

***Teen Cannabis Use Linked to Poor  
Educational Outcomes, Suicide Attempts***

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Cannabis use in the mid-teen years is associated with numerous poor outcomes by young adulthood, according to an analysis of data from three longitudinal studies, published in the Lancet Psychiatry.

The analysis included up to 3800 youths in Australia and New Zealand who reported on cannabis use before age 17 and then were followed until ages 27-30. After multivariable adjustment, even using cannabis less than once a month was associated with lower educational attainment, suicide attempts, and use of other illicit drugs, relative to no use.

Outcomes worsened as cannabis use increased: daily use was associated with roughly a 60% reduced likelihood of graduating high school or earning a college degree, as well as nearly an 18-fold increased risk for later cannabis dependence, 8-fold risk for use of other drugs, and 7-fold risk for suicide attempt.

LINK(S):

Lancet Psychiatry article (Free abstract)

Background: NEJM Journal Watch Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine summary on brain changes in young cannabis users (Your NEJM Journal Watch subscription required)