Cannabis, Mental Illness, and Violence

A generation of evidence (from all over the world, in the world’s best peer-reviewed medical journals)
The first major study: Sweden, 1987


Relative risk of schizophrenia, based on uses at time of conscription (~ age 18)
Relative risk of schizophrenia or related disorders, based on cannabis use at age 15
...And mounts: Five European cities, 2019

Relative risk of psychotic disorders, based on use of >10% THC cannabis (after adjustments for other risk factors)
Warnings from American public health authorities

The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017: Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychoses; the higher the use the greater the risk.

The United States Surgeon General, 2019: Higher doses of THC are more likely to produce anxiety, agitation, paranoia, and psychosis...
Marijuana use is also linked to risk for and early onset of psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia.
Evidence linking cannabis to violence is also rising...
In people both with and without psychotic conditions

- Mental disorders and violence in a total birth cohort: results from the Dunedin Study. (Arch Gen Psychiatry, 2000 Oct;57(10):979-86.)
- Cannabis use and violent behaviour: a psychiatric patients cohort study in Southern Italy (Riv Psichiatr 2013; 48(1): 43-50 43)
- Cannabis, a significant risk factor for violence in the early phase psychosis https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyt.2018.00294/full
- Marijuana use is associated with intimate partner violence perpetration among men arrested for domestic violence https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5663469/
- Race and Ethnicity, Substance Use, and Physical Aggression Among U.S. High School Students Journal of Interpersonal Violence 28(7) 1367 –1384
- The role of marijuana in homicide https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8144275
- Psychiatric Characteristics of Homicide Defendants (Am J Psychiatry 2013; 170:994–1002) (See table 1 - 32% of a sample of 270 homicide defendants in Pittsburgh had cannabis use disorder)
- Predictors of violence in young tourists: a comparative study of British, German and Spanish holidaymakers European Journal of Public Health, Vol. 18, No. 6, 569–574