The impact of cannabis use on the incidence of psychosis

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Does the Incidence of Psychosis vary?
Incidence of First Episode Psychosis across Europe

Cambridge
Amsterdam + Leiden region
Paris + Clermont Ferrant
Bologna
Palermo
Barcelona, Madrid +3
London
Verona
Bologna
Palermo
Incidence of first episode psychosis across Europe

Jongsma et al. JAMA Psychiatry 2018
The effect of daily use of high-potency cannabis on the odds for psychotic was particularly visible in **London and Amsterdam**

*Adjusted for age, gender, ethnicity, level of Ed, employment status and other drugs (tobacco, alcohol, stimulants, Ketamine, Legal highs, Hallucinogenics).

Relationship between the frequency of cannabis use and the rate of psychosis

Prevalence of daily cannabis use in population controls (%)

Adjusted psychosis incidence (rate per 100,000)

\[ r = 0.8, \ p = 0.0109 \]
Population Attributable Fraction

If nobody smoked high potency cannabis, 12% of all cases of first episode psychosis across Europe would be prevented, rising to 32% in London and 50% in Amsterdam.
But has the incidence of psychosis always been high in South London?
David Castle and then Jane Boydell reviewed all first episode cases of psychosis (FEP) presenting between 1965 and 1997 in people living in Camberwell. Then they applied RDC Criteria for Schizophrenia.

Now Diego Quattrone has repeated this exercise for all FEP cases from Camberwell presenting in 2011-2012.
50-year changes of Schizophrenia incidence in South London

Boydell J Psychol Med. 2006, 36,1441-6
Quattrone D Unpublished data
Changes in Incidence of psychosis over time

1. The incidence of cannabis-induced psychosis more than doubled in Denmark between 2006 and 2016 - Hjorthøj et al, 2019


3. Cannabis was decriminalized in Portugal in 2001. From 2002 till 2015, the proportion of psychosis patients diagnosed as cannabis dependent rose from less than 1% to over 10%
Cannabis is a component cause of psychosis

Heavy cannabis use has a significant impact on the incidence of psychosis

We need public campaigns to advise people of the risks of daily use of high potency cannabis

Will Legalization and Commercialization of Cannabis Use Increase the Incidence and Prevalence of Psychosis?

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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