

The Causal Link Between Youth THC Use and Psychosis: The Dangerous Truth About Today's Marijuana



Program Description

THC use (vapes, dabs, smokes, edibles) can affect brain development, particularly during the critical period of adolescence through the mid- to late-20s. This is also the period when psychotic disorders typically emerge, and there's growing evidence associating the two. Recent studies show that the more potent the THC product used, the more frequent the use, and the earlier the age of consumption, the greater the risk of psychosis. Physicians have seen a rise in chronic psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia, in which they believe youth THC use was a contributing factor. In this session, you'll learn how today's high-potency THC products cause greater rates of addiction, brain changes, and mental illness in our youth.

Speaker Bio

For 30 years, Laura Stack was best known in the business world as "The Productivity Pro." Her career as a keynote speaker, bestselling author of eight books, and corporate spokesperson came to a screeching halt after her son's death. Her platform now brings prevention education to drug prevention conferences, community groups, and schools to stop youth marijuana use. Johnny's story has been told in People Magazine, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, PBS, and Dr. Phil. Laura is a powerful speaker who brings Johnny's personal warning and solid research together in her book, *The Dangerous Truth About Today's Marijuana: Johnny Stack's Life and Death Story*. Described as a force of nature with unstoppable drive and unwavering purpose, Laura is determined to get teens to #StopDabbing.



for Medical Professionals

Objectives

- Understand why today's high-potency THC products are more addictive for youth than in decades past (brief overview).
- Learn about the Endocannabinoid System (ECS) and how THC interferes with adolescent brain development (brief overview).
- Discover how addiction and brain changes can lead to mental illnesses (psychosis, anxiety, depression, suicidality) in youth who use THC.
- Study the latest research linking youth high potency THC use to schizophrenia in those who aren't genetically inclined.
- Apply the Bradford Hill Elements of Causation to THC and psychosis.



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