

## **A Synopsis of the Studies Supporting an Association between Marijuana Use and Violence**

### **Interpersonal violence in those who exhibit psychosis plus marijuana use:**

Fazel S, Gulati G, Linsell L, Geddes JR, Grann M. *Schizophrenia and violence: systematic review and meta-analysis. PLoS Med.* 2009 Aug;6(8):e1000120. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1000120. Epub 2009 Aug 11.

“The effect of comorbid substance abuse was marked with..... an OR of 8.9” (as compared to the general population)

Arseneault L, Moffitt TE, Caspi A, Taylor PJ, Silva PA. *Mental disorders and violence in a total birth cohort: results from the Dunedin Study. Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 2000;57(10):979-86.

“for having more than two of these disorders at once.....the OR (odds ratio for violence) was, .....for marijuana dependence plus schizophrenia spectrum disorder, 18.4”

Harris AW, Large MM, Redoblado-Hodge A, Nielssen O, Anderson J, Brennan J. *Clinical and cognitive associations with aggression in the first episode of psychosis. Aust N Z J Psychiatry.* 2010 Jan;44(1):85-93.

‘The use of cannabis with a frequency of more than fourfold in the previous month was the only factor that was found to be associated with serious aggression’

### **Interpersonal violence and violent traits in those who use marijuana but are not psychotic:**

Friedman AS, Glassman K, Terras BA. *Violent behavior as related to use of marijuana and other drugs. J Addict Dis.* 2001;20(1):49-72.

““Greater frequency of use of marijuana was found unexpectedly to be associated with a greater likelihood to commit weapons offenses;....Marijuana use was also found associated with commission of Attempted Homicide/Reckless Endangerment offenses.”  
Reckless Endangerment offenses.”

Norström T, Rossow I. *Cannabis use and violence: Is there a link? Scand J Public Health.* 2014 Jun;42(4):358-63. doi: 10.1177/1403494814525003. Epub 2014 Mar 7.

“Analysis of panel data on Norwegian youth reveals a statically significant association between cannabis use and violence”.

Kylie Lee KS, Sukavatvibul K, Conigrave KM. *Cannabis use and violence in three remote Aboriginal Australian communities: Analysis of clinic presentations. Transcult Psychiatry.* 2015 Jun 4. pii: 1363461515589047. [Epub ahead of print]

““Individuals who reported any current cannabis use were nearly 4 times more likely than nonusers to present at least once for violent trauma after adjusting for current alcohol use, age, and sex (OR=3.8, 95% CI [1.5, 9.8])”.

Reingle JM, Staras SA, Jennings WG, Branchini J, Maldonado-Molina MM. *The relationship between marijuana use and intimate partner violence in a nationally representative, longitudinal sample. J Interpers Violence.* 2012 May;27(8):1562-78. doi: 10.1177/0886260511425787. Epub 2011 Nov 11.

“Consistent marijuana use was a strong predictor of intimate partner violence for those who were both victims and perpetrators, independent of alcohol use and other risk factors.”

Feingold A, Kerr DC, Capaldi DM. Associations of substance use problems with intimate partner violence for at-risk men in long-term relationships. *J Fam Psychol.* 2008 Jun;22(3):429-38. doi: 10.1037/0893-3200.22.3.429.

“The substances yielding the largest effect on IPV (interpersonal violence) were cannabis and hallucinogens (in that order).....correlation (between IPV and alcohol) was nonsignificant after controlling for the problems with cannabis and other hard drugs.”

Wilkinson ST, Stefanovics E, Rosenheck RA. Marijuana use is associated with worse outcomes in symptom severity and violent behavior in patients with posttraumatic stress disorder. *J Clin Psychiatry.* 2015 Sep;76(9):1174-80. doi: 10.4088/JCP.14m09475.

“After we adjusted for relevant baseline covariates, marijuana use was significantly associated with worse outcomes in PTSD symptom severity ( $P < .01$ ), violent behavior ( $P < .01$ ), and measures of alcohol and drug use ( $P < .01$ ) when compared with stoppers and never-users. At follow-up, stoppers and never-users had the lowest levels of PTSD symptoms ( $P < .0001$ ), and starters had the highest levels of violent behavior ( $P < .0001$ ).”

Ansell EB, Laws HB, Roche MJ, Sinha R. Effects of marijuana use on impulsivity and hostility in daily life. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2015 Mar 1;148:136-42. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2014.12.029. Epub 2015 Jan 6.

“Marijuana was also associated with increased hostile behaviors and perceptions of hostility in others on the same day when compared to days when marijuana was not used....There were no significant effects of alcohol consumption on impulsivity or interpersonal hostility.”

Gruber SA, Silveri MM, Dahlgren MK, Yurgelun-Todd D. Why so impulsive? White matter alterations are associated with impulsivity in chronic marijuana smokers. *Exp Clin Psychopharmacol.* 2011 Jun;19(3):231-42. doi: 10.1037/a0023034.

“..higher levels of impulsivity in MJ smokers compared to healthy nonsmoking controls”