

## **Marijuana and Violence: From Mellow to Murder**

Charles Scott, MD

### **Level**

Intro/Intermediate

### **CE**

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

### **Bio**

**Charles Scott, MD** is Chief, Division of Psychiatry and the Law, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Director and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California. He is Board Certified in General Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and has added qualifications in Forensic Psychiatry and Addiction Psychiatry. Charles is a Past-President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) and is also Past-President of the Association of Directors of Forensic Psychiatry Fellowships. He has served as a member of the AAPL national task force to develop guidelines for the evaluation of criminal responsibility and competency to stand trial. Charles is one of four national AAPL Forensic Psychiatry Review Course Faculty instructors and in 2008 received the AAPL award as the most outstanding forensic psychiatry fellowship program instructor in the United States.

Charles has served as a forensic psychiatric consultant to jails, prisons, maximum security forensic inpatient units, California Department of State Hospitals and as a consultant to the National Football League (NFL) providing training on violence risk assessment for NFL counselors. He has performed suitability evaluations for NASA's Astronaut Selection Board. His academic subspecialty is child and adolescent forensic psychiatry. Charles has authored book chapters on juvenile violence, mental health law and co-authored chapters on child psychiatry and the assessment of dangerousness. He has served as editor or co-editor for numerous books and is co-editor of the Third Edition of Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry.

His research interests include the relationship of substance use to aggression among criminal defendants, on the quality of forensic evaluations of criminal responsibility, child witness testimony, malingering and assessment of posttraumatic stress disorder. He lectures nationally on the topics of malingering, violence risk assessment, juvenile violence, substance use and violence, the assessment of sex offenders, correctional psychiatry, DSM-5 and the law and malpractice issues in mental health.

### **Narrative**

Marijuana is the most used drug after alcohol and nicotine and is the most commonly used illicit drug in jurisdictions where marijuana use remains illegal. The National Survey of Drug Use and Health indicates that the use of marijuana is increasing with nearly 18% of Americans ages 12 and older reporting that they have used cannabis in the last year. With the increasing legalization and use of marijuana over the last decade, an important question now faces mental

health evaluators, attorneys, judges and society at large. Does marijuana use increase the risk of violence toward others?

This presentation reviews trends in marijuana use and developing products, summarizes the research examining the relationship of marijuana to psychosis and violence, addresses recent claims of marijuana use related to *mens rea* defenses in criminal cases and highlights the important components of a marijuana drug use monitoring program.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Identify emerging forms of cannabis products
2. Analyze risk factors for marijuana leading to violence
3. Assess the relationship of marijuana use to criminal responsibility
4. Evaluate drug testing results when monitoring potential marijuana use in patients.