



Is marijuana dangerous?

Pennsylvania State Representative **Jordan Harris** (D-Philadelphia), a proponent of non-medical marijuana commercialization, claims marijuana is "not dangerous."

Today's marijuana is causing significant harms. The National Academies of Sciences (NAS) - the gold standard of independent, nonpartisan, evidence-based research - found substantial evidence of a statistical association between:

- Recent cannabis use and an increased risk of **motor vehicle crashes**.
- Maternal cannabis smoking and **lower birth weight** of the offspring.
- Long-term cannabis smoking and **worse respiratory symptoms** including cough, increased sputum production, wheeze, and more frequent chronic bronchitis episodes.
- Cannabis use and the development of **schizophrenia or other psychoses**, with the highest risk among the most frequent users.

NAS also found moderate evidence of a statistical association between:

- Acute cannabis use and **impairment in learning, memory, and attention**.
- Regular cannabis use and increased symptoms of **mania and hypomania** in individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorders.
- Regular cannabis use and increased incidence of **social anxiety disorder**.
- Cannabis use and a small increased risk for the development of **depressive disorders**.
- Cannabis use and increased incidence of **suicidal ideation**, suicide attempts, and completed suicide.
- Cannabis use and the development of substance dependence and/or **a substance abuse disorder** for substances, including alcohol, tobacco, and other illicit drugs.
- Cannabis use and an increased risk of **overdose injuries** among pediatric populations in U.S. states where cannabis is legal according to state law.

Marijuana "is a dangerous drug and as such is a serious public health concern." - *American Medical Association*