

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Cannabis update... use increases as research highlights after affects

Scientists in New Zealand have found that Smoking a joint is equivalent to 20 cigarettes in terms of lung cancer risk, as they warned of an "epidemic" of lung cancers linked to cannabis. Studies in the past have demonstrated that cannabis can cause cancer, but few have established a strong link between cannabis use and the actual incidence of lung cancer. In an **article published in the European Respiratory Journal**, the scientists said cannabis could be expected to harm the airways more than tobacco as its smoke contained **twice the level of carcinogens, such as polyaromatic hydrocarbons**, compared with tobacco cigarettes.

The method of smoking also increases the risk, since joints are typically **smoked without a proper filter and almost to the very tip**, which increases the amount of smoke inhaled. The cannabis smoker inhales more deeply and for longer, facilitating the deposition of carcinogens in the airways. Cannabis smokers end up with **five times more carbon monoxide in their bloodstream** than tobacco smokers. Full report @ <http://erj.ersjournals.com/cgi/content/abstract/31/2/280>

Eighty per cent of patients newly diagnosed with schizophrenia and other psychiatric illnesses are heavy users of cannabis, scientists have warned ministers. The shocking figure emerged in a **dossier submitted to Whitehall drug advisers** as Gordon Brown weighs up whether or not to reverse Labour's policy of downgrading cannabis.

Psychiatrists have warned that children as young as 10 or 11 are now smoking cannabis and are trebling their chances of developing schizophrenia. Cannabis use among young offenders has increased by up to 75 per cent in just three years that means nine out of ten teenage criminals have been using the drug.

Much of it has come in the four years since David Blunkett decided to reclassify cannabis from Class B to Class C, so that most users caught by police no longer face arrest or a criminal record. The Prime Minister ordered a review of that policy last summer following years of warnings that stronger "skunk" varieties of cannabis are wreaking havoc on users'

These figures come from a survey for local Youth Offending Teams, which run probation and attempt reform of teenage criminals. **Darren Johnson, of the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers**, said that in some areas cannabis use was "out of control". **A Home Office spokesman** said there had been a steady fall in cannabis use across all age ranges.

The PPP comments... 4 years ago we said

'The health problems arising from such a policy will obviously be long term and very significant. The long-term health consequences of Cannabis are only just becoming clear'.

And 3 years ago we said

The key point is that cannabis use leads on to hard drug use AND lung cancer. Tobacco and Alcohol abuse are also major problems far greater than cannabis BUT that is no reason to ignore cannabis or encourage it's use by it's classification.

The drug is used to change the users perception of reality (for the better they hope!). Why should we be surprised that it damages the unbelievably beautiful and intricate network of neurons that defines both who and where we are!!

Similarly for tobacco tars and crap destroying the amazingly effective oxygen/blood interchange process in the lung would you stick your head over a bonfire and take a deep breath!!