



Drug Free Australia series –
Media suppression of alarming cannabis harms

Episode 9 – Cannabis and violence/homicide

Introduction

- Reaction to DFA Parliamentary Inquiry testimony



<https://menshealth.com.au/drug-free-australia-says-cannabis-turns-violence-and-aggression-into-homicide/>

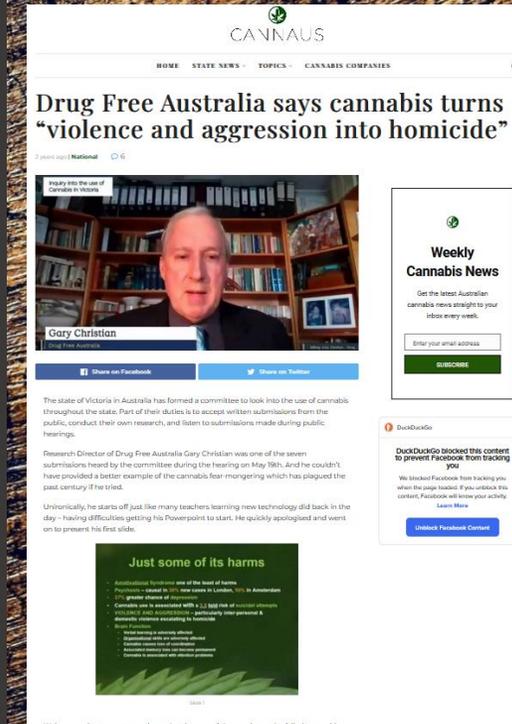


Introduction

- “Pondering Pot” issues website challenge

“But really, potential cannabis harms include violence and aggression which escalate into homicide? It’s unlikely any rational person in this world thinks of cannabis this way. Except for Gary Christian of course.

“To Gary Christian – if you can provide one documented source where cannabis use, and only cannabis use, has directly caused someone to murder one of their friends or family, we’ll shut down this website and join your cause – helping Australia become drug free (including alcohol, coffee, pain killers, opioids, and tobacco).”



<https://www.cannaus.com.au/national/drug-free-australia-says-cannabis-turns-violence-and-aggression-into-homicide/>

Introduction

- Drug Free Australia's reply

“My response is a simple SBS report on the Raina Thaiday murder of 8 children – 7 her own plus her niece <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/queensland-mother-who-killed-eight-children-deemed-unfit-for-trial>. The psychiatrist clearly puts the murder down to cannabis-induced psychosis/schizophrenia and that is what the court concluded. Also <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/why-cairns-mum-raina-killed-her-kids>

I think that is all you asked for so I would like, seriously, to invite you to join us at Drug Free Australia in our work of informing Parliamentarians about the many harms of cannabis. If you are as good as your word we can use someone with an eye for detail and evidence.



The screenshot shows a webpage from Cannaus with the following elements:

- Navigation bar: HOME, STATE NEWS, TOPICS, CANNABIS COMPANIES
- Article title: Drug Free Australia's Gary Christian responds – cannabis still leads to violence and homicide
- Image: A composite image showing the Australian flag on the left and a cannabis plant with a red prohibition sign over it on the right.
- Share buttons: Facebook and Twitter
- Text: "We gave a rather scathing critique of Gary Christian's public submission into the inquiry into cannabis use in Victoria last week. The article was viewed by tens of thousands of people and widely received on Facebook and Reddit. Even **Lateline** and **MentalHealth** picked up on Gary's claim that cannabis turns 'violence and aggression into homicide'."
- Text: "Comments from readers ranged from well thought out responses to unsavory, unintelligent insults. As such, he was almost obliged to reply. And he did – with a 1500 word email."
- Text: "We initially had plans to counter his arguments once again with our own research, but something a little more interesting came to mind. You."
- Text: "Pondering that is a community of cannabis supporters, and that's why you're here, right now, because you're part of the community. And so, to prove we're not the only ones that believe in cannabis, we're asking you to help us."
- Text: "If you'd like to show your support for cannabis and debate Gary Christian's response, please leave a comment below. You don't have to address every point he makes, just the ones you'd like to. We'd love to see our community take on the debate as well."
- Text: "Please keep your comments informative, educational, and respectful."
- Text: "This is his response, word for word (with some added formatting)."
- Right sidebar: "Weekly Cannabis News" section with an email subscription form and a "DuckDuckGo" notice: "DuckDuckGo blocked this content to prevent Facebook from tracking you"

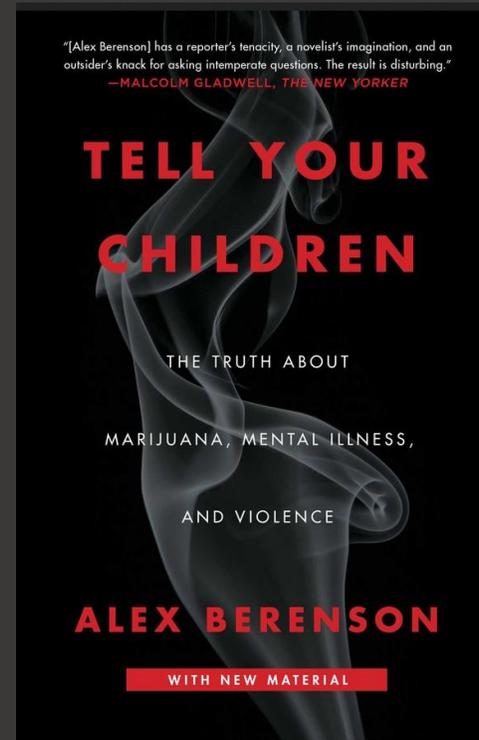
<https://www.cannaus.com.au/national/drug-free-australia-gary-christian-responds-cannabis-still-leads-to-violence-and-homicide/>



Suitable evidence

- What kind of evidence is required?

“But I can give you a lot more. It just happens that the Thaiday murder is the opening story in Alex Berenson’s book *Tell Your Children* where he documents dozens of court records, newspaper reports of court records, and journal studies showing the link between cannabis induced psychosis and schizophrenia and violence and homicide.”



canNAUS

HOME STATE NEWS TOPICS CANNABIS COMPANIES

Drug Free Australia's Gary Christian responds – cannabis still leads to violence and homicide

2 weeks ago National 10

Share on Facebook Share on Twitter

We gave a **rather scathing critique** of Gary Christian's public submission into the 'Inquiry into cannabis use in Victoria' last week. The article was viewed by tens of thousands of people and widely received on Facebook and Reddit. Even **Lawfile** and **MentalHealth** picked up on Gary's claim that cannabis turns "violence and aggression into homicide".

Comments from readers ranged from well thought out responses to unimpressive, unintelligent insults. As such, he was almost obliged to reply. And he did – with a 1,500 word email.

We initially had plans to counter his arguments once again with our own research, but something a little more interesting came to mind. You.

Pondering that to a community of cannabis supporters, and that's why you're here, right now, because you're part of the community. And so, to prove we're not the only ones that believe in cannabis, we're asking you to help us.

If you'd like to show your support for cannabis and debate Gary Christian's response, please leave a comment below. You don't have to address every point he makes, just the ones you'd like to. We'd love to see our community take on the debate as well.

Please keep your comments informative, educational, and respectful.

This is his response, word for word (with some added formatting).

Weekly Cannabis News
Get the latest Australian cannabis news straight to your inbox every week.
Enter your email address
SUBSCRIBE

DuckDuckGo
DuckDuckGo blocked this content to prevent Facebook from tracking you
We blocked Facebook from tracking you when the page loaded. If you unblock this content, Facebook will know your activity. [Learn More](#)
[Unblock Facebook Content](#)

<https://www.cannaus.com.au/national/drug-free-australia-gary-christian-responds-cannabis-still-leads-to-violence-and-homicide/>

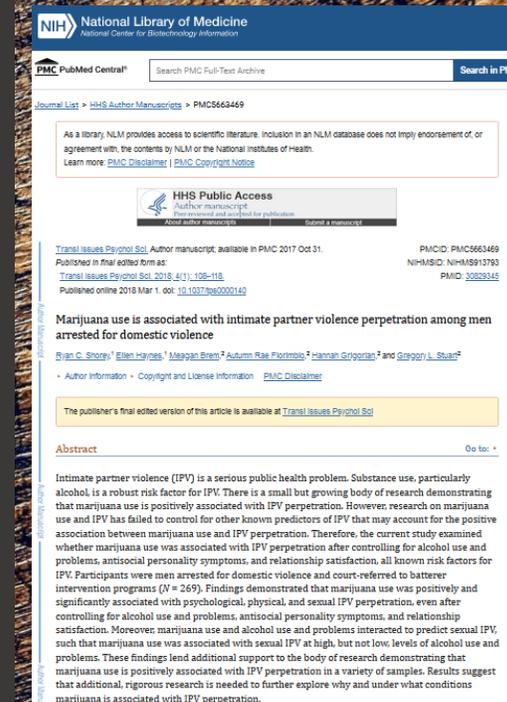


The science

- Domestic violence

- a mass of anecdotal evidence from women's refuges
- The science is just as clear

“Findings demonstrated that marijuana use was positively and significantly associated with psychological, physical, and sexual IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) perpetration, even after controlling for alcohol use and problems, antisocial personality symptoms, and relationship satisfaction. Moreover, marijuana use and alcohol use and problems interacted to predict sexual IPV, such that marijuana use was associated with sexual IPV at high, but not low, levels of alcohol use and problems. These findings lend additional support to the body of research demonstrating that marijuana use is positively associated with IPV perpetration in a variety of samples.”



The screenshot shows the PubMed interface for a research article. At the top, it identifies the National Library of Medicine and PubMed Central. The article title is "Marijuana use is associated with intimate partner violence perpetration among men arrested for domestic violence". The authors listed are Brian C. Shook, Ellen Hayes, Majgan Breen, Autumn Rae Flommo, Hannan Griyomo, and Gregory J. Szaflar. The article is published in *Transl Issues Psychol Sci*, 2018, 4(1):108-118. The abstract begins by stating that intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious public health problem and that substance use, particularly alcohol, is a robust risk factor. It notes that while research shows marijuana use is positively associated with IPV, previous studies have failed to control for other predictors. The current study examined whether marijuana use was associated with IPV after controlling for alcohol use and other factors. The abstract concludes that findings demonstrate a positive association between marijuana use and IPV, even after controlling for alcohol use and other factors, and that marijuana use and alcohol use interacted to predict sexual IPV.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5663469/>



The science

- Youth violence

“Conclusions: These results demonstrate a moderate association between cannabis use and physical violence, which remained significant regardless of study design and adjustment for confounding factors (i.e., socioeconomic factors, other substance use). Cannabis use in this population is a risk factor for violence. “



The screenshot shows the PubMed interface for a meta-analysis. At the top, it displays the NIH National Library of Medicine logo and the PubMed logo. Below the search bar, the article title is "Association Between the Use of Cannabis and Physical Violence in Youths: A Meta-Analytical Investigation". The authors listed are Laura Dell'Acqua, Stéphane Potvin, Bo Yi Dou, Mélissa Beaudoin, Mimosa Luigi, Charles-Édouard Giguère, and Alexandre Dumais. The article is from the American Journal of Psychiatry, published in 2020. The abstract states that the aim was to investigate the extent to which cannabis use among youths is associated with the risk of perpetrating physical violence. The methods section describes the search strategy and the inclusion of 30 study arms. The results section reports that after screening 11,348 potential studies, 30 study arms were included, yielding a total of 296,815 adolescents and young adults. The pooled odds ratio for the pooled studies was 2.11 (95% CI=1.64, 2.72). The pooled odds ratios were 2.15 (95% CI=1.58, 2.94) and 2.02 (95% CI=1.26, 3.23) for the cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, respectively. Preliminary evidence suggests that the risk of violence was higher for persistent heavy users (odds ratio=2.81, 95% CI=1.68, 4.74) compared with past-year users (odds ratio=2.05, 95% CI=1.5, 2.8) and lifetime users (odds ratio=1.94, 95% CI=1.29, 2.93). The odds ratio for unadjusted studies was 2.62 (95% CI=1.89, 3.62), and for studies using odds ratios adjusted for potential confounding factors, 2.01 (95% CI=1.57, 2.56).

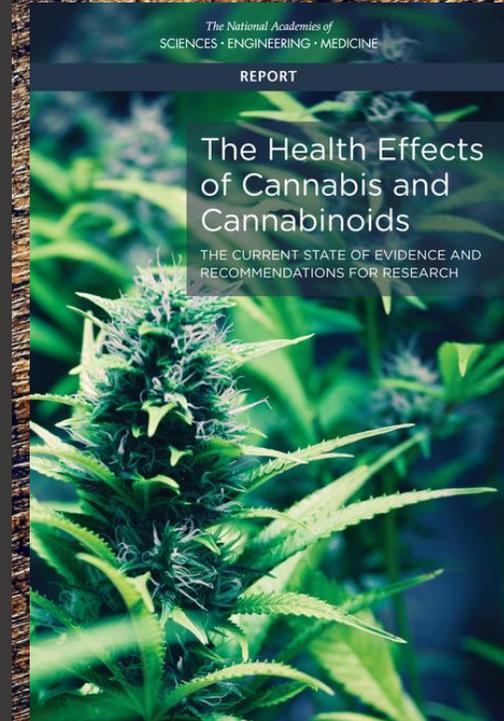
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32456503/>



The science

- Confirming the causality of cannabis for psychoses

“CONCLUSION 12-1 There is substantial evidence of a statistical association between cannabis use and the development of schizophrenia or other psychoses, with the highest risk among the most frequent users.”



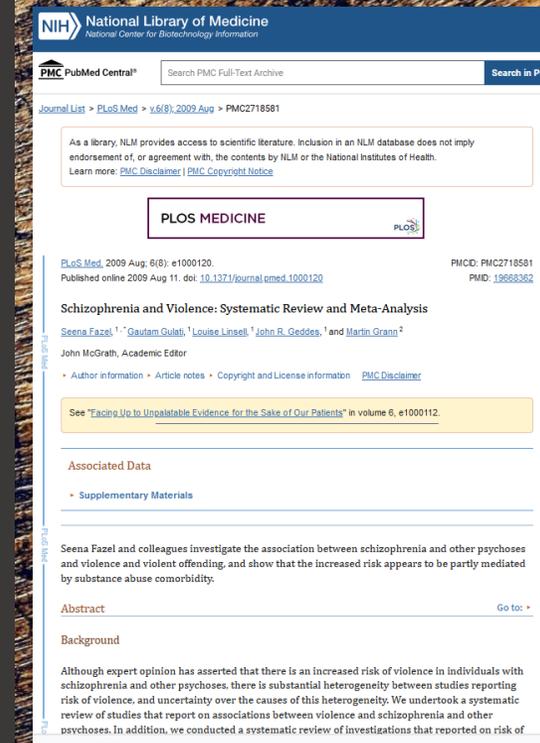
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK423845/>



The science

- Homicide

“The risk for homicide was increased in individuals with psychosis (with and without comorbid substance abuse) compared with general population controls”



The screenshot shows the PubMed Central interface for the article "Schizophrenia and Violence: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis" by Seena Fazel et al. The page includes the NIH logo, search bars, journal information (PLOS Med, 2009 Aug, 6(8): e1000120), and a summary of the article's content. The abstract section is partially visible, starting with "Although expert opinion has asserted that there is an increased risk of violence in individuals with schizophrenia and other psychoses, there is substantial heterogeneity between studies reporting risk of violence, and uncertainty over the causes of this heterogeneity. We undertook a systematic review of studies that report on associations between violence and schizophrenia and other psychoses. In addition, we conducted a systematic review of investigations that reported on risk of

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2718581>



Conjecture

- Mass shootings

AALM calls on public officials to release the toxicology reports on all mass murderers.

MARIJUANA USERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE GUNS OR BE ISSUED GUN PERMITS

Below is a shortlist of some of the well-known murderers who were pot users.

Most often toxicology reports are not made public. Perpetrators' marijuana use is often discovered via interviews with acquaintances, military records, or some other secondary source.

Jan David Long Killed 13 people on November 7, 2018, in Thousand Oaks, California, United States, at the Borderline Bar and Grill, a country-western bar frequented by college students. Toxicology later revealed he had marijuana in his system



GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE - POT USERS DO

**Remembering Parkland:
Marijuana and Mass Murder Go Hand in Hand**

With the dramatic increase in the potency and use of marijuana, senseless violent acts are and will become more and more common.



AALM.info
Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana



<https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=f2c25276aed981ad138be872e&id=eec519f766>



Next episode

- **More detail in future episodes:**

- Cannabis and cancer
- Cannabis and birth defects
- Cannabidiol (CBD), cancer and birth defects
- Cannabis and pain
- Cannabis and driving
- Hemp and psychoactive metabolites
- Cannabis and psychosis
- Cannabis and violence/homicide
- **Cannabis and suicide**
- Cannabis – its other harms

