



## This New Study Is Bad News if You're a Marijuana Supporter

**The American public is swaying more and more in favor of legalizing marijuana. But one factor that could curb marijuana's momentum was on full display in this latest study.**

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Marijuana legalization may not be a top priority of Congress or President Obama, but the American public is certainly doing its best to make it apparent that marijuana is an important issue.

We've seen a complete transformation of the American public's opinion of marijuana and even individual state law over the past two decades. What once was an illegal substance in all 50 states is now legal from the aspect of medical purposes in 23 states, and legal from a recreational, adult-use standpoint in four states.

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### **Legalizing marijuana could be a distant "memory"**

However, based a new long-term study of cannabis use in adolescents and young adults, marijuana's risk profile could be one factor that stops federal legalization of medical marijuana from happening.

Based on a recently released study in the journal *Hippocampus*, researchers at Northwestern University announced potentially worrisome findings regarding the heavy use of marijuana as an adolescent on users' long-term memory.

For its study, Northwestern University examined daily marijuana users who began at age 16 or 17 (and used marijuana for a period of three years) and pitted those individuals against same-age young adults that had never used marijuana. Researchers then examined MRI scans that focused on the area of brain responsible for long-term memory retention, the hippocampus. To attempt to be as fair as possible, researchers conducted these MRI scans on subjects in their early 20s who were two years removed from their heavy marijuana use. The findings of the study showed an oddly shaped hippocampus in heavy marijuana users accompanied by an average long-term memory test score that was 18% lower than young adults who'd never used marijuana before. This odd formation was not observed in the non-user group.

As senior author Dr. John Csernansky stated, "The memory processes that appear to be affected by cannabis are ones that we use every day to solve common problems and to sustain our relationships

with friends and family.” Also noted, this was the first study to confirm a link between heavy marijuana use and a misshapen hippocampus that led to poor long-term memory performance.

This study comes on the heels of a 2013 study released by Northwestern University that suggested heavy marijuana users’ short-term memory may be affected because of abnormalities in heavy users’ sub-cortex.

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## **Crude Pot Is Not Medicine**

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. 1 Peter 5:8*

