



The *new* face of Big Tobacco

Say NO to Big Marijuana in New Zealand

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



YOUNG PEOPLE

Our children need hope, not dope. Despite the claims of dope-industry lobbyists that legalisation will not affect young adult and youth use, the data shows that with legalisation and normalisation, people are increasing their rate of consumption.

False advertising of marijuana products as being “natural” and “healthier than alcohol and tobacco” have greatly decreased the perceived risk of harm related to marijuana use.

The problem with liberal drug policies like legalisation is that they centre upon the rights of the *user*, at the expense of the most vulnerable party in the community, the *child*.

Since **Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska,** and the **District of Columbia**

(Washington, DC) legalised marijuana, past-month use of the drug has continued to rise above the national average among youth aged 12–17 in all five jurisdictions (NSDUH, 2006-2017). Almost a third of all 18–25 year olds in legal states used marijuana in the past month, up from around one-fifth 10 years ago.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, and educational measures to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as defined in relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

Article 33 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



EFFECT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

New Zealand has some of the richest data on the adverse consequences of cannabis use coming from two major studies: the Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS) and the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study (DMHDS).

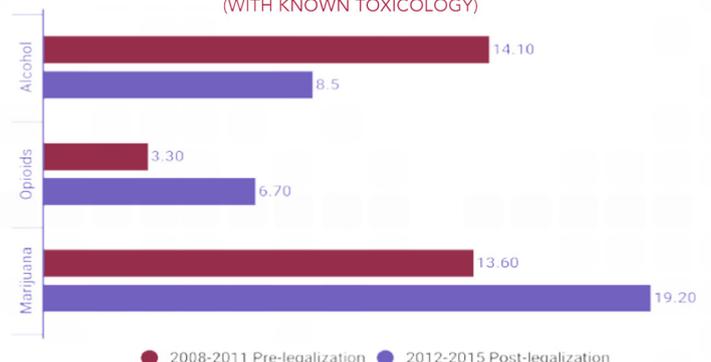
The CHDS showed that the use of cannabis was associated with increased risks of a number of adverse outcomes including: educational delay (dropping out of school, and subsequent unemployment); welfare dependence; increased risks of psychotic symptoms; major depression; increased risks of motor vehicle accidents; increased risks of tobacco use; increased risks of other illicit drug use; and respiratory impairment. These effects were most evident for young (under 18-year-old) users and could not be explained by social demographic and contextual factors associated with cannabis use.

MENTAL HEALTH

Direct associations have been made between the frequency of marijuana use and higher THC potency with the development of mental health issues (psychosis, depression, anxiety, suicidality, reshaping of brain matter, and addiction).

Daily marijuana use among youth who begin before the age of 17 significantly increases the risk of suicide attempts. Researchers led by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales (and including New Zealand researchers) analysed results of three large, long-running studies from Australia and New Zealand involving nearly 3,800 people.

AVERAGE TOXICOLOGY OF SUICIDES AMONG ADOLESCENTS AGES 10-19 YEARS OLD (WITH KNOWN TOXICOLOGY)



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Violent Death Reporting System

Image Source: Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)



Teenagers who start smoking cannabis daily before the age of 17 are **seven times more likely to commit suicide**, a study has found. Colorado toxicology reports show the percentage of adolescent suicide victims testing positive for marijuana has increased since legalisation.

This data should be of huge concern to us in New Zealand as we battle high teenage suicide rates and mental illness amongst teenagers.



Marijuana products

HOSPITALISATION

The number of teenagers sent to emergency rooms more than quadrupled after marijuana was legalised in Colorado — mostly for mental health symptoms, researchers reported in 2017.

In the UK, more than 15,000 teenage hospital admissions have taken place over the past five years as a result of taking cannabis - some of whom were rushed to hospital suffering from serious psychosis. The levels of admissions in England have jumped by more than 50% since 2013.

“There is no question marijuana can be addictive; that argument is over. The most important thing right now is to understand the vulnerability of young, developing brains to these increased concentrations of cannabis.”

Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse

EFFECT ON TEEN ATTITUDES TO DRUGS

A 2017 survey found that one in four US high school seniors would try marijuana or use it more often **if it was legal** – the highest in the 43-year history of the *Monitoring the Future* survey. The current illegality of the drug sends an important societal message to young people.

HIDDEN BIG MARIJUANA PRODUCTS

The cannabis market is evolving in ways which make it different from the tobacco and alcohol markets. Myriad cannabis products (e.g., edibles, concentrates, infusions, tinctures, lotions, and butters) are available and heavily marketed. These products can be smoked, eaten, vaped, or used topically. Many of these products are easily transportable and readily concealed or disguised. One recent study showed increased use by 14-18 year olds of newer forms of consumption – vaping and edibles. Students say vaping is everywhere and ‘it’s easy to hide’.

Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that nearly 1 in 11 middle and high school students used marijuana in e-cigarette devices. In legal states people can buy cartridges of high-potency cannabis oil that fit into many e-cigarette devices. A US study in 2018 found that teens who used e-cigarettes and hookah were up to **four times more likely** to use marijuana later.

A RAND Corporation study recently published by the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* found that adolescents who view more advertising for medical marijuana are more likely to use marijuana, express intentions to use the drug and have more-positive expectations about the substance.

PATHWAY TO OTHER DRUGS

In 2017 researchers examined data from 17,000 youth aged 12-17 who participated in the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Compared with youth *without* past-month marijuana use, youth with past-month marijuana use were **9.9 times more likely** to report past-month use of other illicit drugs. And the Christchurch Health and Development Study found that regular or heavy cannabis use was associated with an increased risk of using other illicit drugs, abusing or becoming dependent upon other illicit drugs, and using a wider variety of other illicit drugs.



Image Source: THCPHOTOS.ORG

For additional information, including source references:
SayNopeToDope.org.nz/young-people

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