



The *new* face of Big Tobacco

Say NO to Big Marijuana in New Zealand

Same corporates.
Same objectives.
Same addiction.
New product.



FAMILY VIOLENCE & CHILD ABUSE

The image of the laid-back chilled pot smoker is deceptive. The mellowing effects of cannabis seem unsuited to promoting violent behaviour. However, research has linked marijuana use to increased violent behaviour. A certain percentage of people who use marijuana can become psychotic and violent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2018, researchers at Ohio and Tennessee Universities found that marijuana use was associated with psychological, physical, and sexual intimate partner violence, after controlling for alcohol use and problems, antisocial personality symptoms, and relationship satisfaction. A University of Florida study in 2011 found that frequent marijuana users in adolescence are twice as likely to engage in domestic violence as young adults. The same study showed this group were more than twice as likely to become *victims* of domestic violence.

Research published in 2016 in the journal *Psychological Medicine* concluded that continued use of cannabis causes violent behaviour as a direct result of changes in brain function that are caused by smoking weed over many years. The results showed that continued cannabis use is associated with 7-fold greater odds for subsequent commission of violent crimes.



Advertisement for marijuana



CHILD ABUSE

We know from a number of governmental reports (UNICEF reports in 2003 and 2007, a CYF report in 2006, and a Children's Commissioner report in 2009) that one of the factors most commonly associated with the maltreatment of children is drug abuse.

In 2018, **Texas** released a report on child abuse deaths, finding half the 172 child abuse deaths in 2017 coupled with substance abuse. Marijuana was the most used substance connected to child abuse and neglect deaths. In 2017, **Arizona** also published a report showing that marijuana was the substance most often linked to child abuse deaths in 2016.

It raises an important question – **is our relatively higher use of cannabis compared to other countries related to our horrific record when it comes to child abuse and family violence?**

EXAMPLE TO CHILDREN

When mothers use marijuana during the first 12 years of their child's life, their children are more likely to start using cannabis at an earlier age than children of non-using mothers, according to a study from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health published recently in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. This study is the first to establish a relationship between maternal cannabis use during a child's lifetime and earlier initiation in a nationally-representative, longitudinal cohort.

Read the examples of cases (both NZ-based and overseas) on our website.



For additional information, including source references:
SayNopeToDope.org.nz/family-violence-child-abuse

Correct as at time of printing. We welcome any documented corrections.