

**EVERY BRAIN MATTERS (EBM) IS A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY DEVELOPED BY FAMILIES IMPACTED BY INDUSTRIALIZED MARIJUANA.**

**HOPE**

We provide family recovery resources, including support meetings, to help prevent, manage, or recover from a loved one's cannabis use.

**CHANGE**

We advocate to protect communities from the predatory practices of the cannabis industry and stop harmful drug policies.

**TRUTH**

We are a trusted educational resource driven by science and lived experience.

**Please visit our library.**

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**EveryBrainMatters.org**  
**info@everybrainmatters.org**

**THE EVERY BRAIN MATTERS STORE.**

Drive a change and promote health.



[everybrainmatters.org/store](http://everybrainmatters.org/store)

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*This is not about a War on Drugs. This is about a Defense of our Brains, the repository of our humanity.*

**Bertha Madras, PhD**  
**neuroscientist**

# Cannabis-Induced Psychosis (CIP)



***Freedom from Marijuana Harm  
and the Drug Crisis***

**EveryBrainMatters.org**

*\*The words marijuana and cannabis are being used interchangeably in this pamphlet.*

## What is CIP?

CIP, cannabis-induced psychosis, is an episode in which a person experiences a loss of connection with reality induced by THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), the primary psychoactive chemical in the cannabis plant.

## What are the symptoms of CIP?

Symptoms can be mild or severe and occur for a few minutes or years.

- Paranoia
- Hallucinations (predominantly auditory)
- Delusions
- Grandiosity
- Irritability
- Anxiety and agitation
- Depersonalization (detachment from self or a sense of things not being real)
- Disorganized thinking, speech, behavior
- Racing thoughts
- Obsessive ideation

## What increases the risk of developing CIP?

- Use by people under the age of 25 – the earlier the age of use, the higher the risk
- frequency of use – greater than once a month
- Use of products that contain 10 mg of THC

## Is it safe to use lower-potency THC products?

There are no established guidelines on how much THC is safe to consume because THC is a fat-soluble drug that can accumulate in the body, including the brain, and lead to mental and physical illnesses.

## Can CIP lead to a schizophrenia diagnosis?

Out of all the drugs that can induce psychosis, cannabis results in the highest conversion rate from temporary psychotic symptoms to a chronic psychotic disorder like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

### Drug Conversion Rate from acute to chronic psychosis:

Cannabis 47%

Amphetamine 32%

Hallucinogens 28%

Opioids 21%

2017 Nov <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2017.17020223>

30% of cases of schizophrenia among men aged 21–30 might have been prevented by averting cannabis use disorder.

*Psychological Medicine*, Volume 53, Issue 15, November 2023, pp. 7322 - 7328  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291723000880>

## Is it possible for adults to use cannabis products and not develop CIP?

Adults are not immune to developing CIP. More adults are reporting psychotic experiences after using cannabis. This data on CIP is not tracked efficiently in the United States.

## Why is CIP not better understood by the medical community?

The lack of education and pro-cannabis ad campaigns have spread misinformation about the risks of using cannabis.

## Will I develop CIP if I use marijuana a few times a week or a month?

The susceptibility to developing CIP is unpredictable. Some experience symptoms after using THC only one time.

## Is there a cure for CIP?

No, there is no cure for CIP, but the brain can heal if THC use is ceased. Stabilization and recovery are possible. We recommend that the person experiencing CIP and the family members seek professional help and attend support meetings as soon as possible.

## Is CIP common?

CIP is becoming increasingly more common due to increased accessibility to state-sanctioned potent cannabis products, including hemp products (dabs), which are now more accessible.

Aerisolized consumption (vapes) provides fast hits of high-concentrated THC to the brain, which has created a public health crisis and can have severe consequences, including loss of life.

The data on CIP needs to be tracked correctly in the USA.

## Can CIP increase the risk of suicide?

Cannabis use is associated with a higher prevalence of suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts among users people aged 18–25.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2021/06/cannabis-use-may-be-associated-with-suicidality-in-young-adults>

More CIP info.



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