



The *new* face of Big Tobacco

Say NO to Big Marijuana in New Zealand

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



NZ-BASED RESEARCH

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 Christchurch study of a cohort of 1265 children born in 1977 has now published 30 scientific papers on the issue of cannabis. This research shows that:

- 15% of cannabis users developed a pattern of heavy use and dependence at some point.
- The use of cannabis was associated with increased risks of a number of adverse outcomes including: **educational delay; 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 18y/o) users.
- Adolescents who smoke marijuana every weekend over a 2-year period are nearly 6-times more likely to drop out of school than non-smokers, more than 3-times less likely to enter university than non-smokers, and more than 4-times less likely to earn a college degree.
- 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.

“Cannabis use in adolescence, when the brain is undergoing critical development, may have neurotoxic effects.”

Dunedin study lead author

EARLIER AGE OF USE CORRELATES WITH INCREASED SCHIZOPHRENIA RISK

Risk multiple for schizophrenia-like psychosis at age 26

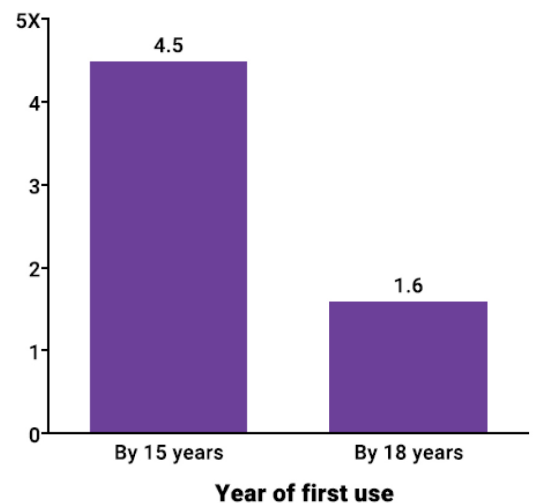


Image Source: Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)

The Dunedin-based study, which followed 1,037 individuals born in Dunedin from birth (1972/1973), found that using marijuana regularly before age 18 resulted in an average IQ of 6-8 fewer points at age 38 relative to those who did not use marijuana before age 18. This was still true for teens who used marijuana regularly but stopped using the drug after the age of 18.

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. **Teenagers who start smoking cannabis daily before the age of 17 are seven times more likely to commit suicide.**

In 2007, NZ scientists studied 339 marijuana and cigarette smokers, and determined that smoking **one 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. They also examined 79 cases of lung cancer and 324 control patients and concluded: “Long-term cannabis use increases the risk of lung cancer in young adults.”

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

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