



Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana

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MARIJUANA USE AND MENTAL ILLNESS [1]

The Rise in Marijuana's THC Levels Contributes to the Mental Illness of Marijuana Users

An article published in the British Journal of Psychiatry states:

It is now incontrovertible that heavy use of cannabis increases the risk of psychosis. There is a dose-response relationship and high potency preparations and synthetic cannabinoids carry the greatest risk. [2]

Marijuana products today can be up to 99% THC, the psychoactive chemical in marijuana. [3] The amount of THC in marijuana has been increasing steadily over the past few decades. The exposure to higher THC levels results in a greater chance of harmful reactions including mental illness. [4]

The risk of negative mental health effects is increased about 5 times by regular use of high potency marijuana. [5] While a psychotic reaction can occur following any method of use, emergency room responders see an increasing number of cases involving marijuana edibles. Some people (especially preteens and teens) don't realize that it takes longer for the body to feel marijuana's effects when eaten rather than smoked so they consume more of the edible, trying to get high faster or thinking they haven't taken enough. In addition, some babies and toddlers have been seriously ill after ingesting marijuana or marijuana edibles left around the house. [6]

This risk applies to "medical" marijuana use also. [7]

Young people and marijuana use

Young people with marijuana dependence have altered brain function that may be the source of emotional disturbances and increased psychosis risk that are associated with marijuana abuse. The alterations were most pronounced in people who started using marijuana at a young age. The findings reveal potential negative long-term effects of heavy marijuana use on brain function and behavior. [8]

Marijuana use during adolescence is strongly linked to: an increased presence of mental illness, including depression, anxiety and psychosis; impaired neurological development and cognitive decline; and diminished school performance and lifetime achievement. [9]

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Mental illnesses caused by marijuana use

Psychosis and Schizophrenia

Marijuana use can trigger psychotic symptoms (from observable clinical studies of purified THC) in 40% of people with no family history of psychosis. [10] Regular recreational marijuana users had psychotic disorders at a greater rate than any other recreational drug. More than cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, LSD, PCP, or alcohol. [11]

A study discussed in a 2017 article in Scientific American shows that people who had consumed marijuana before age 18 developed schizophrenia approximately 10 years earlier than others. The higher the frequency of use the earlier the age of schizophrenia onset. Neither alcohol use nor genetics predicted an earlier time of inception, but marijuana did. Marijuana use during puberty is a major risk factor for schizophrenia. The more marijuana you take - and the higher the potency - the greater the risk. [12]

A recent survey of the elements illustrating marijuana as a causal factor for psychosis was published in the journal Addiction. [13]

Suicide

The risk for suicide attempts has been shown to be increased 7 times in regular marijuana users, [14] and for completed suicides an increase as high as 5 times. [15]

Marijuana is the Number 1 substance now found in suicides of young people in Colorado who are 15-19 years old. [16]

Depression

Identical twin studies have demonstrated a clear impact that increases depression 2 times in the twin who uses marijuana. [17]

Bi-polar Disorder

A large longitudinal study showed an increased risk for symptoms of bipolar disorder. [18]

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

PTSD patients who used marijuana users were found to make less progress in overcoming their condition and were more likely to become violent. [19]

Anxiety

Marijuana use causes anxiety. [20]

Scientific Organization Reports

The 2016 United States Surgeon General report on addiction states that marijuana is a serious threat to the physical and mental health of our children and that its use is a major threat to public safety. [21]

The American Psychiatric Association reports that current evidence supports, at a minimum, a strong association of marijuana use with the onset of psychiatric disorders. “Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to harm, given the effects of cannabis on neurological development.” [22]

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) marijuana use has been linked to mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts among teens. [23]

In 2017, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) landmark report written by top scientists concluded, after a review of over 10,000 peer-reviewed academic articles, that marijuana use is connected to mental health issues (like psychosis, social anxiety, and thoughts of suicide) and learning, memory, and attention loss (possibly permanent in some cases). [24]

THC Medicines

Marinol, an FDA approved artificial THC medicine has a warning about mental illness and its use. Marinol is used to treat loss of appetite (anorexia) in people with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) who have lost weight and nausea and vomiting caused by anti-cancer medicine (chemotherapy). Marinol can cause serious side effects, including: worsening of mental (psychiatric) symptoms in people who have mania, depression, or schizophrenia and problems thinking clearly. [25]

Conclusion

There is no doubt that marijuana use causes or contributes to many forms of mental illness and neurological problems. [26]

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16. Go to the below Colorado website and click on the box that lists “methods, circumstances and toxicology” and then click on the two boxes for 15-19 years olds. The marijuana data will appear.

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