**Executive summary**

**Desire for cannabis linked to mental illness**

Barrier Daily Truth, Broken Hill NSW, General News 29 Aug 2018

A major international study has found people with certain mental disorders including schizophrenia have a higher genetic disposition to use cannabis. The study, published in the journal Nature Neuroscience yesterday, found 35 genes that influence whether people are likely to ever use the drug.

Audience

4,945 CIRCULATION

**These genes make you highly likely to get high**

Courier Mail, Brisbane, General News, Janelle Miles 28 Aug 2018

A STUDY of more than 180,000 people worldwide has identified 35 genes that influence whether people are likely to use cannabis recreationally. The international research, co-led by QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute scientist Eske Derks, uncovered genetic overlaps between recreational cannabis use, some mental health conditions including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and certain personality traits, such as risk-taking behaviour.

Audience

135,007 CIRCULATION

**Genes could influence desire to use cannabis**

The Dominion Post, Wellington, General News, Ruby Macandrew 28 Aug 2018

An international team of researchers has conducted the biggest ever study into genetic predisposition for cannabis use, identifying dozens of genes that influence whether people are likely to use the drug. Using DNA samples from more than 180,000 people nationwide, the scientists also identified genetic links between cannabis use, some mental health conditions and certain personality traits.

Audience

48,092 CIRCULATION
A study of more than 180,000 people worldwide has identified 35 genes that influence whether people are likely to use cannabis recreationally. The research, co-led by QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute scientist Eske Derks, uncovered genetic overlaps between cannabis use, mental health conditions including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and certain personality traits.

View original - Full text: 53 word(s), <1 min

World News...

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute Study Co-Leader Professor Eske Derks says the genes also predispose people to schizophrenia, bipolar, alcohol dependence and risk-taking behaviours.

Report by Triple J Hack reporter Avani Dias about new research on cannabis. Ricky is 21...

Professor Eske Derks from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research, one of the authors of the study, says the study tells them that cannabis use is a heritable trait. Derks adds they've found a strong link between cannabis use and schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The research is still figuring out whether cannabis causes or exacerbates schizophrenia and other mental health issues.
Pre-recorded interview with QIMR Berghofer's Professor Eske Derks. Childs reports an international study into cannabis use has identified 35 genes that influence whether someone is likely to take the drug. She says scientists have also found genetic links between cannabis use, some mental conditions, and certain personality traits. Childs adds Derks co-led this study. Derks notes they included information on cannabis use from over 180,000 participants, which included international people. She explains they compared the genetic profiles of cannabis users to those who do not and found differences in the frequencies of those 35 genes. Derks states genes contribute to about 40% of the risk to take cannabis. She says they investigated whether genetic influence on cannabis use also influences the risk of schizophrenia and they found people who have a high genetic risk will be more likely to start using cannabis. Derks notes genetic factor for cannabis use also increases the risk of alcohol dependence, tobacco smoking, ADHD, and autism. She states one in 10 users will eventually be addicted to cannabis.

An international study has found that people with certain mental disorders including schizophrenia have a higher genetic disposition to use cannabis. Queensland's QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute says researchers found a genetic overlap between cannabis use and the use of tobacco and other substances.
Pre-recorded interview with QIMR Berghofer's Professor Eske Derks. Childs reports an international study into cannabis use has identified 35 genes that influence whether someone is likely to take the drug. She says scientists have also found genetic links between cannabis use, some mental conditions, and certain personality traits. Childs adds Derks co-led this study. Derks notes they included information on cannabis use from over 180,000 participants, which included international people. She explains they compared the genetic profiles of cannabis users to those who do not and found differences in the frequencies of those 35 genes. Derks states genes contribute to about 40% of the risk to take cannabis. She says they investigated whether genetic influence on cannabis use also influences the risk of schizophrenia and they found people who have a high genetic risk will be more likely to start using cannabis. Derks notes genetic factor for cannabis use also increases the risk of alcohol dependence, tobacco smoking, ADHD, and autism. She states one in 10 users will eventually be addicted to cannabis.

Audience
51,000 All, 31,000 MALE 16+, 18,000 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees
Professor Eske Derks, QIMR Berghofer

Also broadcast from the following 10 stations
ABC News (Melbourne), ABC News (Regional NSW), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Regional Queensland), ABC News (Hobart), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Regional Victoria), ABC News (Regional West Australia)

World News...
Radio NZ - National, Wellington, 13:00 News, Newsreader
28 Aug 2018 1:01 PM
Duration: 0 min 53 secs • ASR AUD 2,372 • NZ • New Zealand • QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute -RadioTV • ID: X00075855734

World News
Australia - An international study has identified 35 different genes that influence whether a person is likely to use cannabis. QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute Study Co-Leader Professor Eske Derks says the genes also pre-dispose people to schizophrenia, bipolar, alcohol dependence and risk-taking behaviours.

Audience
55,600 All, 24,700 MALE 16+, 30,900 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees
Eske Derks, Study Co-Leader, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Also broadcast from the following 2 stations
Radio NZ - National (Christchurch), Radio NZ - National (Auckland)
Interview with Professor Eske Derks, QIMR Berghofer. Childs reports an international study into cannabis use has identified 35 genes that influence whether someone is likely to take the drug. She says scientists have also found genetic links between cannabis use, some mental conditions, and certain personality traits. Childs adds Derks co-led this study. Derks notes they included information on cannabis use from over 180,000 participants, which included international people. She explains they compared the genetic profiles of cannabis users to those who do not and found differences in the frequencies of those 35 genes. Derks states genes contribute to about 40% of the risk to take cannabis. She says they investigated whether genetic influence on cannabis use also influences the risk of schizophrenia and they found people who have a high genetic risk will be more likely to start using cannabis. Derks notes genetic factor for cannabis use also increases the risk of alcohol dependence, tobacco smoking, ADHD, and autism. She states one in 10 users will eventually be addicted to cannabis.

New genetics research has found that certain genes can influence a person's likelihood of using cannabis. The study identifies 35 genes that can determine whether a person is susceptible to the usage of the plant. Queensland QIMR Berghofer Institute's Professor Eske Derks says the study revealed that people who have schizophrenia in their genes are more prone to cannabis usage.

Interview with Professor Eske Derks, Head, QIMR Neurogenomics Laboratory. Gaffney says cannabis is one of the most wildly used drugs in the world. She says a new research has revealed there are 35 genes that influence whether people are ever likely to use cannabis. Gaffney says Derks says worked with teams of researchers from the Netherlands and Virginia Commonwealth University in the US. Derks say they have 180,000 participants. Gaffney says they isolated the 35 genes that can influence whether someone uses cannabis or not. Derks says they have access to the genetic data of the participants, she explained how the student went and how they identified people who are likely to use cannabis. Gaffney says they also studied the likelihood of whether there is any link between cannabis and schizophrenia.
Report by George Roberts.

Roberts notes Australians researchers from QIMR Berghofer in Brisbane have identified human genes are linked to marijuana use. QIMR Berhofer Professor Eske Derks says they compare the DNA profiles of cannabis users and non-cannabis users and found that 35 genes are linked to marijuana use. Roberts says researchers have also found a genetic link between marijuana use and schizophrenia.

Audience
411,700 All, 204,000 MALE 16+, 196,700 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees
Bronson, former marijuana user|Eske Derks, Professor, QIMR Berghofer

Also broadcast from the following 49 stations
ABC Alice Springs (Alice Springs), ABC Ballarat (Ballarat), ABC Broken Hill (Broken Hill), ABC Capricornia (Rockhampton), ABC Central Victoria (Bendigo), ABC Central West NSW (Orange), ABC Coffs Coast (Coffs Harbour), ABC Esperance (Esperance), ABC Eyre Peninsula and West Coast (Port Lincoln), ABC Far North (Cairns), ABC Gippsland (Sale), ABC Gold Coast (Gold Coast), ABC Goldfields WA (Kalgoorlie), ABC Goulburn Murray (Wodonga), ABC Great Southern (Albany), ABC Illawarra (Wollongong), ABC Kimberley (Broome), ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt (Geraldton), ABC Mildura - Swan Hill (Mildura), ABC New England North West (Tamworth), ABC Newcastle (Newcastle), ABC North and West SA (Port Pirie), ABC North Coast NSW (Lismore), ABC North Queensland (Townsville), ABC North West Qld (Mt Isa), ABC North West WA (Karratha), ABC Northern Tasmania (Launceston), ABC Radio Adelaide (Adelaide), ABC Radio Brisbane (Brisbane), ABC Radio Darwin (Darwin), ABC Radio Hobart (Hobart), ABC Radio Melbourne (Melbourne), ABC Radio Perth (Perth), ABC Radio Sydney (Sydney), ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga), ABC Riverland SA (Renmark), ABC Shepparton (Shepparton), ABC South East NSW (Bega), ABC South East SA (Mt Gambier), ABC South West WA (Bunbury), ABC South Western Victoria (Warrnambool), ABC Southern Queensland (Toowoomba), ABC Sunshine Coast (Sunshine Coast), ABC Tropical North (Mackay), ABC Upper Hunter (Muscwellbrook), ABC Western Plains NSW (Dubbo), ABC Western Queensland (Longreach), ABC Western Victoria (Horsham), ABC Wide Bay (Bundaberg)

Researches have found there may be a scientific reason people like to smoke marijuana. ...

Researches have found there may be a scientific reason people like to smoke marijuana. As part of the world's largest genetic study of cannabis uses, Australian researchers have helped define that 35 genes are linked to marijuana use. Queensland man Bronson says he used to smoke it in high school. QIMR Berghofer researcher Professor Eske Derks says they compared the DNA profiles of cannabis users and non-cannabis user and over 180,000 subjects. She says they found 35 genes that are associated with the risk of using cannabis. There is also a link between marijuana and schizophrenia. She says people who carry a higher genetic risk for schizophrenia are more likely to use cannabis as a kind of self-medication. Bronson says he has other hobbies as well.

Audience
75,000 All, 43,000 MALE 16+, 32,000 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees
Bronson, Queensland man|Professor Eske Derks, QIMR Berghofer

Also broadcast from the following 7 stations
ABC News (Sydney), ABC News (Brisbane), ABC News (Adelaide), ABC News (Perth), ABC News (Canberra), ABC News (Newcastle), ABC News (Gold Coast)
Report by George Roberts. Landers says as part of the world's largest genetic study of cannabis use, Australian researchers helped to find that 35 genes are linked to marijuana use. Bronson, Queensland man, says he used to smoke it in high school. Professor Eske Derks, QIMR Berghofer, says they compared the DNA profiles of cannabis users and non-cannabis user and over 180,000 subjects. She says they found 35 genes that are associated with the risk of using cannabis. There is also a link between marijuana and schizophrenia. She says people who carry a higher genetic risk for schizophrenia are more likely to use cannabis as a kind of self-medication. Bronson says he has other hobbies as well.

There may be a scientific reason why some people like to smoke marijuana. As part of the world's largest genetic study of cannabis use, Australian researchers helped to find that 35 genes are linked to marijuana use. Bronson, Queensland man, says he used to smoke it in high school. Professor Eske Derks, QIMR Berghofer, says they compared the DNA profiles of cannabis users and non-cannabis user and over 180,000 subjects. She says they found 35 genes that are associated with the risk of using cannabis. There is also a link between marijuana and schizophrenia. She says people who carry a higher genetic risk for schizophrenia are more likely to use cannabis as a kind of self-medication. Bronson says he has other hobbies as well.
### Cannabis use and mental illness link found

**News-Medical.Net**

29 Aug 2018 2:09 PM

519 words • ASR AUD 156,627 • QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute - Online • ID: 1001357907

Read on source site

**Audience**

40,270 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 21,230 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS

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### Aussie Scientists Found There Are 35 Genes That Make Humans Want To Get High

**GQ.com.au by Brad Nash**

28 Aug 2018 5:44 PM

424 words • ASR AUD 148 • QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute - Online • ID: 1000887075

Read on source site

**Audience**

1,496 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 193 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS

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### New Study Suggests Schizophrenia Might Actually Lead to Cannabis Use

**Vice**

28 Aug 2018 2:39 PM

400 words • ASR N/A • QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute - Online • ID: 1000831412

Read on source site

**Audience**

N/A UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, N/A UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS

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### DNA study links likelihood of cannabis use to certain genes

**Radio New Zealand**

28 Aug 2018 12:39 PM

251 words • ASR AUD 37 • QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute - Online • ID: 1000797808

Read on source site

**Audience**

14,976 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 281 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS

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### Study links mental illness to cannabis use

**Yahoo! New Zealand**

28 Aug 2018 3:34 AM

256 words • ASR AUD 2,095 • QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute - Online • ID: 1000618914

Read on source site

**Audience**

102,963 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 1,629 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS
There are 35 genes that make you more likely to smoke weed

28 Aug 2018 12:06 AM

Australian Scientists Found Genes That Might Explain Your Desire To Get High

27 Aug 2018 4:25 PM
Desire for cannabis linked to mental illness

A major international study has found people with certain mental disorders including schizophrenia have a higher genetic disposition to use cannabis.

The study, published in the journal Nature Neuroscience yesterday, found 35 genes that influence whether people are likely to ever use the drug.

Professor Eske Derks from Queensland’s QIMR Berghofer Institute was part of the international team of scientists who worked on the study.

Professor Derks said they found a “genetic overlap” between cannabis use and use of tobacco and other substances, as well as a risk of developing schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

“In other words, the genes that increase the likelihood of cannabis use also influence these other traits and conditions.”

It had previously been thought that cannabis use caused mental disorders, but Professor Derks said this study seemed to confirm the alternate theory that it merely exacerbated underlying conditions.

“This may suggest that people with schizophrenia use cannabis to cope with the symptoms,” he said.

-AAP
These genes make you highly likely to get high

A STUDY of more than 180,000 people worldwide has identified 35 genes that influence whether people are likely to use cannabis recreationally.

The international research, co-led by QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute scientist Eske Derks, uncovered genetic overlaps between recreational cannabis use, some mental health conditions including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and certain personality traits, such as risk-taking behaviour.

Professor Derks said the researchers compared DNA samples from 53,000 recreational cannabis users with about 131,000 people who had never smoked the drug. They found 35 genes that influence whether a person is likely to use cannabis during their lifetime, with the strongest association linked to a gene – CADM2 – which has also been linked to other substance use, risk-taking behaviour and obesity.

Results from the world’s biggest study into genetic predisposition for cannabis use are published today in journal Nature Neuroscience. Professor Derks said the study was important, given cannabis was the most widely used psychoactive substance worldwide and 10 per cent of recreational users would become addicted.
Genes could influence desire to use cannabis

"We used a new technique and found that the genes that contribute to developing schizophrenia also make people more likely to use cannabis."

**Study co-leader Eske Derks**

An international team of researchers has conducted the biggest ever study into genetic predisposition for cannabis use, identifying dozens of genes that influence whether people are likely to use the drug.

Using DNA samples from more than 180,000 people nationwide, the scientists also identified genetic links between cannabis use, some mental health conditions and certain personality traits.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, was co-led by Eske Derks, from the Brisbane-based QIMR Berghofer Translational Neurogenomics Laboratory, alongside researchers from the Netherlands and the United States.

“We examined millions of genetic variants and identified 35 genes that influence whether a person is likely to use cannabis during their lifetime,” Derks said.

“Together, the genetic variants we examined account for one-quarter of the genetic, or inherited influence, on cannabis use. There are also social and environmental factors that contribute to whether a person will use cannabis.”

The researchers also found that there was a genetic overlap between cannabis use, tobacco and alcohol use, as well as a risk of developing schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and certain personality traits including risk-taking behaviour.

“In other words, the genes that increase the likelihood of cannabis use also influence these other traits and conditions,” Derks said.

The study also examined the link between cannabis use and schizophrenia in more detail.

“Previous studies have shown that there is an association between cannabis use and schizophrenia. It wasn’t known whether using cannabis caused the onset of schizophrenia, or whether schizophrenia caused people to use cannabis, but it was generally thought to be the former,” Derks said.

“In this study, we used a new technique and found that the genes that contribute to developing schizophrenia also make people more likely to use cannabis.”

Derks said people who were genetically predisposed to developing schizophrenia were at higher genetic risk of using cannabis.

“This may suggest that people with schizophrenia use cannabis to cope with the symptoms.

“These findings don’t rule out the possibility that cannabis use could also contribute to the onset of schizophrenia. However, we haven’t found any evidence to support that in this study.

“Our next step is to examine which genes influence how frequently people use cannabis and the amount they use.”

The study was conducted by researchers from the International Cannabis Consortium. It used data from 23andMe, the UK Biobank and 16 other studies.
Cannabis use in genes

A study of more than 180,000 people worldwide has identified 35 genes that influence whether people are likely to use cannabis recreationally. The research, co-led by QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute scientist Eske Derks, uncovered genetic overlaps between cannabis use, mental health conditions including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and certain personality traits.