

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Smoking just one cannabis joint raises danger of mental illness by 40%

From the the Daily Mail ...There are great risks in smoking cannabis, a new report has revealed. A single joint of cannabis raises the **risk of schizophrenia by more than 40 per cent and taking the drug regularly more than doubles the risk of serious mental illness.** Overall, cannabis could be to blame for one in seven cases of schizophrenia and other life-shattering mental illness, the Lancet reports.

Gordon Brown ordered a review of the decision to downgrade cannabis to class C, the least serious category. He claims that the change should be reversed, with more arrests and stiffer penalties for users.

Previous studies have shown that smoking the drug as a teenager raises the risk of developing schizophrenia in one's twenties or thirties. At greatest risk, however, were heavy users, with those who took cannabis over 100 times having more than double the risk of those who never touched the drug. With up to **40 per cent of teenagers and young adults in the UK believed to have tried cannabis**, the researchers estimate that the drug could be **behind 14 per cent of cases of schizophrenia and other psychotic illnesses.**

Although individual lifetime risk of chronic psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia, even in people who use cannabis regularly, is likely to be low - less than three per cent - cannabis use can be expected to have a substantial effect on psychotic disorders at a population level because exposure to this drug is so common. Cardiff University researcher Dr Stanley Zammit added: 'Even if cannabis does cause an increased risk of developing psychosis, most people who use cannabis will not develop such an illness.

In an accompanying editorial in the Lancet, **Dutch psychiatrists said the focus on heroin, cocaine and other Class A drugs meant the dangers of cannabis had been overlooked.**

In the public debate, cannabis has been considered a more or less harmless drug compared with alcohol, central stimulants and opioids.

The PPP comments Most members of the current cabinet smoked cannabis, Gordon Brown was a willing party to the previous changes in cannabis classification, the Dutch had a crazy system of legal, highly publicised, Cannabis cafes and hard drug use made large areas of Amsterdam no go areas. The PPP 4 years ago warned of the consequences of cannabis use as earlier evidence WAS available. There may well be lesser but still serious undiagnosed effects of it's use such as the ability to believe 2+2 really does equal 5 and similar aberrations.