



The *new* face of Big Tobacco

Say NO to Big Marijuana in New Zealand

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



HEALTH HARMS

According to virtually every scientific review, including a 2016 World Health Organisation (WHO) report and a 2017 National Academy of Sciences study, marijuana is addictive and harmful – despite rhetoric from the marijuana industry.



“Recreational’ drug use is a misnomer - put a ‘w’ on the front and you’d be closer to the truth.”

- former Wellington coroner Garry Evans

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). Links to lung damage and serious cardiovascular problems have also been found (hypertension, myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, stroke, and cardiac arrest). Marijuana use during pregnancy has been shown to negatively affect the cognitive development of children by increasing their risk of hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inability to focus.

Chronic adolescent marijuana use has been correlated with cognitive impairment and a decreased ability to do well in work or school. Colorado toxicology reports show the percentage of adolescent suicide victims testing positive for marijuana has increased.

RESPIRATORY

In 2007, NZ scientists determined that smoking 1 joint of marijuana was comparable to the effects on airflow obstruction of between 2.5 – 5 tobacco cigarettes, *“Adverse effects [of marijuana] on lung function is of major public health significance,”* the study authors warned.

PSYCHOSIS

In 2011, Australian researchers said; *“The results of meta-analysis ...support the hypothesis that cannabis use plays a causal role in the development of psychosis in some patients. The results suggest the need for renewed warnings about the potentially harmful effects of cannabis.”*

LUNG CANCER

Scientists from the Medical Research Institute of NZ concluded: *“Long-term cannabis use increases the risk of lung cancer in young adults.”* According to the British Lung Foundation, *“Smoking three or four marijuana joints is as bad for your lungs as smoking twenty tobacco cigarettes.”* THC, the primary psychoactive ingredient of cannabis, decreases the function of immune system cells that

help protect the lungs from infection.

HEART HEALTH

People who use marijuana may be three times more likely to die from high blood pressure than non-users of the drug.

HOSPITALISATION

The yearly rate of emergency department visits in **Colorado** related to marijuana **increased 52%** after the legalisation of recreational marijuana (2012 compared to 2016). The yearly rate of marijuana-related hospitalisations **increased 148%**. Calls to **poison control centers** have risen 210%. **Washington** has seen a 70% increase in calls between the three-year averages before and after legalisation. **Central Oregon** hospitals saw a nearly 2,000% increase in emergency room visits due to marijuana poisoning.

Here in **New Zealand**, Ministry of Health figures gained under the Official Information Act in November 2018 show that 73 children (aged 0-14) have been hospitalised in the past five years either for poisoning or for mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of cannabis. For all ages, more than 2,200 have been hospitalised for cannabis alone. This will only increase if marijuana is legalised.

“Consistent evidence has shown that cannabis use almost always precedes the use of other illicit drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine, hallucinogens (including LSD and ecstasy), illegally obtained prescription drugs, and opiates, such as heroin or morphine.”

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime): *Cannabis A Short Review* (2012)

For additional information, including source references:

[SayNopeToDope.org.nz/health-harms](https://saynope.to.dope.org.nz/health-harms)

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