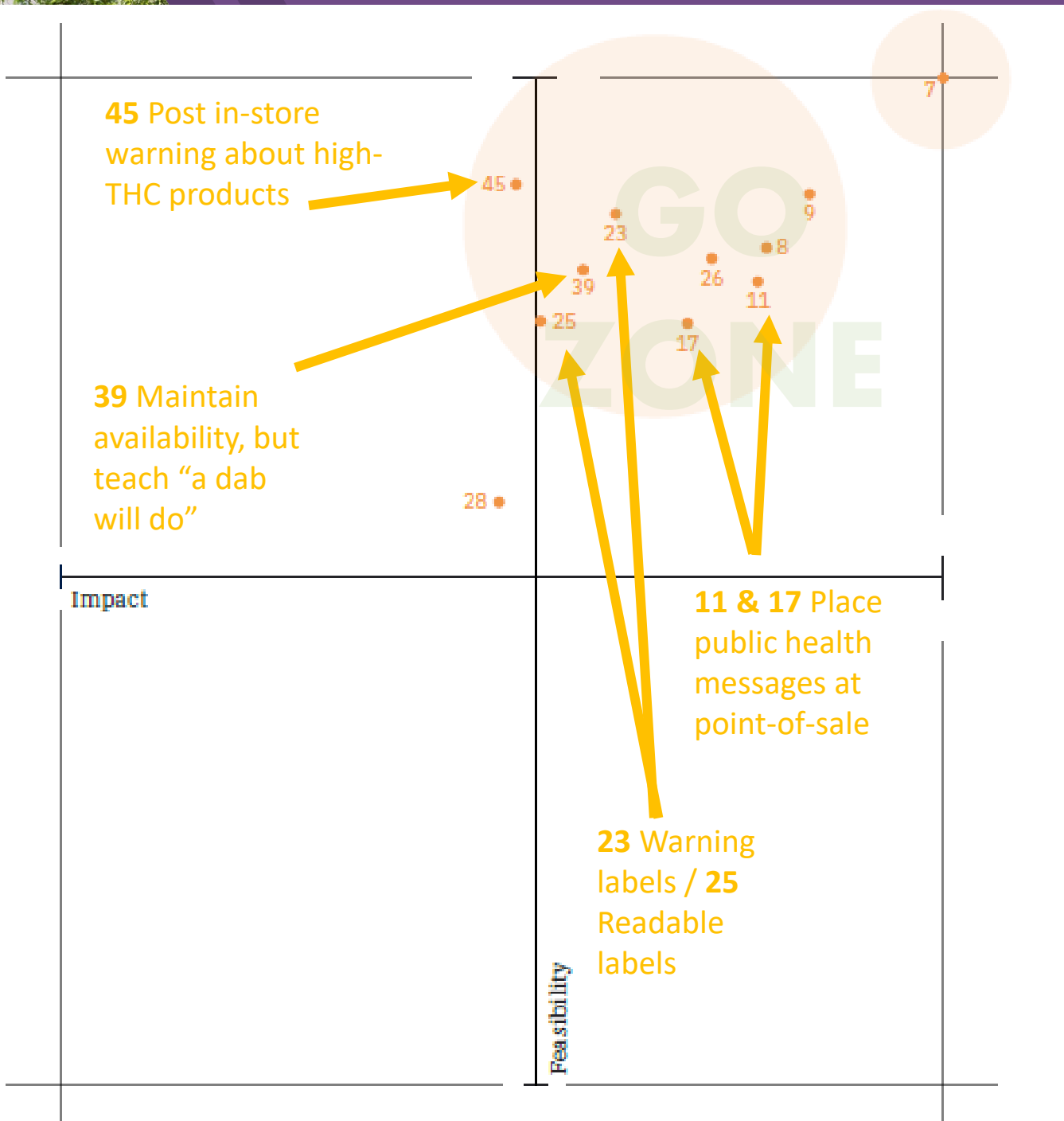
Do Nothing



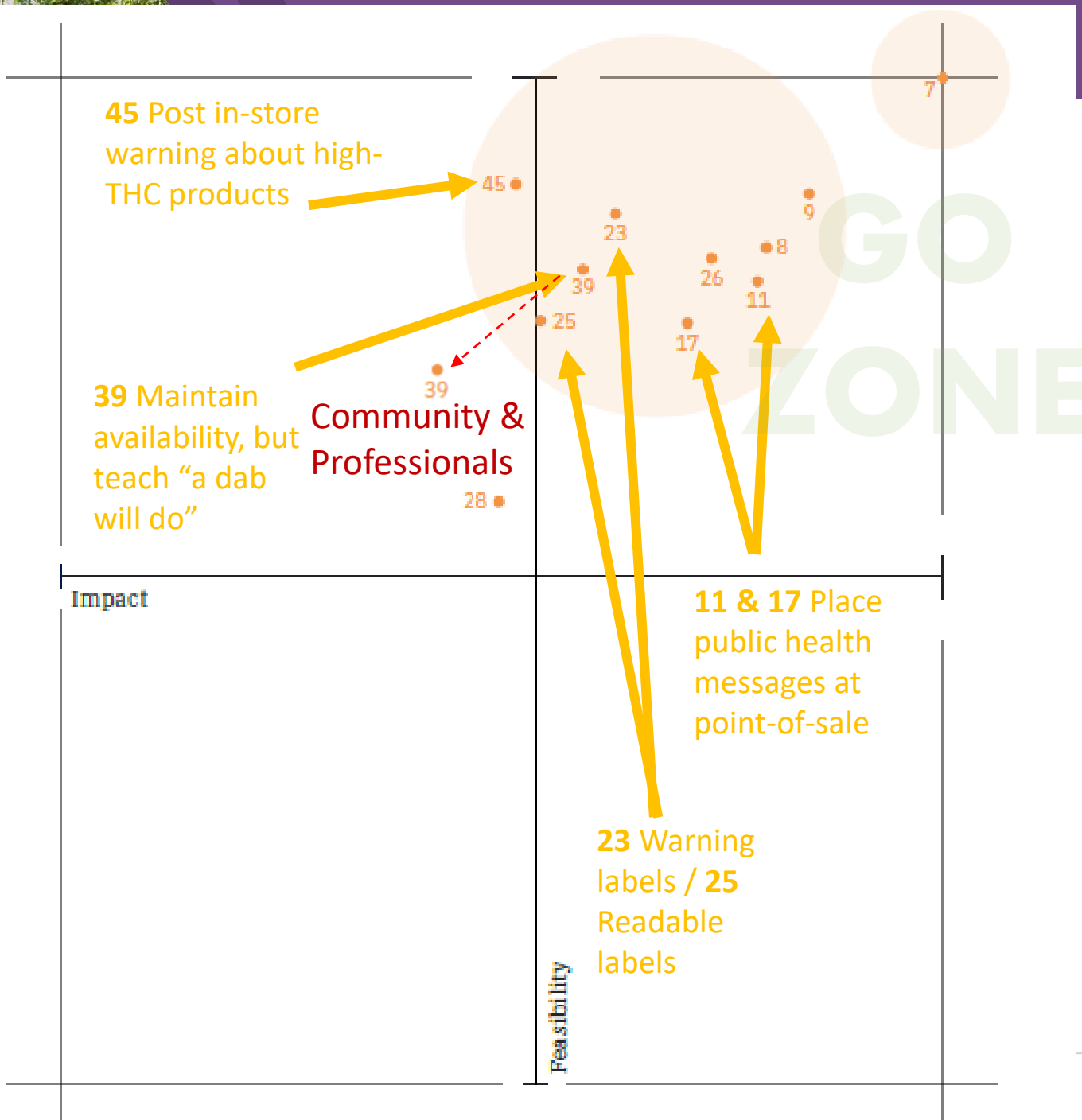
7 Education in schools and community centers (e.g., health class in school)

8, 9 & 26
Earmark cannabis tax for PSAs/ads and social media campaign explaining risks

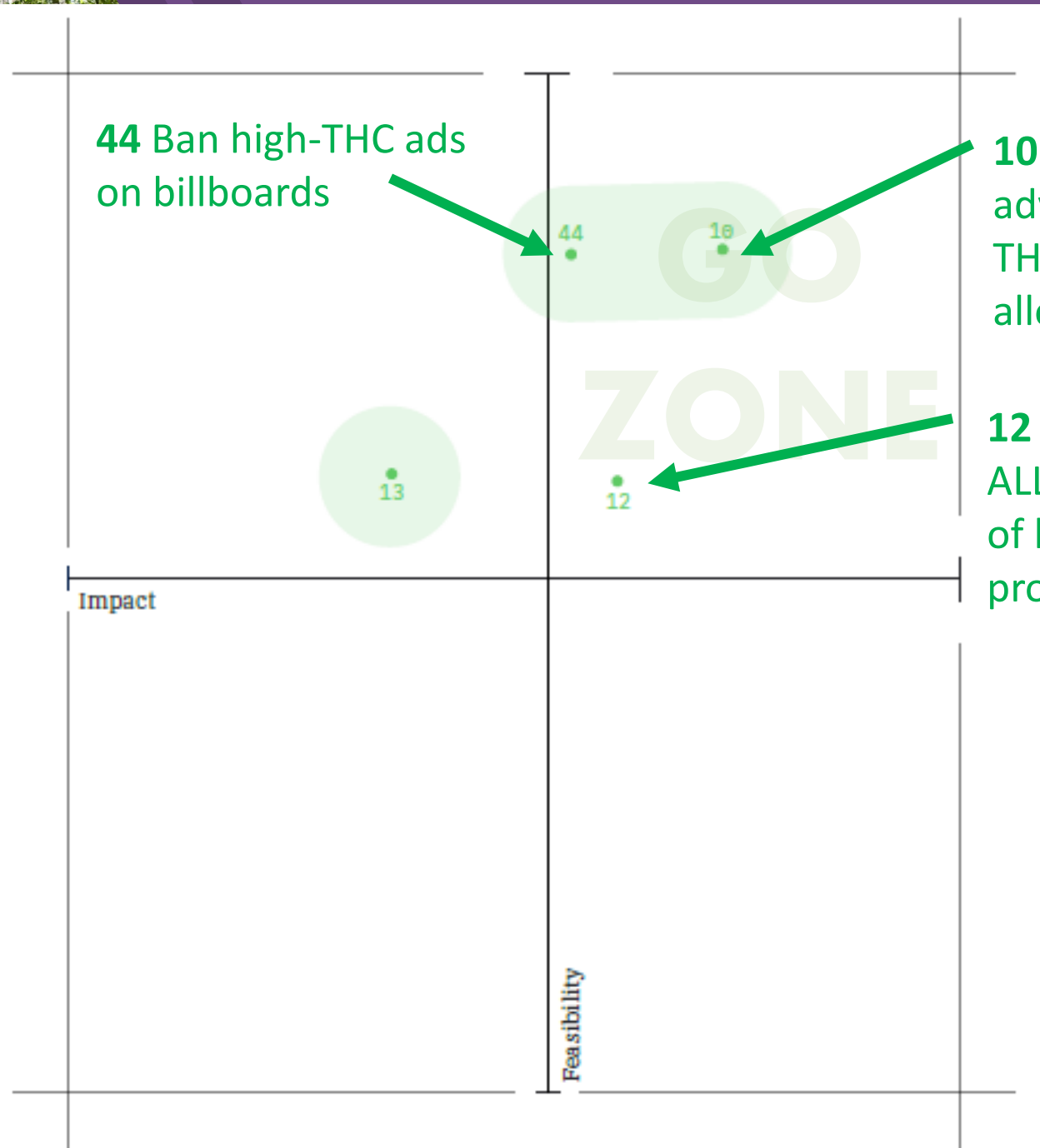
Empower the general public with information



Empower consumers with information



Empower consumers with information

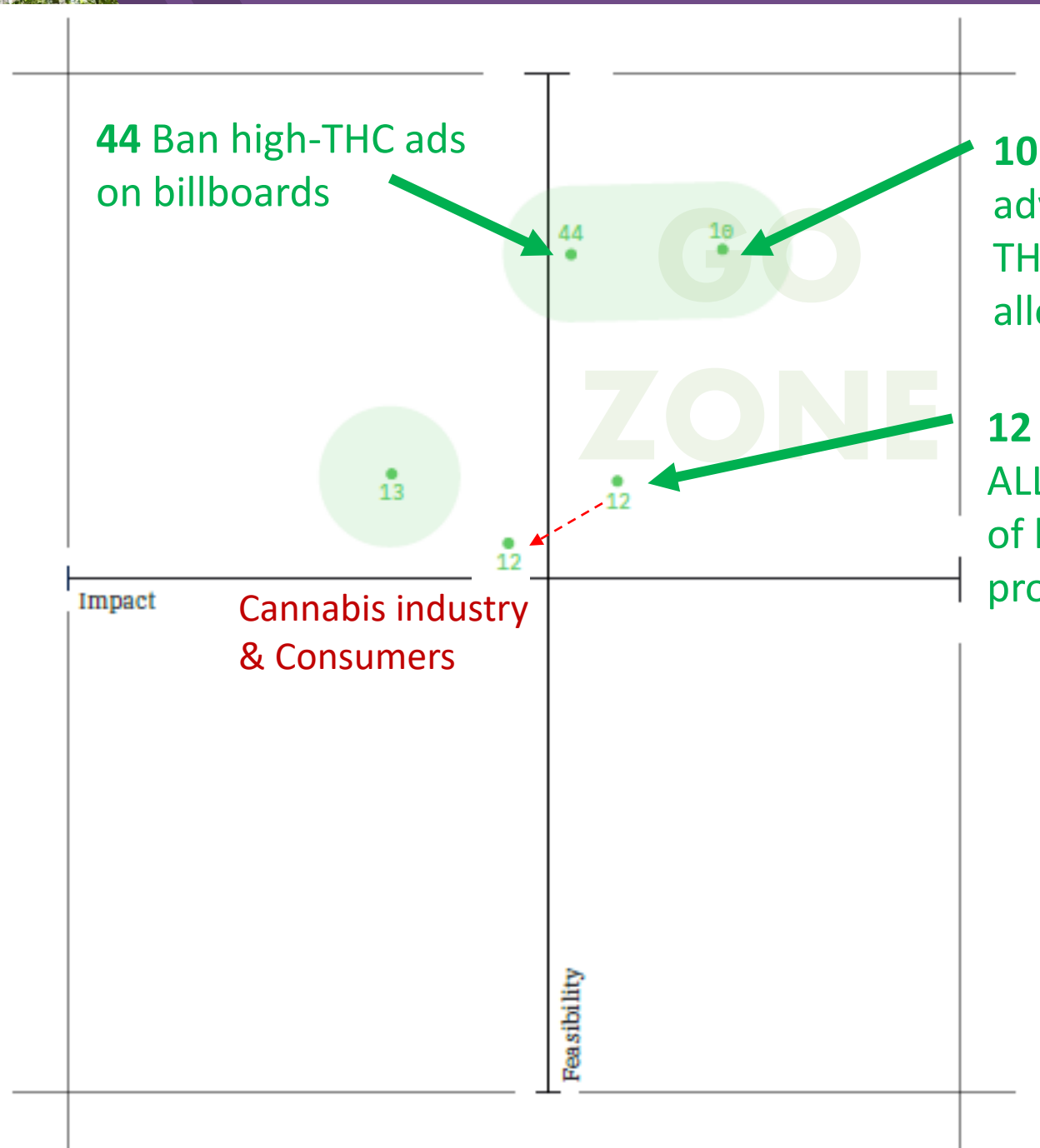


10 Restrict where advertising of high-THC products is allowed

12 Eliminate ALL advertising of high-THC products

44 Ban high-THC ads on billboards

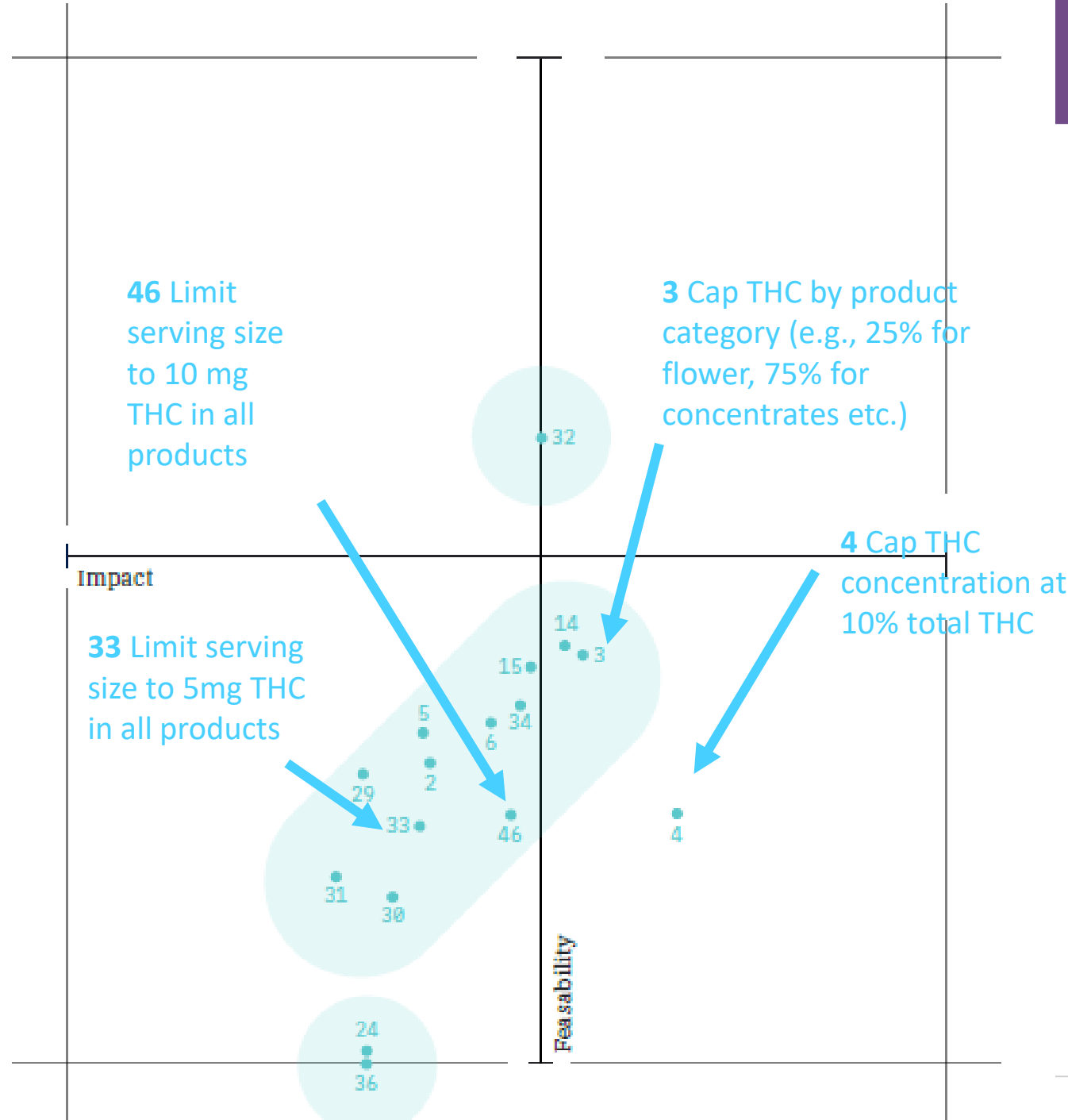
Advertising Restrictions



Advertising Restrictions

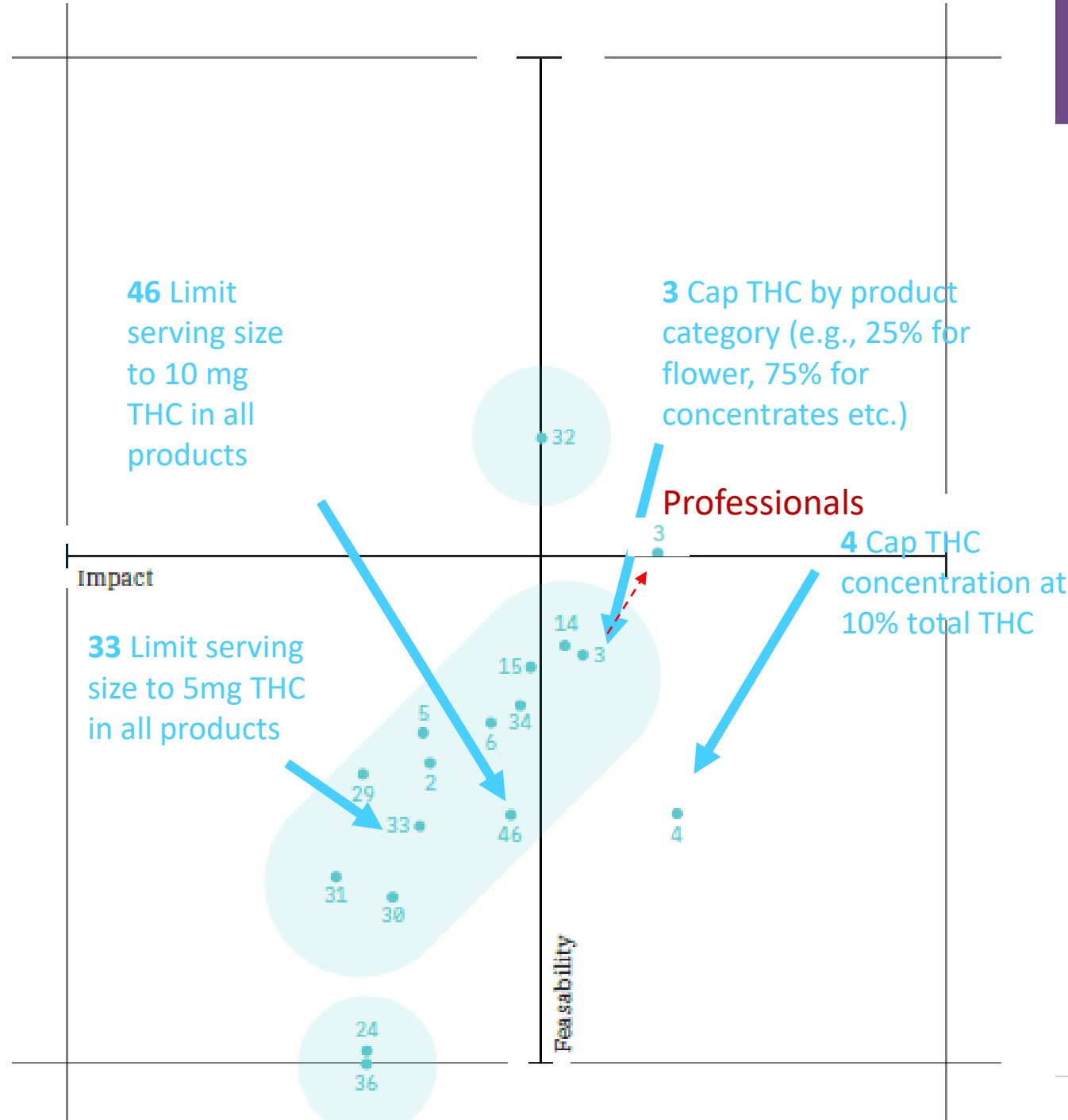


Purchase & Product Caps





Purchase & Product Caps





18 Tax based on
total THC by
weight (mg)

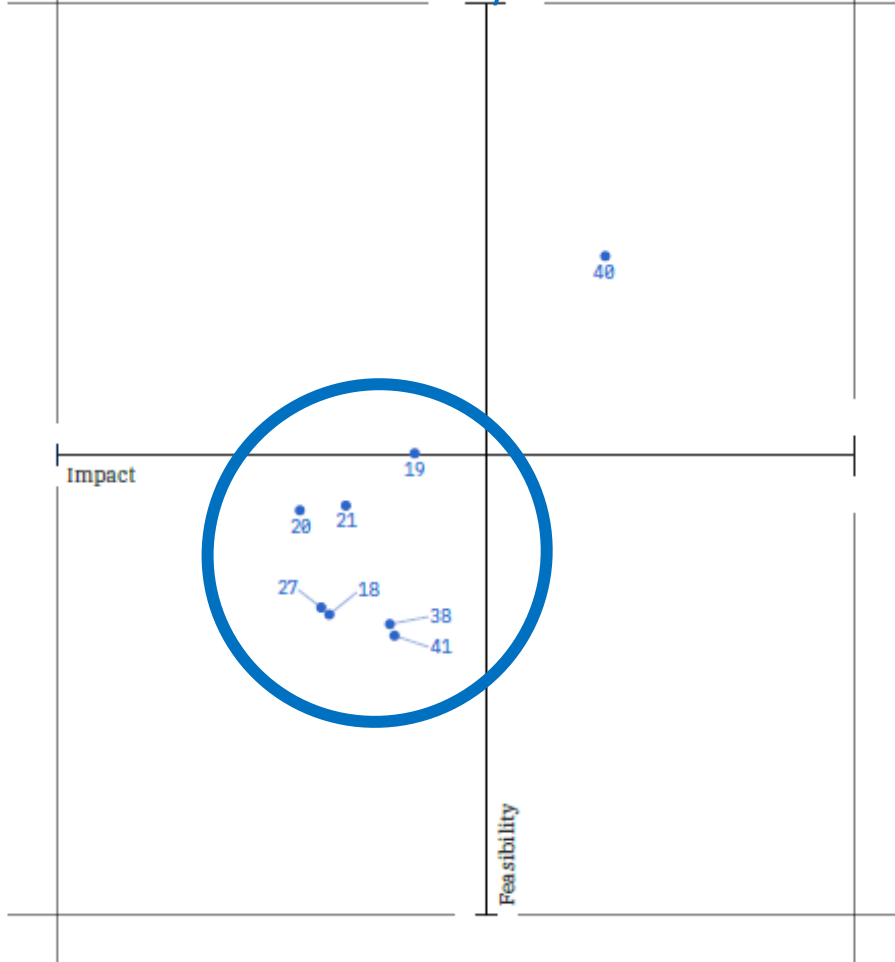
19 Increase taxes on
products >35% THC

41 Increase taxes on
products thought to
be harmful

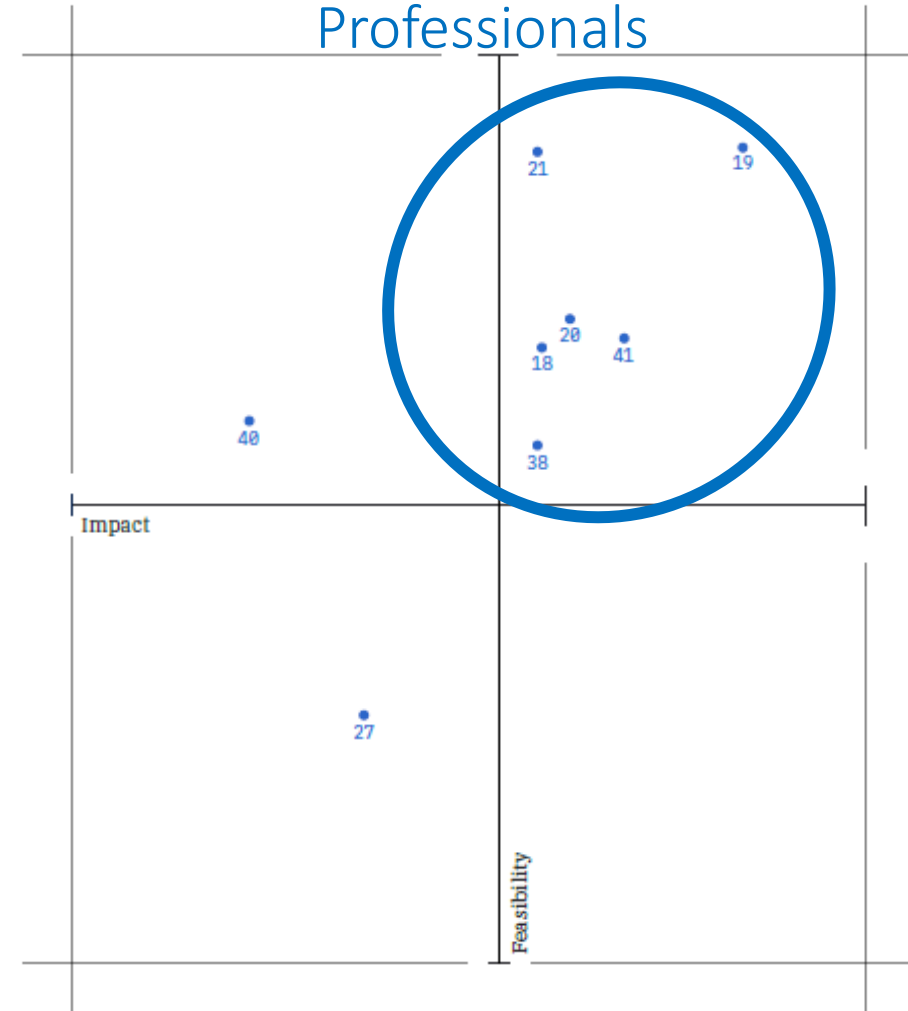
Taxation

Taxation

Cannabis Industry & Consumers



Professionals



Policy Implications

- Stakeholders in WA
 - Are concerned with High THC products for non-medical use
 - Support policy changes
- Policies supported include options that are backed by science and research
 - Consumer empowerment - Health warning labels, readable labels
 - Advertising Ban
 - Tax increase proportional to THC content/concentration for non-medical use

Acknowledgments

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Thanks!

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