

Psychosis & Cannabis

Ashley Wilson, MA/LPA Western State Hospital Pre-Doctoral Psychology Intern



Articles Reviewed

Association between cannabis use disorder and schizophrenia stronger in young males than in females Hjorthøj et al., 2023 Does a history of cannabis use influence onset and course of schizophrenia?

Allebeck et al., 2022

•

02

04



O1

Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Cannabis Use-Related Adverse Psychosis Outcomes: A Public Mental Health-Oriented Evidence Review Fischer et al., 2023

The association between reasons for first using cannabis, later pattern of use, and risk of first-episode psychosis Spinazzola et al., 2023



Association between cannabis use disorder and schizophrenia stronger in young males than in females

Hjorthøj et al., 2023

- Danish individuals age 16 49
- 6,907,859 Total Individuals
 - 45,327 Cases of Schizophrenia
- Strong association between CUD & Schizophrenia for both males & females
- Adjusted Incidence Risk Ratio for males is more than twice that for females
- CUD not responsible for most schizophrenia
 cases in Denmark

Does a history of cannabis use influence onset and course of schizophrenia?

Allebeck et al., 2022

- Swedish Individuals with Schizophrenia
 - $\Box \quad \text{Cannabis History } (n = 32)$
 - □ Without (*n* = 128)
- Those with Cannabis History
 - Earlier age of onset
 - Higher number of hospitalizations
 - Higher number of total hospital days
- No significant difference in type of onset or symptom profiles





Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Cannabis Use-Related Adverse Psychosis Outcomes: A Public Mental Health-Oriented Evidence Review

Fischer et al., 2023

- **Recommendation 1:** Family History
- Recommendation 2: Early Onset/Age < 16 years
- **Recommendation 3:** Medical-grade, low THC options
- Recommendation 4: Decrease Frequency
- **Recommendation 5:** Method of Consumption (smoke, dab, edibles)
- **Recommendation 6:** Additional Substance Use
- Recommendation 7/8/9: Stop use if experiencing or being treated for psychosis
- Recommendation 10: Multiple risk factors (genetic & trauma) don't use



The association between reasons for first using cannabis, later pattern of use, and risk of first-episode psychosis

Spinazzola et al., 2023

- European Gene-Environment Interaction Study
 - **FEPp:** First Episode Psychosis (*n* = 558)
 - **Controls:** Population control with reasons for

first cannabis use data (n = 567)

- "Because of friends"
 - **FEP**p: 75.63%
 - Controls: 86.1%
- □ "To feel better" (20.1% of FEPp & 5.8% of Controls)
 - Heavier use
 - Psychotic Disorder



References

Allebeck, P., Gunnarsson, T., Lundin, A., Löfving, S., Dal, H., & Zammit, S. (2023). Does a history of cannabis use influence onset and course of schizophrenia?. *Acta psychiatrica Scandinavica*, *147*(6), 614–622. https://doi.org/10.1111/acps.13562

Fischer, B., Hall, W., Fidalgo, T. M., Hoch, E., Foll, B. L., Medina-Mora, M. E., ... Jutras-Aswad, D. (2023).
 Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Cannabis Use-Related Adverse Psychosis
 Outcomes: A Public Mental Health-Oriented Evidence Review. *Journal of Dual Diagnosis*, 19(2–3), 71–96. https://doi.org/10.1080/15504263.2023.2226588

Hjorthøj, C., Compton, W., Starzer, M., Nordholm, D., Einstein, E., Erlangsen, A., ... Han, B. (2023). Association between cannabis use disorder and schizophrenia stronger in young males than in females. *Psychological Medicine*, *53*(15), 7322–7328. doi:10.1017/S0033291723000880



Spinazzola, E., Quattrone, D., Rodriguez, V., Trotta, G., Alameda, L., Tripoli, G., ... Di Forti, M. (2023). The association between reasons for first using cannabis, later pattern of use, and risk of first-episode psychosis: the EU-GEI case–control study. *Psychological Medicine*, *53*(15), 7418–7427. doi:10.1017/S0033291723001071